

CONNECTICUT			MISSOURI			Johnson, Sam	Reyes	Smith (TX)	
DeLauro	Larson (CT)	Simmons	Akin	Emerson	Hulshof	Lampson	Rodriguez	Stenholm	
Johnson (CT)	Shays		Blunt	Gephardt	McCarthy (MO)	Ortiz	Sandin	Thornberry	
			Clay	Graves	Skelton	Paul	Sessions	Turner (TX)	
DELAWARE			MONTANA			UTAH			
	Castle		Rehberg			Bishop (UT)	Cannon	Matheson	
FLORIDA			NEBRASKA			VERMONT			
Bilirakis	Diaz-Balart,	Miller (FL)		Osborne	Terry	Sanders			
Boyd	Mario	Putnam	Bereuter			VIRGINIA			
Brown, Corrine	Feeney	Ros-Lehtinen		NEVADA			Schrock		
Brown-Waite,	Foley	Shaw	Berkley	Gibbons	Porter	Boucher	Forbes	Scott (VA)	
Ginny	Goss	Stearns		NEW HAMPSHIRE			Cantor	Goode	
Crenshaw	Harris	Weldon (FL)		Bradley (NH)			Davis, Jo Ann	Goodlatte	
Davis (FL)	Hastings (FL)	Wexler	Bass	NEW JERSEY			Davis, Tom	Moran (VA)	
Deutsch	Keller	Young (FL)		LoBiondo			WASHINGTON		
Diaz-Balart,	Meek (FL)			Menendez			Baird	Hastings (WA)	McDermott
Lincoln	Mica			Pallone			Dicks	Inslee	Nethercutt
GEORGIA				Pascrell			Dunn	Larsen (WA)	Smith (WA)
Bishop (GA)	Isakson	Marshall		Payne			WEST VIRGINIA		
Burns	Kingston	Norwood		Pearce			Capito	Mollohan	Rahall
Collins	Lewis (GA)	Scott (GA)		NEW MEXICO			WISCONSIN		
Deal (GA)	Linder			Udall (NM)			Baldwin	Klecicka	Ryan (WI)
Gingrey	Majette			NEW YORK			Green (WI)	Obey	Sensenbrenner
HAWAII				King (NY)			Kind	Petri	
Abercrombie	Case		Ackerman	Lowey			WYOMING		
IDAHO			Bishop (NH)	McCarthy (NH)			Cubin		
Otter	Simpson		Boehlert	McHugh			□ 1230		
ILLINOIS			Crowley	McNulty			The CLERK. Four hundred thirty-		
	Hastert	Manzullo	Engel	Meeks (NY)			two Members have recorded their pres-		
Biggert	Hyde	Rush	Fossella	Nadler			ence. A quorum is present.		
Costello	Jackson (IL)	Schakowsky	Hinchee	Owens					
Crane	Johnson (IL)	Shimkus	Houghton	Quinn					
Davis (IL)	Kirk	Weller	Israel	Rangel					
Emanuel	LaHood		Kelly	NORTH CAROLINA					
Evans	Lipinski			Etheridge					
Gutierrez				Hayes					
INDIANA				Jones (NC)					
Burton	Chocola	Pence	Ballance	McIntyre					
Buyer	Hill	Souder	Ballenger	NORTH DAKOTA					
Carson (IN)	Hostettler	Visclosky	Burr	Pomeroy					
IOWA			Coble	OHIO					
Boswell	Latham	Nussle		Kaptur					
King (IA)	Leach		Boehner	Kucinich					
KANSAS			Brown (OH)	LaTourette					
Moore	Ryun (KS)		Chabot	Ney					
Moran (KS)	Tiahrt		Gillmor	Oxley					
KENTUCKY			Hobson	Portman					
Fletcher	Lucas (KY)	Rogers (KY)	Jones (OH)	OKLAHOMA					
Lewis (KY)	Northup	Whitfield	Carson (OK)	Istook					
LOUISIANA			Cole	Lucas (OK)					
Alexander	John	Vitter		OREGON					
Baker	McCrary		Blumenauer	Walden (OR)					
Jefferson	Tauzin		DeFazio	Wu					
MAINE				PENNSYLVANIA					
Allen	Michaud		Brady (PA)	Hoeffel					
MARYLAND			Doyle	Holden					
Bartlett (MD)	Gilchrest	Van Hollen	English	Kanjorski					
Cardin	Hoyer	Wynn	Fattah	Murphy					
Cummings	Ruppersberger		Gerlach	Murtha					
MASSACHUSETTS			Greenwood	Peterson (PA)					
Capuano	Markey	Olver	Hart	Pitts					
Delahunt	McGovern	Tierney		RHODE ISLAND					
Frank (MA)	Meehan			Langevin					
Lynch	Neal (MA)		Kennedy (RI)	SOUTH CAROLINA					
MICHIGAN				Barrett (SC)					
Camp	Kildee	Miller (MI)	Brown (SC)	Clyburn					
Conyers	Kilpatrick	Rogers (MI)		DeMint					
Dingell	Knollenberg	Smith (MI)		SOUTH DAKOTA					
Ehlers	Levin	Stupak		Janklow					
Hoekstra	McCotter	Upton	Blackburn	Duncan					
MINNESOTA			Cooper	Ford					
Gutknecht	McCollum	Ramstad	Davis (TN)	Gordon					
Kennedy (MN)	Oberstar	Sabo		TENNESSEE					
Kline	Peterson (MN)		Barton (TX)	Culberson					
MISSISSIPPI			Bell	DeLay					
Pickering	Thompson (MS)		Bonilla	Doggett					
Taylor (MS)	Wicker		Brady (TX)	Edwards					
			Burgess	Frost					
			Carter	Gonzalez					
			Combest	Granger					
				GREEN (TX)					
				Hall					
				Hensarling					
				Hinojosa					
				Jackson-Lee					
				(TX)					
				Johnson, E.B.					

