

when the House adjourns today on a motion offered pursuant to this order, it adjourn to meet at 1 p.m. on Monday, March 30, 2015, unless it sooner has received a message from the Senate transmitting its concurrence in H. Con. Res. 31, in which case the House shall stand adjourned pursuant to that concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIVIDUALS TO COMMISSION TO STUDY THE POTENTIAL CREATION OF A NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 3056 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291), and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, of the following individuals on the part of the House to the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women's History Museum:

Mrs. Kathy Wills Wright, Arlington, Virginia

The Honorable Marilyn Musgrave, Fort Morgan, Colorado

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to sections 5580 and 5581 of the revised statutes (20 U.S.C. 42-43), and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, of the following Members on the part of the House to the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution:

Mr. SAM JOHNSON, Texas

Mr. COLE, Oklahoma

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO BRITISH-AMERICAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2761, and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, of the following Members on the part of the House to the British-American Interparliamentary Group:

Mr. CRENSHAW, Florida, Chairman

Mr. LATTA, Ohio

Mr. ADERHOLT, Alabama

Mr. HOLDING, North Carolina

Mr. WHITFIELD, Kentucky

Mr. ROE, Tennessee

EXPRESSING GRATITUDE FOR THE HONOR TO SERVE THE 18TH DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of Jan-

uary 6, 2015, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHOCK) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SCHOCK. Mr. Speaker, 6 years ago, I entered this Chamber and raised my right arm to take the oath of office as a Member of the United States House of Representatives. I remember feeling so excited about the opportunity that lay ahead. I remember vividly this Chamber and all that it meant to me and to the country: the men and women debating the big issues of the day, not always agreeing, but always fighting without apology for what they believe in.

Over the past 6 years, I have come to understand that this institution is far bigger than any one person, and that freedom itself is even more important than this institution. Some of the world's greatest debates have occurred right here in this Chamber, for what happens here affects more than just the people of my district or even my country.

Over those 6 years, I have done my best to contribute constructively to the process and to serve the people of my district and my country. My guiding principle has always been rooted in the belief that Washington should only do what people cannot do for themselves.

I fought and opposed the billion-dollar surplus bill, the government takeover of our health care, and the massive new regulations put on small businesses. But, more importantly, I fought for the people of my district so that their voice would be heard and respected by my colleagues, for I heard that voice in every vote that I have cast.

But I also knew that being in the majority was key to making a difference. So I am proud of the work I have done to contribute to a Republican majority here in Congress—to begin to scale back the overreaches of a bloated Federal Government and to begin to bend the curve on out-of-control spending. That has only happened because of a Republican majority, and I am proud to have played a role in building it.

During this time, I saw how slow the Federal Government can be and how frustrating Congress can get, but I also learned that one man can make a difference. Working with my Republican colleagues and across the aisle with my Democrat friends, we have been able to pass legislation that helped businesses across America create millions of jobs. Some of them have been located in my home district, but many more across this great country. There was, is, and will be so much to do, and I am honored to have played a small part in making a real difference.

But these accomplishments come with some frustrations as well, that this body doesn't move quickly enough or as efficiently as it could to confront the challenges facing our country. I regret that I won't be here when we finally pass a smarter, simpler Tax Code

so that every hard-working taxpayer in my district and across the country will know that Washington not only cares about them, but respects them and their sacrifice. And I will miss joining my colleagues in saving and strengthening Social Security and Medicare that will directly improve the quality of life for millions of Americans for generations to come.

To my constituents back home, the good, hard-working taxpayers whom I have been lucky enough to call friends, I will never be able to thank you enough for the opportunity you have given me to serve. Together we have tackled some of the big problems at home, like economic development projects, helping businesses expand, improving our locks and dams along our riverways, and so much more, projects that have helped improve the quality of life in our community.

We have also tackled some small problems, but big problems to the people who have been facing them—folks looking for help adopting children overseas or simply trying to get answers from an unresponsive bureaucracy here in D.C. Solving those individual cases has been extremely fulfilling.

I am particularly grateful to have played a role in helping so many veterans get the respect they deserve and the benefits that they earned.

I am proud of the good work that my team has delivered to the tens of thousands of constituents who have turned to our office in their time in need. My staff delivered for me because they delivered for you every day, 24/7.

I was never more excited than the day I walked into this Chamber 6 years ago. I leave here with sadness and humility. For those whom I have let down, I will work tirelessly to make it up to you.

I know that God has a plan for my life. The Good Book tells us that before I formed you in the womb, I knew you. I also know that every person faces adversity in life. Abraham Lincoln held this seat in Congress for one term, but few faced as many defeats in his personal, business, and public life as he did. His continual perseverance in the face of these trials, never giving up, is something all of us Americans should be inspired by, especially when going through a valley in life.

I believe that through life's struggles, we learn from our mistakes, and we learn more about ourselves. And I know that this is not the end of a story but, rather, the beginning of a new chapter.

Thank you for the honor to serve. I look forward to keeping in touch with my friends in this Chamber and my friends across the 18th District. May God continue to bless this awesome institution and the important role that it plays for America and the rest of the world.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.