

must await calmer times, cooler heads, and wiser voices.

In the meantime, let us rejoice in the fruits of this action. They include the removal of the worst despot in the Western Hemisphere; the revival of the Monroe Doctrine; the ejection of malignant powers insinuating themselves into Latin America; the unmistakable warning to tyrants around the world that America is back; the triumph of American arms; and most of all, setting the stage for the return of liberty, justice, and prosperity to the people of Venezuela.

RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT OF STENY HOYER

(Mr. HOYER of Maryland was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I would ask Mr. SCALISE: Where is my 1 minute when I need it?

Mr. Speaker, I thank my dear and close friends, STEVE WOMACK and Madam Speaker, for being here. I also thank my colleagues and my dear friends, Majority Leader SCALISE and Majority Whip EMMER, for being here.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today with, obviously, mixed emotions and reluctant conviction. There is a true story I have told many times over the past 60 years. It is about a young man—myself—who was a student at the University of Maryland, College Park, just a few miles from this place.

As a freshman, like many young people, I lacked a vision for my future. I nearly flunked out of college and didn't enroll in the 1958 fall semester. Fortunately for me, I reenrolled the following spring.

It was the spring convocation of April 27, 1959. Classes were canceled from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. so that we could all go hear the guest speaker. Frankly, I had not planned to attend. However, I was walking up the hill near Cole Field House where the event was located. I saw our guest drive up in a 1958 Pontiac convertible. That, Mr. Speaker, was a cool car. It was so cool that I decided to go to this convocation.

That walk was my road to Damascus. It changed my life. The speaker was John F. Kennedy. In his remarks, he urged us to do our duty in those days of world chaos. In particular, he charged our students to become more active in our communities. NANCY heard those same words.

Like many hundreds of thousands of young people, I was deeply inspired by Senator Kennedy and his words. Jack Kemp, who was my colleague when I first came here, had a similar story. A week later, I changed my major from business to political science.

Mr. Speaker, 7 years later, in 1966, 5 months out of Georgetown Law School, I was elected to the Maryland State Senate. Mr. Speaker, 15 years after that, in 1981, the voters of the Fifth District elected me to the United States House of Representatives.

I stand here now, after some 60 years in public service, including nearly 45 years as a Member of this House. I have won elections and lost a couple. I celebrated triumphs and suffered setbacks. I enjoyed friendships and endured hardships.

As the song says: "Some days are diamonds. Some days are stone." Happily, I have experienced more diamonds than stone.

Shakespeare advised us all: "This above all: to thine own self be true, And it must follow, as the night the day, Thou canst not then be false to any man."

In that vein, Mr. Speaker, I have decided not to seek another term in the people's House. I make this decision with sadness, for I love this House, an institution the Framers designed to reflect the will of the American people and to serve as the guardian of their liberty and their democracy.

Through the past 45 years, I have come to know many good, decent, and patriotic Members chosen by their neighbors to represent them. They come from both parties and all parts of the ideological spectrum.

The Congress I entered in 1981 was somewhat different. Most Republicans and Democrats worked together in a collegial and productive way. The leaders of the House, Tip O'Neill and Bob Michael, fostered that environment. It was, of course, not a Congress without conflict.

In the year to come, I will have much more to say about the issues we have grappled with and the ways this House has changed during my time. At the outset, I have said that I spoke with reluctant conviction. That reluctance is because I am deeply concerned that this House is not living up to the Founders' goals.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to examine their conscience, renew their courage, and carry out the responsibilities that the first Article of the Constitution demands. Only in that way can we ensure that our 250 years will be a preface to a stronger and brighter beacon in a free and principled democracy. It will be a nation of laws, not of men. It will be a nation respected around the world for its strength, certainly, but even more for the ideals it represents and the justice with which it acts.

That effort must extend beyond this House. I fear that America is heading not toward greatness but toward smallness, pettiness, divisiveness, lawlessness, and disdainfulness.

We must respect and love one another. We must remember that we are not great or unique because we say we are great but because we are just, generous, and fair.