United States of America, the name of the Honorable J. DENNIS HASTERT, a representative-elect from the State of Illinois.

The CLERK. The Chair now recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ).

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Clerk, as chairman of the Democratic Caucus, I am directed by the unanimous vote of that caucus to present for election to the Office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives for the 108th Congress an incredibly talented Member of the Democratic Caucus and, for the first time in history, the name of a woman, the name of the Honorable NANCY PELOSI, a representative-elect from the State of California.

The CLERK. The Honorable J. DENNIS HASTERT, a representative-elect from the State of Illinois, and the Honorable NANCY PELOSI, a representative-elect from the State of California, have been placed in nomination.

Are there further nominations?

There being no further nominations, the Clerk will appoint tellers.

The Clerk appoints the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY), the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS), the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. JOHNSON), and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RODRIGUEZ).

The tellers will come forward and take their seats at the desk in front of the Speaker's rostrum.

The roll will now be called, and those responding to their names will indicate by surname the nominee of their choice.

The reading clerk will now call the roll.

The tellers having taken their places, the House proceeded to vote for the Speaker.

The following is the result of the vote:

[Roll No. 2]

HASTERT—228

Aderholt	Cannon
Akin	Cantor
Bachus	Capito
Baker	Carter
Balenger	Castle
Barrett (SC)	Chabot
Bartlett (MD)	Chocola
Barton (TX)	Franks (AZ)
Bass	Cole
Beauprez	Collins
Bereuter	Combest
Biggert	Cox
Bilirakis	Crane
Bishop (UT)	Crenshaw
Blackburn	Cubin
Blunt	Culberson
Boehert	Cunningham
Boehner	Davis, Jo Ann
Bonilla	Davis, Tom
Bonner	Deal (GA)
Bono	DeLay
Boozman	DeMint
Bradley (NH)	Diaz-Balart,
Brady (TX)	Lincoln
Brown (SC)	Diaz-Balart,
Brown-Waite,	Mario
Ginny	Doolittle
Burgess	Dreier
Burns	Duncan
Burr	Dunn
Burton (IN)	Ehlers
Buyer	Emerson
Calvert	English
Camp	Everett
	Feeny
	Ferguson
	Flake
	Fletcher
	Foley
	Forbes
	Fossella
	Franks (AZ)
	Frelinghuysen
	Galleghy
	Garrett (NJ)
	Gerlach
	Gibbons
	Gilchrest
	Gillmor
	Gingrey
	Goode
	Goodlatte
	Goss
	Granger
	Graves
	Green (WI)
	Greenwood
	Gutknecht
	Harris
	Hart
	Hastings (WA)
	Hayes
	Hayworth
	Hefley
	Hensarling
	Heger
	Hobson
	Hoekstra

