

	MONTANA	
	Rehberg	
	NEBRASKA	
Fortenberry	Smith	Terry
	NEVADA	
Berkley	Heck	Heller
	NEW HAMPSHIRE	
Bass	Guinta	
	NEW JERSEY	
Andrews	LoBiondo	Runyan
Frelinghuysen	Pallone	Sires
Garrett	Pascrell	Smith
Holt	Payne	
Lance	Rothman	
	NEW MEXICO	
Heinrich	Luján	Pearce
	NEW YORK	
Ackerman	Higgins	Owens
Bishop	Hinchey	Rangel
Buerkle	Israel	Reed
Clarke	King	Serrano
Crowley	Lee	Slaughter
Engel	Lowey	Tonko
Gibson	Maloney	Towns
Grimm	McCarthy	Velázquez
Hanna	Meeks	Weiner
Hayworth	Nadler	
	NORTH CAROLINA	
Butterfield	Kissell	Price
Coble	McHenry	Shuler
Ellmers	McIntyre	Watt
Foxx	Miller	
Jones	Myrick	
	NORTH DAKOTA	
	Berg	
	OHIO	
Austria	Jordan	Ryan
Boehner	Kaptur	Schmidt
Chabot	Kucinich	Stivers
Fudge	LaTourette	Sutton
Gibbs	Latta	Tiberi
Johnson	Renacci	Turner
	OKLAHOMA	
Boren	Lankford	Sullivan
Cole	Lucas	
	OREGON	
Blumenauer	Walden	
Schrader	Wu	
	PENNSYLVANIA	
Altmire	Fitzpatrick	Pitts
Barletta	Gerlach	Platts
Brady	Holden	Schwartz
Critz	Kelly	Shuster
Dent	Marino	Thompson
Doyle	Meehan	
Fattah	Murphy	
	RHODE ISLAND	
Cicilline	Langevin	
	SOUTH CAROLINA	
Clyburn	Gowdy	Scott
Duncan	Mulvaney	Wilson
	SOUTH DAKOTA	
	Noem	
	TENNESSEE	
Black	Cooper	Fincher
Blackburn	DesJarlais	Fleischmann
Cohen	Duncan	Roe
	TEXAS	
Barton	Doggett	Hall
Brady	Farenthold	Hensarling
Burgess	Flores	Hinojosa
Canseco	Gohmert	Jackson Lee
Carter	Gonzalez	Johnson, E. B.
Conaway	Granger	Johnson, Sam
Cuellar	Green, Al	Marchant
Culberson	Green, Gene	McCaul

Neugebauer	Poe	Smith
Olson	Reyes	Thornberry
Paul	Sessions	
	UTAH	
Bishop	Chaffetz	Matheson
	VERMONT	
	Welch	
	VIRGINIA	
Cantor	Griffith	Scott
Connolly	Hurt	Wittman
Forbes	Moran	Wolf
Goodlatte	Rigell	
	WASHINGTON	
Dicks	Larsen	Reichert
Hastings	McDermott	Smith
Herrera Beutler	McMorris	
Inslee	Rodgers	
	WEST VIRGINIA	
Capito	McKinley	Rahall
	WISCONSIN	
Baldwin	Moore	Ryan
Duffy	Petri	Sensenbrenner
Kind	Ribble	
	WYOMING	
	Lummis	

□ 1234

The CLERK. The quorum call closes that 434 Representatives-elect have responded to their name. A quorum is present.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CLERK

The CLERK. Credentials, regular in form, have been received showing the election of:

The Honorable PEDRO R. PIERLUISI as Resident Commissioner from the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico for a term of 4 years beginning January 3, 2009;

The Honorable ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON as Delegate from the District of Columbia;

The Honorable MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO as Delegate from Guam;

The Honorable DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN as Delegate from the Virgin Islands;

The Honorable ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA as Delegate from American Samoa; and

The Honorable GREGORIO SABLAN as Delegate from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

The CLERK. Pursuant to law and precedent, the next order of business is the election of the Speaker of the House of Representatives for the 112th Congress.

Nominations are now in order.

The Clerk recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING).

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Clerk, every Congress represents a sacred responsibility to write a new and greater chapter in our Republic's history. Be it providence or destiny, a unique man of uniquely American values is now called to lead this effort.

At a time when far too many of our countrymen remain unemployed, a

former small businessman will lead the House to pass policies to encourage job creation.

At a time when all agree our Nation is on an unsustainable fiscal course, a fiscal reformer will ensure that this House never mortgages the torch of liberty in order to pay our debts.

