

We wish you the best in your next endeavor. You can come visit us from time to time.

Karen, thank you so much for the work that you have done on behalf of not just us as Members of Congress, but on behalf of all the American people who count on this institution to function properly, for helping us make sure that it is done in a proper, efficient, fair, and impartial way. Best of luck to you, Karen.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the whip for his comments, and I certainly share his views. I am now pleased to yield to my friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY), the Republican leader.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding, and I rise to congratulate Karen Haas, who after five terms as Clerk of the House, is retiring.

I would like to remind all Members in this body that fewer than 11,000 people have ever had the privilege to serve in this House. It is even fewer for a Clerk.

Karen was our 34th Clerk and only the second woman to hold that position. We thank you for that leadership. When we think about the role of the House Clerk, you think of roll calls and recorded votes. But the Office of the Clerk is really about continuity. Without the Clerk, Congress could not fulfill its obligation to the American people and move in a smooth manner, which many people don't see the challenge.

Few individuals are more committed to preserving the continuity than Karen. She has done that as Clerk and as a trusted staff member and floor assistant. Always, she has been a friend and counselor to Members, regardless of what side of the aisle you sat on.

Karen Haas also equipped and modernized this House for the 21st century. Oftentimes, you won't see that because it is behind the scenes, but it makes the legislative process more accessible to the people it serves.

Mr. Speaker, we are grateful to Karen for her dedication, her team's professionalism, and her steady hand on the tiller. Her service reminds us of an important fact: The people's House is only as good as its people.

You rose to the occasion. On behalf of a very grateful House, and a grateful Nation, we say thank you, Karen.

And to Cheryl, we wish you the best.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to yield to the Speaker of the House, Ms. PELOSI.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished leader for recognition and calling us together to salute two great women in this Chamber.

Mr. Speaker, I rise for the great honor of swearing in Cheryl Lynn Johnson as the 36th Clerk of the House of Representatives. This is a very distinguished and prestigious role.

Mr. MCCARTHY, I was pleased to appoint the first African American woman Clerk of the House, Lorraine

Miller, when I was Speaker before, and now I am happy to be appointing the second.

We are privileged to be joined by Cheryl's parents, the Reverend Charlie Davis and Cynthia Davis of New Orleans, who are with us in the Chamber. Thank you for being with us.

We are also pleased to welcome Cheryl's husband, Clarence Ellison, and her son, Bradford, to this Chamber today as well. Welcome to you, and thank you.

I join our colleagues, the distinguished Democratic leader, the Republican leader, and distinguished Republican whip in saluting House Clerk Karen Haas for her many years of distinguished service to this institution.

Anyone who knows her is proud of her service. On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives, I thank you, Karen, for the great integrity and dedication for which you have served the people's House. Thank you so much.

She has been magnificent.

Cheryl Johnson embodies public service and has dedicated her career to strengthening many of the most important institutions of our democracy, including our own.

Indeed, today is a homecoming, as Leader HOYER has mentioned, as Cheryl returns to the House of Representatives where she worked with distinction and honor for Chairman Lacy Clay, Sr.—I emphasize senior—of the Committee on House Administration's Subcommittee on Libraries and Memorials; and the House Committee on Post Offices and Civil Service Subcommittee on Investigations.

Our country is stronger for her work on the then-Committee on Education and the Workforce to secure justice and progress for our children and advance fairness and respect for our workers.

In the Congress, she earned the respect of all—Members and staff, Democrats and Republicans—for being a leader of compassion, courage, and commitment.

Cheryl returns to the House after more than a decade at the Smithsonian Institution. Her great dedication to that American treasure—which is the largest museum in the world—has ensured that it will remain a source of creativity, innovation, and research for generations to come.

Our Nation is particularly grateful for her extraordinary vision and persistence in helping transform the dream of the National Museum of African American History and Culture into a reality.

Cheryl has made a difference empowering millions of Americans and visitors from abroad to explore and be inspired by the beauty and richness of American culture and history.

Cheryl's strong leadership and deep love and respect for the institutions of our democracy will be vital in her role as House Clerk, strengthening and safeguarding the Congress in the tradition of Karen and the Congress, the first branch of government, Article I.

I thank Cheryl for her commitment to our institution and to our democracy; and with great, again, recognition and appreciation to Karen Haas for her service.

It is now my privilege to administer the oath of office to Cheryl Johnson.

ELECTING THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 143) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 143

Resolved, That Cheryl L. Johnson of the State of Louisiana, be, and is hereby, chosen Clerk of the House of Representatives, effective February 26, 2019.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SWEARING IN OF THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER. Will the Clerk-designate please take the well and all Members please rise.

The Chair will now swear in the Clerk-designate of the House.

The Clerk-designate took the oath of office as follows:

Do you solemnly swear or affirm that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter, so help you God.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations.

WELCOMING CHERYL L. JOHNSON AS THE 36TH CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

(Mr. CLAY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the newly installed Clerk of the U.S. House, Cheryl Lynn Johnson.

She is the 36th American to be elected to this critical position. The Clerk, as we know, serves as the legislative official in the House, a position that goes back to the first Clerk and to the first Congress in 1789. As was mentioned, she comes to us from the Smithsonian Institution where she served as the Director of Government Relations.

Among her many achievements, as was mentioned, Cheryl helped to make the National Museum of African American History and Culture a brilliant reality.

But this is not her first tour of duty on Capitol Hill. In fact, she previously spent almost two decades in service to this institution, and as was mentioned, her first position was serving on the