Hostettler	Moran (KS)
Houghton	Murphy
Hulshof	Musgrave
Hunter	Myrick
Hyde	Nethercutt
Isakson	Ney
Issa	Northup
Istook	Norwood
Janklow	Nunes
Jenkins	Nussle
Johnson (CT)	Osborne
Johnson (IL)	Ose
Johnson, Sam	Otter
Jones (NC)	Oxley
Keller	Paul
Kelly	Pearce
Kennedy (MN)	Pence
King (IA)	Peterson (PA)
King (NY)	Petri
Kingston	Pickering
Kirk	Pitts
Kline	Platts
Knollenberg	Pombo
Kolbe	Porter
LaHood	Portman
Latham	Pryce (OH)
LaTourette	Putnam
Leach	Quinn
Lewis (CA)	Radanovich
Lewis (KY)	Ramstad
Linder	Regula
LoBiondo	Rehberg
Lucas (OK)	Renzi
Manzullo	Reynolds
McCotter	Rogers (AL)
McCree	Rogers (KY)
McHugh	Rogers (MI)
McInnis	Rohrabacher
McKeon	Ros-Lehtinen
Mica	Royce
Miller (FL)	Ryan (WI)
Miller (MI)	Ryun (KS)
Miller, Gary	Saxton

PELOSI—201

Abercrombie	Emanuel
Ackerman	Engel
Alexander	Eshoo
Allen	Etheridge
Andrews	Evans
Baca	Farr
Baird	Fattah
Baldwin	Filner
Ballance	Ford
Becerra	Frank (MA)
Bell	Frost
Berkley	Gephardt
Berman	Gonzalez
Berry	Gordon
Bishop (GA)	Green (TX)
Bishop (NY)	Grijalva
Blumenauer	Gutierrez
Boswell	Harman
Boucher	Hastings (FL)
Boyd	Hill
Brady (PA)	Hinchev
Brown (OH)	Hinojosa
Brown, Corrine	Hoeffel
Capps	Holden
Capuano	Holt
Cardin	Honda
Cardoza	Hoyer
Carson (IN)	Inslee
Carson (OK)	Israel
Case	Jackson (IL)
Clay	Jackson-Lee
Clyburn	(TX)
Conyers	Jefferson
Cooper	John
Costello	Johnson, E. B.
Cramer	Jones (OH)
Crowley	Kanjorski
Cummings	Kaptur
Davis (AL)	Kennedy (RI)
Davis (CA)	Kildee
Davis (FL)	Kilpatrick
Davis (IL)	Kind
Davis (TN)	Kleczka
DeFazio	Kucinich
DeGette	Lampson
Delahunt	Langevin
DeLauro	Lantos
Deutsch	Larsen (WA)
Dicks	Larson (CT)
Dingell	Lee
Doggett	Levin
Dooley (CA)	Lewis (GA)
Doyle	Lipinski
Edwards	Lofgren

Schrock	Sabo
Sensenbrenner	Sánchez, Linda
Sessions	T.
Shadegg	Sánchez, Loretta
Shaw	Sanders
Shays	Sandlin
Sherwood	Schakowsky
Shimkus	Schiff
Shuster	Scott (GA)
Simmons	Scott (VA)
Simpson	Serrano
Smith (MI)	Sherman
Smith (NJ)	Skelton
Smith (TX)	Slaughter
Souder	
Stearns	
Sullivan	
Sweeney	
Tancredo	
Tauzin	Hall
Taylor (NC)	Hastert
Terry	
Thomas	
Thornberry	
Tiahrt	
Tiberi	
Toomey	
Turner (OH)	
Upton	
Vitter	
Walden (OR)	
Walsh	
Wamp	
Weldon (FL)	
Weldon (PA)	
Weller	
Whitfield	
Wicker	
Wilson (NM)	
Wilson (SC)	
Wolf	
Young (AK)	
Young (FL)	

Smith (WA)	Udall (CO)
Snyder	Udall (NM)
Solis	Van Hollen
Spratt	Velázquez
Stark	Visclosky
Strickland	Waters
Stupak	Watson
Tanner	Watt
Tauscher	Waxman
Thompson (CA)	Weiner
Thompson (MS)	Wexler
Tierney	Woolsey
Towns	Wu
Turner (TX)	Wynn

MURTHA—1

Taylor (MS)

PRESENT—4

Lucas (KY)

Stenholm

NOT VOTING—1

Hooley

□ 1330

The CLERK. The tellers agree in their tallies that the total number of votes cast is 434, of which the Honorable J. DENNIS HASTERT of the State of Illinois has received 228, the Honorable NANCY PELOSI of the State of California has received 201, the Honorable JOHN MURTHA of the State of Pennsylvania has received 1 vote, with 4 recorded as "present."

