

kind introduction and the warm welcome all my colleagues in the New York delegation have extended to me.

I am humbled to take the oath of office. It is truly the honor of a lifetime to serve New York's 25th District as a Member of the House of Representatives.

Indeed, I have very big shoes to fill. Congresswoman Slaughter was truly a remarkable individual who shattered ceilings and blazed trails. More than that, she was a dear friend to me for over 30 years, and I will be forever grateful for her guidance, devotion, and friendship. It is a special privilege to be able to carry on her vital and important work.

I look forward to the days ahead and our work together to support our neighbors in need, to advance society for future generations, and to build a stronger, more vibrant America.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WELCOMING THE HONORABLE KEVIN HERN TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, it is a tremendous pleasure today to introduce our newest colleague from Tulsa, Oklahoma, the great First District of Oklahoma.

Having been a special election baby myself a long time ago, the pressure, the significance of our colleagues when they stand before you in the unique way that they are sworn in is tremendous. So the advice that I have given Congressman HERN I will try and practice myself: brevity.

Born on an Air Force base, worked all of his life, earned a degree in engineering and an MBA degree. The thing I love the most, perhaps, is a hog farmer at one point in his career and a very successful restaurateur.

KEVIN is an individual who is a reflection of the great First District of Tulsa. He is a reflection, I think, of what we need and want in a Member of this United States House of Representatives.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield to our newest colleague from Oklahoma (Mr. HERN).

Mr. HERN. Mr. Speaker, Members of this esteemed body, it is my honor to represent the citizens of Oklahoma's First Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, I want to first thank my wife, Tammy, of 25 years. I would not be here today without her. My oldest son, Kelby, is here with his wife, Dana; and my youngest son, Kaden, is here.

I also want to thank my colleagues from Oklahoma who have gone above and beyond in welcoming me to this body: Congressman LUCAS, Congressman COLE, Congressman RUSSELL, and Congressman MULLIN. I cannot thank them enough.

The most recent advice they gave me was to keep this very brief, so brief I will be.

I have lived the American Dream, growing up without running water to now serving my great country and fellow Oklahomans in Congress.

Now, we as a body need to work together to make sure that that dream can be achieved by so many generations to come. Let's get to work.

WELCOMING THE HONORABLE MARY GAY SCANLON TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I would invite all of my Pennsylvania colleagues to come up and join me if you would like.

Mr. Speaker, as the dean of Pennsylvania's congressional delegation, it is my great pleasure to welcome our newest colleague.

For the last 35 years, MARY GAY SCANLON has been a public interest lawyer, working for voting rights, equitable education funding, immigration, and criminal justice reform. She is an advocate for low-income families, children, women, veterans, and seniors.

She and I worked together on securing asylum in this country for the internationally recognized Sudanese human rights activist Hawa Saleh, who was imprisoned and tortured by the Sudanese Government for speaking out against it. And I am pleased to note that Hawa is here in the House gallery today.

MARY GAY's career reflects her deep commitment to aiding and giving back to her community. She has worked tirelessly to help those in need in Pennsylvania, and she now plans to continue that work at the national level here in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to welcome such a dedicated individual to this body. I know we all look forward to working with her and our colleagues in the Pennsylvania delegation to serve the Commonwealth and this great Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON), the senior Republican member of the delegation, for some remarks also.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, obviously, on behalf of our entire delegation, Republicans and Democrats both, we welcome our new colleague to this Chamber and look forward to serving with her. We are pleased to have her here.

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCANLON).

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, Members of the 115th Congress, I am honored to have this opportunity to serve our country.

Mr. Speaker, I chose tonight to be sworn in on our Constitution, a document that begins with our uniquely American creed, "We the people," a charge and a challenge to faithfully represent the people of my district and the entire country, a charge I promise to honor every day with all of my might.

I am particularly honored to serve as the advance guard not just for Madeline Dean, Chrissy Houlahan, and Susan Wild, who will soon join me and our brethren in the Pennsylvania delegation, but also as an advance guard for the army of new Members who will join us for the 116th Congress, a Congress that may look substantially different than the one we see today.

I am eager to continue doing the work that we, the people, entrust to the equal branches of this government:

To ensure that fairness, civility, and opportunity are available to all and to right the wrongs that hold far too many back;

To make sure that the people get a fair shake, whether in their jobs, in our classrooms, in the courts, or in the voting booth;

To treat others with civility, particularly here in our Nation's capital, as we work in service to the people of this great country;

To ensure opportunity and safeguard the world we pass on to the next generation.

I promise to continue fighting for the underserved, for children and families, for seniors and veterans—to bend the arc of justice for those in need; for students like those on my mock trial team from Constitution High School in Philadelphia, who are the next generation of civic leaders; for veterans like Bob in Media or Pixie in Philadelphia, who want assurance that their benefits will not be treated as simply a line item in our budgets; for families like Malcolm's in Chester, whose lives have been forever changed by gun violence; and for my friend Hawa Salah, a human rights activist from Darfur who was forced to flee her homeland after her advocacy for oppressed people led to her kidnapping and torture by her own government.

I am eager to continue this work right here with all of you.

Finally, I am grateful to the voters, to my friends and family, and particularly my husband, Mark, for believing in me, and I hope that I make him proud.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the administration of the oath to the gentleman from New York, the gentleman from Oklahoma, and the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania, the whole number of the House is 431.