I hope that spirit can guide us the rest of this Congress because I still have much I want to do in the coming year, not least of which is keeping the government open. To do that, we must send all our appropriations bills to the President in a bipartisan and timely fashion.

There are many people I intend to thank in the coming months, but here are a few I will recognize now:

First, my family, who has borne much of the burden of my service. I ask them to stand.

□ 1015

To my late wife, Judy, who died too young and gave so much.

To my beloved daughters, Susan, Stefany, and Anne, who paid a price for Dad's absences.

To my grandchildren and great-grandchildren, for giving me great joy.

To my mother, who thankfully lived to see her son become the president of the Maryland State Senate.

To my staff, for serving me and their Nation with great loyalty and ability.

To my colleagues, for trusting me with leadership.

To the people of Prince George's County, particularly the African-American community, without whom I would not have won my elections.

To the people of Maryland's Fifth District, who gave me a majority of their votes 23 times.

To my wife, Dr. Elaine Kamarck, who has made my life whole and happy. Thank you, Babe.

And to God, for sending me down this road so many years ago that I call the "Road to Damascus."

I thank all of my colleagues—extraordinary people, decent people, people whom their neighbors respect and sent here. The only way they got here was through their neighbors saying that they wanted them to represent them.

I thank you all.

Mr. Speaker, with tremendous gratitude, I yield back.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK). To my friend, Mr. HOYER, you have served your district, your State, and your country with dignity and honor, and the institution wishes you Godspeed.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE STENY HOYER

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, before I get into my primary remarks, for which I was going to rise, I reflect on 18 years ago when I came into the House of Representatives.

Some of my staff had been on the Hill for, actually, a couple of decades at that point.

My chief of staff said: If there was ever a Democratic Member of Congress who literally represents the term "statesman," it is STENY HOYER.

He truly is. He has not failed at that task, and so I offer my congratulations on his announced retirement and my thanks for his service as a statesman, especially at a time of what we have been living through, of growing divisiveness.

YEAR IN REVIEW

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight some of the great work that my office delivered in 2025 that was reflected in my year-end report.

Last year was full of legislative victories. From ensuring more milk options in public schools to making certain that rural schools receive the funding that they need, we continue to deliver for Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District.

I was proud to lead the charge to bring whole milk back into our schools, push for the largest investment in American agriculture in a generation, advocate for career and technical education, and establish a Federal regulatory framework for digital assets like cryptocurrency.

On the policy front, I helped to ensure the passage of the Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization Act. I secured numerous provisions in the Working Families Tax Cuts Act, which benefited American agriculture, as well as a provision authorizing Workforce Pell Grants.

The Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act will soon be signed into law, and the House approved both my Digital Asset Market Clarity Act of 2025 and the U.S. Grain Standards Reauthorization Act of 2025.

At home, I was honored to nominate seven exceptional students to our Nation's service academies, celebrated a talented young artist, and delivered more than \$6.1 million in Federal funding for nine excellent community projects.

My office responded to more than 81,000 constituent letters, answered nearly 8,000 phone calls, and closed nearly 1,600 constituent cases, helping folks navigate the Federal agencies and Federal bureaucracy.

The most rewarding part of being a Representative is helping individuals and families get the assistance that they need. Throughout the year, my staff hosts office hours across the 18 counties in the 15th Congressional District to assist constituents with issues related to the Social Security Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, IRS, and other Federal agencies. Appointments are not necessary, and I am pleased that we are available to help those in need. Personally, I hosted over 1,200 meetings in 2025 and sponsored and cosponsored 183 bills.

Mr. Speaker, as many around the Capitol complex know, I often come to this floor to share good news from Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District. I spoke 91 days on the House floor in 2025, delivering 120 speeches. I am glad to have had the ability to communicate with my constituents in this way and to recognize their achievements.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the people of the 15th Congressional District for allowing me the privilege to be their voice in Congress, and I firmly believe that our best days lie ahead. I look for-

ward to working hard in 2026 to continue to earn their support.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE
STENY HOYER

(Ms. PELOSI of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, today is a day of joy but also a day of some sadness that our great leader, STENY HOYER, has announced his retirement from Congress.