Therefore, the Honorable J. DENNIS HASTERT of the State of Illinois is duly elected Speaker of the House of Representatives for the 108th Congress, having received the majority of the votes cast.

The Clerk appoints the following committee to escort the Speaker-elect to the chair: The gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE), the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. CRANE), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. COSTELLO), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIERREZ), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. MANZULLO), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LAHOOD), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. WELLER), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS), the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT), the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JOHNSON), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL).

The committee will retire from the Chamber to escort the Speaker-elect to the chair.

The Sergeant at Arms announced the Speaker-elect of the House of Representatives of the 108th Congress, who was escorted to the chair by the Committee of escort.

□ 1345

Ms. PELOSI. First, congratulations to each and every Member of this

House on your swearing-in to the 108th Congress which is about to occur. A special congratulations and welcome to the freshmen to the Capitol and certainly to their families and friends. Let us all welcome our freshmen Members.

Let me also thank my Democratic colleagues. I am humbled by the honor they have bestowed upon me to become the House Democratic leader. I know that I speak for all of us when I express profound gratitude to our esteemed colleague, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT). We thank the gentleman for his unwavering service to this institution and to our country. It is a great honor to follow in his footsteps.

And to my family, my dear husband, Paul, our five children, and our five grandchildren, and to my D'Alesandro family, I thank them very much for the love, support, encouragement, and joy that they have given me.

Because of you, and the people of San Francisco, whom I am honored to serve, I had the unprecedented privilege today to have my name placed in nomination as the first woman ever to do so in the history of the House of Representatives.

I am grateful to my colleagues for the confidence and proud of my party for breaking down another barrier and leading America closer to the ideal of equality that is both our heritage and our hope.

We serve in the people's House; and today, I want to pay tribute to the American people. It is their greatness, their fair-mindedness, their commitment to family, their willingness to hope and dream that sustain our country.

I especially wish to acknowledge the men and women in uniform whose courage keeps our country free and safe and makes it possible for us to strive for peace on Earth and goodwill toward mankind.

For more than 214 years, the American people have issued a most awesome challenge to those of us in Congress. Debate, the American people tell us when they send us here, debate the great issues of our Nation. Decide matters of war and peace. Fashion laws and policies that will make our economy sound, our institutions fair, our society just, our environment protected, our people educated and healthy, our religions and beliefs free from constraint, and our homeland secure from terror.

Debate policies, the American people tell us, which will ensure peace and justice throughout the world, comfort the afflicted, give voice to the oppressed, and make the future brighter for our children.

Today I speak as the leader of the minority in a closely divided House of Representatives. We are on different sides of the aisle, but we have shared oath and a greater obligation to serve our country together, both to find common ground wherever we can and to stand our ground wherever we must to be true to the people we represent.

My colleagues, I commit to all of you and to the American people that our party will always stand for the principles in which we believe, for I believe those principles represent the mainstream beliefs of our Nation: fairness, opportunity, patriotism, community, equal rights and a strong America, safe and prosperous at home, and committed abroad to a more secure and just world, free from the fear of terrorism.

So in that spirit, I ask the majority in this House and the administration to join us in a new spirit to get our economy moving again in a way that helps working families. I ask that you join us in creating jobs and providing access to quality health care for America's families, including a prescription drug coverage for our seniors.

I ask that, after having passed the Leave No Child Behind Act, we act now to pledge to put our children first and fully fund their education.

Finally and fundamentally, on the great and fateful issues we have all faced as Americans, especially since September 11, let me pledge for my party our absolute commitment to our national security, to winning the battle against terrorism and countering the threat of weapons of mass destruction.

At times, we will have to debate on how best to provide for the common defense. That debate is not only right and necessary, it is at the heart of our democracy. But let there be no doubt, in our commitment to the strength and safety of America, there are no Democrats, there are no Republicans. Together, as Americans, we must and will prevail.

We have great and grave issues to decide, as fateful as any faced by any of the 107 Congresses before us. So let us reach across party lines as we stand for principle, and let this be our own test, to advance and defend what is best for America.