At a time when too many doubt that their children can enjoy a brighter future in our country, he has lived the American dream, and will protect it for our posterity like few others before him.

This proud son of Ohio—one of 12 children born into a working-class family—has waited tables, mopped floors, tended bar, worked construction, worked his way to a college degree at night school, led a thriving company. And through his faith, his hard work, his values, he is now poised to become the next Speaker of the House of Representatives. He knows firsthand that unlimited opportunity can only arise from limited constitutional government.

Madam Clerk, as chairman of the Republican Conference, I am directed by the unanimous vote of that conference to present for election to the Office of Speaker of the House of Representatives for the 112th Congress the name of the Honorable JOHN A. BOEHNER, a Representative-elect from the State of Ohio.

The CLERK. The Clerk now recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON).

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Clerk, as chairman of the Democratic Caucus, I am directed by the vote of that caucus to present for election to the Office of Speaker of the House of Representatives for the 112th Congress a person who gives me great honor and privilege, who has led with decency and dignity. I submit on behalf of this caucus the name of the Honorable NANCY D'ALESSANDRO PELOSI, a Representative-elect from the great State of California.

The CLERK. The names of the Honorable JOHN A. BOEHNER, a Representative-elect from the State of Ohio, 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 appoints the following tellers:

The gentleman from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN);

The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRADY);

The gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR); and

The gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN).

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 choosing.

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]

**BOEHNER—241**

Adams	Goodlatte	Nugent
Aderholt	Gosar	Nunes
Akin	Gowdy	Nunnelee
Alexander	Granger	Olson
Amash	Graves (GA)	Palazzo
Austria	Graves (MO)	Paul
Bachmann	Griffin (AR)	Paulsen
Bachus	Griffith (VA)	Pearce
Barletta	Grimm	Pence
Bartlett	Guinta	Petri
Barton (TX)	Guthrie	Pitts
Bass (NH)	Hall	Platts
Benishkek	Hanna	Poe (TX)
Berg	Harper	Pompeo
Biggert	Harris	Posey
Bilbray	Hartzler	Price (GA)
Bilirakis	Hastings (WA)	Quayle
Bishop (UT)	Hayworth	Reed
Black	Heck	Rehberg
Blackburn	Heller	Reichert
Bonner	Hensarling	Renacci
Bono Mack	Herger	Ribble
Boustany	Herrera Beutler	Rigell
Brady (TX)	Huelskamp	Rivera
Brooks	Huizenga (MI)	Roby
Broun (GA)	Hultgren	Roe (TN)
Buchanan	Hunter	Rogers (AL)
Buchson	Hurt	Rogers (KY)
Buerkle	Issa	Rogers (MI)
Burgess	Jenkins	Rohrabacher
Burton (IN)	Johnson (IL)	Rokita
Calvert	Johnson (OH)	Rooney
Camp	Johnson, Sam	Ros-Lehtinen
Campbell	Jones	Roskam
Canseco	Jordan	Ross (FL)
Cantor	Kelly	Royce
Capito	King (IA)	Runyan
Carter	King (NY)	Ryan (WI)
Cassidy	Kingston	Scalise
Chabot	Kinzinger (IL)	Schilling
Chaffetz	Kline	Schmidt
Coble	Labrador	Schock
Coffman (CO)	Lamborn	Schweikert
Cole	Lance	Scott (SC)
Conaway	Landry	Scott, Austin
Cravaack	Lankford	Sensenbrenner
Crawford	Latham	Sessions
Crenshaw	LaTourette	Shimkus
Culberson	Latta	Shuster
Davis (KY)	Lee (NY)	Simpson
Denham	Lewis (CA)	Smith (NE)
Dent	LoBiondo	Smith (NJ)
DesJarlais	Long	Smith (TX)
Diaz-Balart	Lucas	Southerland
Dold	Luetkemeyer	Stearns
Dreier	Lummis	Stivers
Duffy	Lungren, Daniel	Stutzman
Duncan (SC)	E.	Sullivan
Duncan (TN)	Mack	Terry
Ellmers	Manzullo	Thompson (PA)
Emerson	Marchant	Thornberry
Farenthold	Marino	Tiberi
Fincher	McCarthy (CA)	Tipton
Fitzpatrick	McCaul	Turner
Flake	McClintock	Upton
Fleischmann	McCotter	Walberg
Fleming	McHenry	Walden
Flores	McKeon	Walsh (IL)
Forbes	McKinley	Webster
Fortenberry	McMorris	West
Fox	Rodgers	Westmoreland
Franks (AZ)	Meehan	Whitfield
Frelinghuysen	Mica	Wilson (SC)
Gallegly	Miller (FL)	Wittman
Gardner	Miller (MI)	Wolf
Garrett	Miller, Gary	Womack
Gerlach	Mulvaney	Woodall
Gibbs	Murphy (PA)	Yoder
Gibson	Myrick	Young (AK)
Gingrey (GA)	Neugebauer	Young (FL)
Gohmert	Noem	Young (IN)

