House of Representatives, and his family, a very merry holiday, happy Christmas, and a good new year.

The SPEAKER. Thank you.

Without objection, the Senate amendment to the House amendment is concurred in.

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

THANKING THE STAFF

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, as the first session of the 107th Congress draws to a close, I wish to thank the staff for their assistance throughout this eventful year. None of us could discharge our responsibilities without the help and support of the staff.

Let me begin by expressing gratitude to the employees of the Architect of the Capitol, who maintain the Capitol buildings and grounds. Without the vital work of engineers, carpenters, painters, electricians and others, especially the custodians who clean our offices each night, we could not work. AoC employees do a wonderful job under difficult circumstances, and they deserve special recognition.

Next, I wish to thank the three House Officers and all their employees, who collectively maintain the framework in which the House operates. Jay Eagen, our Chief Administrative Officer, and his deputy Lawrence Davenport, manage a diverse organization that provides us with everything from furniture and carpets to office supplies and information technology, child care and other personnel-related support, including food services and even our paychecks. Bill Livingood, our Sergeant at Arms, and his deputy, Kerri Hanley, oversee Capitol security for the benefit of Members, staff, dignitaries, tourists and others who visit the complex every year, working in conjunction with the brave men and women of the U.S. Capitol Police. Our Clerk, Jeff Trandahl, his deputy, Martha Morrison, and their staff compile the House Journal, tally our votes, enroll our bills, transcribe our debates, and generally ensure that our legislative process functions smoothly. Jeff also oversees the Page program, which provides an enriching experience for the Pages, who do a great job.

Let us all give thanks for the House Chaplain, Father Daniel Coughlin, who tends his flock superbly. Charles Johnson, our distinguished Parliamentarian, and his learned duputies and assistants John Sullivan, Tom Duncan, Muftiah McCartin, Tom Wickham, Ethan Lauer, Gay Topper, Brian Cooper and Debby Khalili, provide invaluable procedural guidance to the Speaker and Members who preside over the House. I recall being greatly comforted by their presence when, during an earlier era, I occasionally occupied the Chair.

The General Counsel, Geraldine Gennet, and her staff well represent the House in legal matters. The Law Revision counsel, John Miller, and his staff organize our legislation into a useful body of laws. The Inspector General, Steve McNamara, and his staff help us seek ways to improve the administration of the House. For all of them we are grateful.

We are also greatly indebted to the Legislative Counsel, Pope Barrow, and his staff for helping us draft legislation. They work long hours, often under intense pressure, transforming our public-policy ideas into the magic words of bills and amendments, doing so with grace and magnanimity and making it look easy. I want to applaud one particular legislative counsel, Noah Wofsy, whose help has been indispensable to the Committee on House Administration, most recently on the landmark Help America Vote Act (H.R. 3295). I greatly value Noah's help and expertise, and look forward to working with him again during the second session.

We also owe special thanks to our cloakroom staffs, who always have the answer to our favorite question ("when's the next vote?"), and to our leadership and floor staff, who are crucial members of the team.

We should also remember our "extended" staff, including Dan Mulhollan and his experts at the Congressional Research Service, and Dan Crippen and his Congressional Budget Office staff, all of whom provide excellent support to our deliberations. The Attending Physician, Dr. John Eisold and his staff, have coped superbly with the anthrax attack and its aftermath, inspiring confidence. As always, the professionals of the Government Printing Office and the General Accounting Office have provided exceptional support. Our tour guides provide constituents wonderful tours of the Capitol, for which we, and they, are always thankful.

Finally, I wish to thank the committee and joint-committee staffs, and the personal staffs of Members, whose efforts are also highly valued. I am obviously most grateful for the work of my own staff, beginning with Cory Alexander, John Bohanan, Betsy Bossart, Tom Craddock, Chonya Davis-Johnson, Stacey Farnen, Wanda Hardesty, Corey Jackson, Dayle Lewis, Kenya McGruder, Kathy May, Scott Nance, Faron Paramore, Andy Quinn, Thomas Richards, Betty Richardson, Betty Rogers, Erica Rossi, and Ryan Seggel of my personal office; Keith Abouchar, Robert Bean, Kevin Cyron, Connie Goode, Michael Harrison, Charles Howell, Ellen McCarthy, Matt Pinkus, Bernard Raimo, David Ransom, Brian Romick, and Sterling Springs of the House Administration Committee; Rob Nabors, of the Treasury, Postal Appropriations Subcommittee; and Marlene Kaufman, of the Helsinki Commission. I could not fulfill my responsibilities without them.

Mr. Speaker, Members aren't always aware of what all the staff do, and the staff aren't always aware of what Members do. But together, we make this House work for the American people. I hope all Members will join me in thanking the staff, wherever they work and whatever they do, for all their hard work this year.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. LUTHER (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of family matters.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of business in the district.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. FRANK) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BONIOR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WATSON of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FRANK, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. STRICKLAND, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HOYER, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. BEREUTER) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. KIRK, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SOUDER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BEREUTER, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at his own request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. HASTERT, for 5 minutes, today.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

Mr. DOOLITTLE and to include extraneous material, notwithstanding the fact that it exceeds two pages of the RECORD and is estimated by the Public Printer to cost $17,963.63.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Mr. Trandahl, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 643. An act to reauthorize the African Elephant Conservation Act.

H.R. 645. An act to reauthorize the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994.

H.R. 2199, An act to amend the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997 to permit any Federal law enforcement agency to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia to assist the Department in carrying out crime prevention and law enforcement activities in the District of Columbia if deemed appropriate by the Chief of the Department and the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2657. An act to amend title 11, District of Columbia Code, to redesignate the Family Division of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia as the Family Court of the Superior Court, to recruit and retain trained and experienced judges to serve in the Family Court, to promote consistency and efficiency in the assignment of judges to the