Now it is my privilege to present the Speaker of the House with my hardest congratulations. Mr. Speaker, I hope in the next Congress our roles will be reversed, and you will have this wonderful privilege of presenting the gavel.

In introducing our Speaker, let me first pay tribute to his skill, his decency and his integrity. We all hold the title of "honorable" by virtue of the office we hold; DENNIS HASTERT holds the title of "honorable" by virtue of his character. He is a man of honor.

It is my privilege, colleagues, to present the Speaker of the House for the 108th Congress, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT).

The SPEAKER. I want to thank the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) for her gracious remarks, and I want to congratulate her for her historic achievement. NANCY PELOSI is the first woman in our Nation's history to be nominated to be Speaker of the House of Representatives. Now that this glass ceiling has been broken, I trust she will not be the last.

NANCY PELOSI is not the only woman to make history today. The gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE) today becomes the first woman to chair the House Republican Conference. I want to congratulate her as well.

I think it is altogether appropriate to note the history these two outstanding representatives have made today. We are a better country because of the active political participation of millions of American women, in this House and in elected positions all across this Nation.

We have 63 women Members in the House today. They represent millions of American. They fight hard for their constituents, and they serve with distinction.

Let me say to my good friend, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), as I welcome her to her new post as minority leader, we are going to have our fair share of disagreements. That is the nature of our two-party system. But together we must always find ways to make America a better and a more secure place to live.

My door will always be open as we work together in this 108th Congress. To all Members of this House, I say thank you for giving me the great honor to serve once again as your Speaker.

As we stand here today, we leave behind the work of the historic 107th Congress. Some of the achievements of the 107th Congress were planned, others were thrust upon us by events. We enacted landmark education reform, far-reaching election reform, and we have completed work on the most significant tax relief in a generation.

But we are also confronted by the most brutal, the senseless, and most tragic attack on our citizens in our Nation's history. The events of September 11, 2001, which we recalled in a historic commemorative session in New York City last fall, are still very much in our thoughts and in our prayers.

We ache for those we lost at the World Trade Towers and the Pentagon, and we give quiet thanks to those brave passengers on United Flight 93 who stopped the terrorists from crashing another plane into Washington, D.C. We sit in this Chamber knowing that it may very well have been the target for that ill-fated flight.

Just a few steps from here, on the central steps of this Capitol building, we stood together on September 11, Republicans and Democrats. We stood shoulder to shoulder representing one Nation, under God, indivisible, and pledged to fight those who would threaten our freedom.

□ 1400

In this room, just a few days later, our President called us to action. And act we did to give the President the tools he needed to fight those who engage in terrorism and those who harbor them.

Friends, our fellow Americans know that we are still engaged in that struggle today. Like generations before,

they know that freedom comes with a price. As we begin this new Congress, I want to say to the American people, we will keep that commitment we made on the steps of this Capitol on September 11, 2001. This Congress will do everything in its power to provide for the security of the American people. We are determined that it shall never happen here again.

The Members of this House who are returning can be proud of the legislation we passed to create a Department of Homeland Security, the most significant restructuring of the Federal Government in the last 50 years. It will help make this Nation more secure.

But the 108th Congress must build on the work of the last Congress. Having given birth to this new department, we must now nurture it and, with the leadership of our President, guide it to successful maturity. And as we build on the achievements of the 107th Congress, we must not forget the legacy of three leaders, two who decided to make the 107th Congress their last, and another who chose to step down from his leadership post as he considers other opportunities for public service.

Dick Arme and DICK GEPHARDT differed in many ways. The former majority leader and the former minority leader were often at odds on tax policy, debated vigorously on social policy, and presented competing visions for America. But they both loved this House, and they both loved the St. Louis Rams. Their leadership, along with that of J.C. Watts, will be missed in this House, and I wish them the best in their new endeavors.

As we start the 108th Congress, we welcome 54 new Members of the House. I have had a chance to meet almost all of them, and I am impressed by their experience, by their expertise and by their energy. The other body also welcomes 10 new Senators, including several of our former colleagues.

As I begin my third term as Speaker of the House, and ninth term as a Member of Congress representing the voters of the 14th District of Illinois, I want to thank my constituents for honoring me with their trust. My district stretches from the far suburbs of Chicago, through the Fox River Valley, to the great Mississippi River. It includes suburbs, small towns and flowing fields of corn and soybeans. It is the heartland of America. I am particularly proud that it includes Dixon, Illinois, the boyhood home of one of the giants of the 20th century, President Ronald Reagan.