He still has another year. He still has another year, and I know a lot will come.

I join the gentleman in saluting Elaine, Stefany, Susan, Anne, and Judy. Judy—we loved Judy when she was here, and now we rejoice in the gentleman's happiness with Elaine.

My colleagues, we all know that STENY HOYER has been a pillar of strength in the House of Representatives and a champion for the people of Maryland for more than four decades. His patriotism, mastery of the legislative process, and steadfast commitment to America's working families have left an indelible, positive mark on our Nation.

STENY has been a steady presence in our Caucus and the Democratic leadership and a valued colleague. He has been a great leader in bipartisanship in this body. He spoke in his remarks of how it was when he came here. Many of us were here at that time. We didn't get along because we always agreed; we got along because we respected the differences that we brought in representing our districts. It was a very positive time, which he harkened us back to and challenged us to return to.

I thank STENY.

Mr. Speaker, his deep knowledge of the institution, respect for its traditions, and commitment to public service have earned him the admiration of colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

Personally, STENY has not only been a trusted partner in leadership but a dear friend. He mentioned the Presidency of John F. Kennedy. When President Kennedy was President, STENY and I worked in the office of Danny Brewster of Maryland. That is when I got to know him. I was just out of school. He was in law school. Sadly, we saw the assassination of the President, and that was a horrible thing.

As he concludes his extraordinary leadership and service in the Congress, we celebrate his legacy of decency and devotion to our country. He has been just so remarkable. Our gratitude to him and his family is boundless, and we wish them every happiness in the years ahead.

STENY has been a leader to us and a mentor to many. He has really been an example of leadership and can be viewed as one of the most substantial, respected Members of Congress in the history of this body.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. HOYER for his leadership.

RECOGNIZING DOUG MCMILLON

(Mr. WOMACK of Arkansas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, I also offer my personal thanks and congratulations to my dear friend, STENY HOYER, on the announcement that he has made today. We wish him the very best.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great friend and fellow northwestern Arkansan, Doug McMillon, who steps away at the end of this month from a 12-year run as chief executive officer of Fortune 1, Walmart, in Bentonville, Arkansas.

Doug's is a story of incredible American success. Much like the company he has led, his journey started with humble beginnings.

At 16, Doug's family moved from Jonesboro, Arkansas, to Bentonville. The eldest of three children, Doug was a guard on the Bentonville High School Tigers basketball team. I had the privilege of watching him play high school sports with no way of knowing where his dreams and ambitions would take him.

□ 1030

He began his career at Walmart as an hourly associate in 1984, picking orders and unloading trailers in the warehouse. He attended the University of Arkansas and worked part time at the Bank of Bentonville. Later, he enrolled in the MBA program at the University of Tulsa.

He later became an assistant manager at Walmart Store 894 in Tulsa, and that launched a career with the Nation's leading retailer, with promotions to CEO of Sam's Club in 2005, Walmart International in 2009, and finally CEO of the entire enterprise in 2014.

With a market cap of \$195 billion, under his tenure Walmart's value has increased by more than 350 percent and a current market cap of around \$900 billion. His leadership in the company's digitization and strong e-commerce platforms was a major shift for the company from that as a brick-and-mortar company to an omnichannel retailer.

Supply chain automation in warehouses and major pay increases for hourly associates were instrumental in his visionary leadership and success.

Mr. Speaker, I could speak volumes about Doug McMillon's legacy. Suffice it to say, his quiet and patient demeanor, his bold and innovative leadership, and his commitment to the shareholders and associates of Walmart make him one of America's true success stories, and not only that, but his spirit of charity and funding opportunities for young entrepreneurs and in healthcare for fellow citizens.

I am proud of what he has accomplished and the inspiration he has given to thousands of people who have had the privilege of serving under his leadership.