**PELOSI—173**

Ackerman	Green, Gene	Payne
Andrews	Grijalva	Pelosi
Baca	Gutierrez	Perlmutter
Baldwin	Hanabusa	Peters
Bass (CA)	Harman	Peterson
Becerra	Hastings (FL)	Pingree (ME)
Berkley	Heinrich	Polis
Berman	Higgins	Price (NC)
Bishop (NY)	Himes	Quigley
Blumenauer	Hinchev	Rahall
Boswell	Hinojosa	Rangel
Brady (PA)	Hirono	Reyes
Bralley (IA)	Holt	Richardson
Brown (FL)	Honda	Richmond
Butterfield	Hoyer	Rothman (NJ)
Capps	Inslee	Roybal-Allard
Capuano	Keating	Ruppersberger
Carnahan	Kildee	Rush
Carney	Kucinich	Ryan (OH)
Carson (IN)	Langevin	Sanchez, Linda
Castor (FL)	Larsen (WA)	T.
Chandler	Larson (CT)	Sanchez, Loretta
Chu	Lee (CA)	Sarbanes
Ciulline	Levin	Schakowsky
Clarke (MI)	Lewis (GA)	Schiff
Clarke (NY)	Loebsack	Schwartz
Clay	Lofgren, Zoe	Scott (VA)
Cleaver	Lowey	Scott, David
Clyburn	Lujan	Serrano
Cohen	Lynch	Sewell
Connolly (VA)	Maloney	Sherman
Conyers	Markey	Sires
Costello	Matsui	Slaughter
Courtney	McCarthy (NY)	Smith (WA)
Critz	McCollum	Speier
Crowley	McDermott	Stark
Cuellar	McGovern	Sutton
Cummings	McNerney	Thompson (CA)
Davis (CA)	Meeks	Thompson (MS)
Davis (IL)	Miller (NC)	Tierney
DeGette	Miller, George	Tonko
DeLauro	Moore	Towns
Deutch	Moran	Tsongas
Dicks	Murphy (CT)	Van Hollen
Dingell	Nadler	Velázquez
Doggett	Napolitano	Visclosky
Doyle	Neal	Walz (MN)
Edwards	Oliver	Wasserman
Ellison	Owens	Schultz
Engel	Pallone	Waters
Eshoo	Pascrell	Watt
Farr	Pastor (AZ)	Waxman
Fattah		Weiner
Filner		Welch
Frank (MA)		Wilson (FL)
Fudge		Woolsey
Garamendi		Wu
Gonzalez		Yarmuth
Green, Al		

**SHULER—11**

Altmire	Holden	Michaud
Boren	Kissell	Ross (AR)
Cooper	Matheson	Shuler
Donnelly (IN)	McIntyre	

**LEWIS (GA)—2**

Giffords

**COSTA—1**

Cardoza

**CARDOZA—1**

Costa

**COOPER—1**

Kind

**KAPTUR—1**

Lipinski

**HOYER—1**

Schrader

**ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1**

Bishop (GA)

**NOT VOTING—2**

DeFazio

□ 1341

The CLERK. The tellers agree in their tallies that the total number of

votes cast by surname is 432, of which the Honorable JOHN A. BOEHNER of the State of Ohio has received 241, the Honorable NANCY PELOSI of the State of California has received 173, the Honorable DENNIS CARDOZA of the State of California has received 1, the Honorable JIM COOPER of the State of Tennessee has received 1, the Honorable JIM COSTA of the State of California has received 1, the Honorable STENY HOYER of the State of Maryland has received 1, the Honorable MARCY KAPTUR of the State of Ohio has received 1, the Honorable JOHN LEWIS of the State of Georgia has received 2, the Honorable HEATH SHULER of the State of North Carolina has received 11, with 1 recorded as "present."

Therefore, the Honorable JOHN A. BOEHNER of the State of Ohio, having received the majority of the votes cast, is duly elected Speaker of the House of Representatives for the 112th Congress.