As you all know, I go home as often as possible, because it is there that I get a dose of reality. It is usually my wife Jean who provides that dose of reality. Thank you, Jean, for all of your love, your support and your patience.

I believe that to be a good Speaker of the House, you also must be a good listener. I pledge to you that I will continue to open my door to listen to your concerns and to do my best to do the will of this House. And as we start the

108th Congress, we must all begin by listening to America, to the men and women who sent us here.

What is it that concerns our citizens? First and foremost, they want us to make this Nation more secure. Terrorists threaten our American homeland. This Capitol building and the buildings where our fellow Americans work and live and worship are all on the front lines of this new war. Now that we have a Department of Homeland Security, we in the Congress have a duty to make sure it works as it was designed to work. It must protect our citizens without invading their privacy unnecessarily. It must make our government more effective in fighting terrorism without making our government too big. And it must do its work efficiently, without compromising workers' rights.

Later on today, we will vote to create a Select Committee on Homeland Security. Members of this select committee will oversee the creation of the Department of Homeland Security to make certain that the executive branch is carrying out the will of the Congress. This select committee will be our eyes and our ears as this critical department is organized. The standing committees of the House will maintain their jurisdictions and will still have authorization and oversight responsibilities. This House needs to adapt to the largest reorganization of our executive branch in 50 years, and this select committee will help us make this transition.

As we protect our citizens, we must also support our Armed Forces as they fight the terrorists and the terrorist states that protect them. Giving our Armed Forces and intelligence services the resources they need to get the job done will be a top priority of this House.

As we work to make American families more secure, we also need to improve our Nation's economy. Without a sound economy that creates jobs, no family really feels secure. In too many pockets of our Nation, the economy stumbles along. This week, this House, as we did in the waning hours of the 107th Congress, will address an immediate need by passing an extension of unemployment benefits.

But we all know that unemployment benefits are no substitute for a permanent job. We must ask ourselves, what can we do to improve our economic growth and create jobs? First, we can lower the tax burden on small businesses so that they can hire more workers. Eighty percent of all the jobs in my district, and I suspect many of yours, are created by small and medium-sized businesses. Let us do something to help the job creators.

Second, we can increase export opportunities with the rest of the world. Last year we passed trade promotion authority. This year we need to promote more trade and, yes, fair trade.

Third, we can cut the cost of government, of regulations, and of litigation,

which too often strangles business creation and puts an undue burden on our consumers.

Fourth, we can make the President's tax cuts permanent. What sense does it make to phase out the unfair death tax over 8 years only to have it come back to life in year 9? And we have to look at longer term reform of our Tax Code. Our Tax Code should help us compete on the world stage. But does it help or actually hurt job creation? Would it not make sense to make our Tax Code simpler, smarter and less burdensome?

As we work to make the economy stronger, we must also work to make our health care system better. We face a health care crisis in this country. Forty-four million Americans are uninsured. Prescription drug costs are too high. Health care costs continue to skyrocket. We need to address all of these issues, and we need to do it quickly. No senior citizen should be forced to choose between putting food on the table or purchasing lifesaving prescription drugs. No small business mom and pop operation should have to risk going without health insurance for their children because the cost is too high. No baby boomer should be forced to face bankruptcy just because she gets sick. Our health care system is the best in the world. But it could be even better and more accessible to everyone. We have the resources, we have the talent, and we have the know-how. Now let us have the right laws to allow for an even better system.

Finally, last year we passed landmark education reform. The Leave No Child Behind Act was a good start to making our public schools the best in the world. But we still have much work to do. I taught at a public high school for 16 years. My wife taught public grade school for over 30 years. I know how tough, yet how rewarding teaching can be. There is no more noble profession than being a teacher. There is no better investment in the future of our Nation than education. Yet far too often our schools are not as good as they ought to be. Let us work together, as Republicans and Democrats, to improve our schools and support our teachers.

On this historic day, my mind turns to our most sacred political document, our Constitution. It is here that we, the Congress of the United States, are charged with a simple task: establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity. Never has that mission seemed so important and never has it seemed to be more threatened.

