

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I, too, wish DAVE CURSON a warm welcome in joining this body.

We have great Members on both sides of the aisle. I will say, from the Republican perspective, that I don't think any of us knew you before. We surely look forward to getting to know you in the next couple of weeks. We know that you'll be an active Member, and we look forward to your service and to getting to know you well. And we wish you the very best.

Mr. DINGELL. At this time, Mr. Speaker, I yield to my dear friend, our new Member from Michigan's 11th District, DAVE CURSON, with my congratulations and good wishes.

Mr. CURSON of Michigan. Thank you, Congressman DINGELL. It's always been an honor to work with you.

And thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thanks to all my new colleagues, and thanks to all the guests. And thanks to my wife, Sharon, who has been my rock; and my family, who gave me the courage and the strength to get here; and to all my supporters, the hundreds of volunteers, and the many union brothers and sisters that worked so hard to get me elected; and to all the voters, regardless of whose lever they pulled, because they participated in this country's greatest act of freedom—the right to elect their own government.

I spent my entire adult life solving problems for working families, but I am but one man. So when I speak, you will hear the voice of over 500,000 residents of Michigan's 11th District who simply want a piece, their small share of the American Dream. And I know with the genius that works in this great Hall, that together, we can collectively achieve that goal and move this country forward.

I am humbled and honored to be a part of this distinguished group, and I want to thank every one of you. I look forward to working with you.

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

WELCOMING THE HONORABLE SUZAN K. DELBENE TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, it is a great pleasure for the Washington congressional delegation to welcome our newest Member, SUZAN DELBENE, who had the distinction of winning not just one, but two elections last week.

She was elected in a special election to fill the remainder of Congressman Jay Inslee's term, and she was also elected last week to be the Representative of a newly configured First District in the 113th Congress.

Throughout her campaign, SUZAN was able to successfully connect with voters because of her upbringing and because of her experience. She spoke to

the struggles her parents went through in raising her family and of working her way through college. She earned a bachelor's degree from Reed College in Portland and received an MBA from the University of Washington.

Following her academic work, SUZAN had a very successful career at Microsoft and at two high-tech startup companies, and then was appointed director of the Washington Department of Revenue. SUZAN is a high-energy person, someone who will work well with our delegation and with all of our colleagues here in the House in the next Congress.

At this time, I would like to yield to the gentleman from Washington's Fourth Congressional District, Congressman HASTINGS, the chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, who joins me in welcoming our newest Member.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

And let me be the first here in this post session of Congress to say that this is the last session that our senior colleague from Washington (Mr. DICKS) will be serving, and he will be certainly missed. And I want to be the first to say that we will miss you here in this body.

But when somebody leaves, somebody new comes in, albeit not the same district. SUZAN, I want to welcome you to the Washington caucus. While we're a diverse State, as you well know, we have found that on issues we agree on, we work very, very well together, and we look forward to working with you.

And I know that this is not your first run here, so I'll congratulate you more on the second run than the first run. Welcome to the Congress.

Mr. DICKS. I now yield to SUZAN DELBENE to address the House.

Ms. DELBENE. I want to thank Congressman DICKS and Congressman HASTINGS for the very kind introduction. It's a great honor to be here.

Mr. Speaker, Leader PELOSI, members of the Washington delegation, and Members of the 112th Congress, it's truly an honor for me to be here with you today.

I would first like to thank all those who supported me throughout this journey; in particular, my family; my husband, Kurt, who is up in the gallery; and my children, Rebecca and Zachary, who are both off in college right now. I am very grateful to share this moment with them.

It's a great privilege to represent the people of Washington's First Congressional District, both the current and the future versions of it. I am honored to be given this opportunity by the voters of western Washington, and I truly appreciate their support. I will work very, very hard to serve them well.

I look forward to working with all of you, and I am honored to be able to serve alongside the very distinguished members of the Washington delegation. I am very excited to roll up my sleeves and get to work right away.

Thanks again. I appreciate all of your support.

Mr. DICKS. I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1910

WELCOMING THE HONORABLE THOMAS MASSIE TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I have the distinct honor and privilege of representing the Kentucky delegation as we welcome our newest member, TOM MASSIE from Lewis County, Kentucky.

THOMAS earned two engineering degrees from MIT. He founded SensAble Technologies, Inc., based on his invention that made computers easier to use, raised over \$32 million of venture capital, created 70 jobs, and obtained 24 patents. Then he came home to a farm in Kentucky to raise his family.

Ten years ago, he and Rhonda, his high school sweetheart, moved back home to Kentucky to raise their four children where they live on a farm in rural Lewis County, Kentucky.

But you can't keep a good man down. He wanted to be of service to the public, and he ran for the county executive's job in Lewis County on the Ohio River, and, of course, won that race. That was in 2010.

Now we are honored to present to you, in a minute, the newest member of the Kentucky delegation representing the Fourth Congressional District.

Before I introduce TOM, let me turn to my colleague, Mr. YARMUTH, from the Third District.

Mr. YARMUTH. Thank you, Mr. ROGERS. I appreciate this opportunity.

For those of us in the Kentucky delegation, Kentucky always comes first, and I appreciate this opportunity to welcome TOM MASSIE and his family to the House of Representatives and also to the Kentucky delegation.

TOM has very big shoes to fill. He steps in the shoes of Geoff Davis, who honorably served that Fourth Congressional District for a number of years. He now has the responsibility of representing about 20,000 of my former constituents, and I think 15½ holes of that hallowed golf course which he now has in his district.

I want to welcome THOMAS and his family, thank them for their service in advance, congratulate them on their election, and also invite TOM to join the Congressional Bourbon Caucus, which is one of the most popular caucuses in the Congress.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. It is now my great pleasure to recognize and yield to the new member of the Kentucky delegation, THOMAS MASSIE.

Mr. MASSIE. First, I'd like to recognize the great service of Congressman