The Clerk appoints the following committee to escort the Speaker-elect to the chair:

The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR)

The gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI)

The gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY)

The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER)

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING)

The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN)

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS)

The gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON)

The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. PRICE)

The gentleman from California (Mr. BECERRA)

The gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS)

The gentleman from New York (Mr. ISRAEL)

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER)

The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN)

The gentlewoman from South Dakota (Mrs. NOEM)

The gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER)

The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT)

The gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO)

The gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN)

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR)

The gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER)

The gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ)

The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ROSKAM)

The gentlewoman from California (Ms. BASS)

And the Members of the Ohio delegation:

Ms. KAPTUR  
Mr. LATOURETTE  
Mr. KUCINICH  
Mr. TIBERI  
Mr. RYAN  
Mr. TURNER  
Mrs. SCHMIDT  
Ms. SUTTON  
Mr. LATTA  
Mr. JORDAN  
Ms. FUDGE  
Mr. AUSTRIA  
Mr. CHABOT  
Mr. GIBBS  
Mr. JOHNSON  
Mr. RENACCI, and  
Mr. STIVERS

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 112th Congress, who was escorted to the chair by the Committee of Escort.

Ms. PELOSI. It is a high honor to welcome all Members of Congress and their families to the House of Representatives.

To the new Members and their families, a special congratulations and welcome to you. We all wish you great success. Congratulations to you.

We all come here to represent our constituents. Our respect for each other is founded in our respect for the people that we represent.

This month, we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the inauguration of John F. Kennedy as President of the United States.

As a student, I was there in the freezing cold. For some of you, you have read about it in the history books, but to Bob and me, it was our youth.

Right, Bob?

I was there in the freezing cold and heard the stirring address that inspired generations of Americans to public service.

In his 1962 State of the Union Address, right from here, from this dais, President Kennedy said to the Congress: the Constitution makes us all trustees of the American people, custodians of the American heritage.

Today, as we take the oath of office to support and defend our Constitution, we do so as trustees of America's best hopes and as custodians of America's highest values. However we may differ, let us never lose sight of our common laws for this exceptional Nation and our shared obligation to the way forward.

I started off by acknowledging and welcoming and congratulating the Members and their families. Our families have always helped light the way forward for all of us. With a full and grateful heart, I want to thank my family: my husband of 47 years, Paul Pelosi; my children, Nancy Corinne,

Christine, Jacqueline, Paul, and Alexandra; and my grandchildren. I am proud, too, to be from a large family—the youngest of seven—and to acknowledge my brother, Thomas D'Alesandro III, the former mayor of Baltimore, Maryland.

Welcome, Thomas.

Let me thank my constituents in San Francisco, whom I am proud to represent in the spirit of the anthem of our city of Saint Francis—the song of Saint Francis—and I am so pleased that that was recited by all of us at the interdenominational service this morning.

I am grateful to my colleagues for their commitment to equality, which is both our heritage and our hope, giving me the historic honor of being the first woman Speaker of the House of Representatives. Now more doors are wide open for all of America's daughters and granddaughters.

I am also honored to be the first Italian-American Speaker. Like many Americans, our heritage is a source of great pride and of deeply ingrained patriotism which summons us to build a stronger Nation. We recognize that the proudest title we will ever hold is not accorded on this floor. It is the simple dignity of the title "American"—part of our great democracy that continues to be the greatest hope of liberty and progress for the entire world.

When I was first elected Speaker, I called the House to order on behalf of America's children; and now, as I prepare to hand the gavel over to Speaker BOEHNER, I know one thing above all else: Thanks to you, we have stood with those children and for their families—for their health, their education, the safety of the air they breathe, the water they drink, and the food they eat.

Thanks to you, for those children and their families, we have made the largest ever commitment to making college more affordable, enacted Wall Street reform with the greatest consumer protections in history, and passed a strong Patients' Bill of Rights. It means that children with preexisting conditions can get care; young people can stay on their parents' policies until they are 26; pregnant women and breast and prostate cancer patients can no longer be thrown off their insurance; our seniors are paying less for their medical prescriptions. Taken together, it will save taxpayers \$1.3 trillion.

Thanks to you, thanks to all of us, we advanced the defining American cause of "equality for all" from the first days of the Congress with the passage of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act to the last days with the repeal of the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy.

And thanks to you, we achieved more for America's veterans than at any time since the passage of the GI Bill of Rights in 1944. Because of our coura-

geous troops and our veterans, we will always be the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Let us now salute our men and women in uniform.

To honor them, we must build a future worthy of their sacrifice, which includes good-paying jobs when they come home. It is not enough that we staved off a depression. Much more needs to be done to open up the American Dream and lift up the American economy. The only acceptable outcome is to fully and finally restore fair prosperity that good-paying jobs provide.