My colleagues, we have a sacred duty to perform. As the elected representatives of the American people, we must, along with our President, shoulder a great burden of responsibility. Today, we are jubilant in our celebration, and rightfully so. Enjoy this day with your family and your friends. But come back tomorrow with your sleeves rolled up,

because the task ahead is great and leadership is hard, steady work. You will be called upon to make many decisions over the next 2 years. Many will impact the economic well-being of your fellow Americans. Some may cause you to send our youth into harm's way. There is no textbook for how to do your job. Each of you must find your own way. Start by doing your job to the best of your ability. Represent your constituents with the noblest of motives. And always be true to the democratic values of this great institution. Let us be respectful of those with whom we disagree and make an effort to find the common ground. Let us keep before us our common goal, to make this Nation safer and more secure for all Americans and a better place to pass on to our children and our grandchildren when our work here is done.

As we begin this new 108th Congress, let us be mindful of our Creator and of His plans for this great country. May God bless this House of Representatives.

□ 1415

I recognize my good friend and colleague, the dean of the House of Representatives, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL); and he will administer the oath of the office of the Speaker.

Mr. DINGELL then administered the oath of office to Mr. HASTERT of Illinois, as follows:

Do you solemnly swear 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 upon which you are about to enter. So help you God.

Mr. DINGELL. Congratulations.  
(Applause, the Members rising.)

#### SWEARING IN OF MEMBERS

The SPEAKER. According to the precedents, the Chair will swear in all Members of the House at this time.

If the Members will rise, the Chair will now administer the oath of office.

The Members-elect and Delegates-elect and the Resident Commissioner-elect rose, and the Speaker administered the oath of office to them as follows:

Do you solemnly swear 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. You are now Members of the 108th Congress.

#### MAJORITY LEADER

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Republican Conference, I am directed by that conference to notify the House officially that the Republican Members have selected as their majority leader the gentleman from Texas, the Honorable TOM DELAY.

#### MINORITY LEADER

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Democratic Caucus, I have been directed to report to the House that Democratic Members have selected as minority leader the gentleman from California, the Honorable NANCY PELOSI.

#### MAJORITY WHIP

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Republican Conference, I am directed by that conference to notify the House officially that the Republican Members have selected as majority whip the gentleman from Missouri, the Honorable ROY BLUNT.

#### MINORITY WHIP

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Democratic Caucus, I have been directed to report to the House that the Democratic Members have elected as minority whip the gentleman from Maryland, Mr. HOYER.

#### ELECTION OF CLERK OF THE HOUSE, SERGEANT AT ARMS, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, AND CHAPLAIN

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 1) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

#### H. RES. 1

*Resolved*, That Jeffery J. Trandahl of the State of South Dakota, be, and is hereby, chosen Clerk of the House of Representatives;

That Wilson S. Livingood of the Commonwealth of Virginia, be, and is hereby, chosen Sergeant at Arms of the House of Representatives;

That James M. Eagen, III, of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, be, and is hereby, chosen Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives; and

That Father Daniel P. Coughlin of the State of Illinois, be, and is hereby, chosen Chaplain of the House of Representatives.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I have an amendment to the resolution; but before offering the amendment, I request that there be a division of the question on the resolution so that we may have a separate vote on the chaplain.

The SPEAKER. The question will be divided.

The question is on agreeing to that portion of the resolution providing for the election of the Chaplain.

That portion of the resolution was agreed to.

#### AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MENENDEZ

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I offer an amendment to the remainder of the resolution offered by the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE).

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. MENENDEZ:

For the Remainder of the House Resolution 1

That George Crawford of the state of California be, and is hereby, chosen Clerk of the House of Representatives;

That Lorraine Miller of the state of Texas be, and is hereby, chosen Sergeant-at-Arms of the House of Representatives; and

That Cecile Richards of the state of Texas be, and is hereby, chosen Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ).

The amendment was rejected.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the remainder of the resolution offered by the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE).

The remainder of the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER. The Chair will now swear in the officers-elect of the House. Will they please come forward.

The officers-elect presented themselves at the bar of the House and took the oath of office as follows:

Do you solemnly swear 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 the obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion, and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office for which you are about to enter. So help you God.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations.

#### NOTIFICATION TO THE SENATE

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 2) to inform the Senate that a quorum of the House has assembled and of the election of the Speaker and the Clerk, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

#### H. RES. 2

*Resolved*, That the Senate be informed that a quorum of the House of Representatives has assembled; that J. Dennis Hastert, a Representative from the state of Illinois, has been elected Speaker; and Jeffrey J. Trandahl, a citizen of the State of South Dakota, has been elected Clerk of the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Eighth Congress.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.