□ 1400

Our most important job is to fight for American jobs, to make it in America—STENY—and so Democrats will judge what comes before Congress, from either side of the aisle, as to whether it creates jobs, strengthens the middle class, and reduces the deficit, not burdening future generations. When the new Speaker of the House, JOHN BOEHNER, and the new Republican majority—and congratulations, again—come forward with solutions that will address these American challenges, you will find us a willing partner.

As we congratulate Speaker BOEHNER and our Republican colleagues, as we wish them success, we must stand ready to find common ground, to solve problems, and to build a more secure future for all Americans.

And as we take the oath of office today to support and defend the Constitution, we must be ever mindful that it makes us trustees for the American people, with an obligation to do what is right for them, and custodian of the American heritage—our great values.

Thank you, my colleagues, for the honor of serving in that tradition as the Speaker of the House of Representatives. I thank you, my colleagues.

Again, I want to congratulate all of the new Members of Congress, all of you who have been reelected, but especially the new majority and the new Speaker of the House, JOHN BOEHNER.

Now, the House will be led by a proud son of Ohio, a man of conviction, a public servant of resolve, and a legislative leader of skill. Speaker BOEHNER is a leader who has earned the confidence of his conference and the respect of his colleagues in the Congress. He is a man of faith: faith in God, faith in our country, and faith in his family.

It is very important for us, in acknowledging that, for us to acknowledge his family, his wife, Mrs. Boehner. As we congratulate him, we congratulate and thank Debbie for sharing him with us and Lindsay and Trisha and, indeed, the entire Boehner family. Thank you and congratulations to all of you.

Now, recognizing our roles under the Constitution, united in our love of our country, we now engage in a strong symbol of American democracy, the

peaceful and respectful exchange of power. I now pass this gavel, which is larger than most gavels here, but the gavel of choice of Speaker BOEHNER—I now pass this gavel and the sacred trust that goes with it to the new Speaker. God bless you, Speaker BOEHNER. God bless this Congress and God bless America.

Mr. BOEHNER. Thank you. It's still just me.

Madam Speaker, thank you for your kind words, and thank you for your service to this institution.

Secondly, I want to welcome all of our new Members and their families on what is a very special day. All of us who have been here remember vividly that first day that we served here, and I think any of us can tell you that you will never forget today.

My own family is here as well. I think you just met Debbie, and next to Debbie are Lindsay and Trisha, our two daughters. Welcome. We're glad that you're here. Ten of my 11 brothers and sisters and sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law are here as well, and my poor brother Greg who runs a restaurant down in Georgia was unable to be here, but I wanted to acknowledge him.

I also want to acknowledge some of my close friends that are here from the other side of the Capitol: MITCH MCCONNELL, the Senate Republican leader is here; and two of my best buds, RICHARD BURR from North Carolina, SAXBY CHAMBLISS from Georgia, along with, you know, my buddy LATHAM. Thank you for being here, gentlemen. I appreciate it.

I am honored and humbled to represent a great, hardworking community in Congress. The people of Ohio's Eighth Congressional District continue to afford me the privilege to serve, for which I am deeply grateful.

We gather here today at a time of great challenges, when nearly one in 10 of our neighbors is out of work. Health care costs are still rising for American families. Our spending has caught up with us, and our debt soon will eclipse the entire size of our national economy. Hard work and tough decisions will be required of the 112th Congress. No longer can we fall short. No longer can we kick the can down the road. The people voted to end business as usual; and, today, we begin to carry out their instructions.

In the Catholic faith, we enter into a season of service by having ashes marked on our head. The ashes remind us that life, in all of its forms, is very fragile; our time on this Earth fleeting. But as the ashes are delivered, we hear those humbling words: remember, you are dust and to dust you shall return.

The American people have humbled us. They have refreshed our memories to just how temporary the privilege of serving is. They've reminded us that everything here is on loan from them. That includes this gavel, which I ac-

cept cheerfully and gratefully, knowing that I am but its caretaker. After all, this is the people's House. This is their Congress. It's about them, not about us. What they want is a government that's honest, accountable, and responsive to their needs, a government that respects individual liberty, honors our heritage, and bows before the public that it serves.

Let's start with the rules package that the House will consider today. If passed, it will change how this institution operates, with an emphasis on real transparency, greater accountability, and a renewed focus on our Constitution. Our aim will be to give the government back to the American people.

□ 1410

In seeking this goal, we will part with some of the rituals that have come to characterize this institution under majorities, both Republican and Democrat alike. We will dispense with the conventional wisdom that bigger bills are always better, that fast legislating is good legislating, that allowing amendments and open debate makes the legislative process "less efficient" than our Forefathers had intended.

These misconceptions have been the basis for the rituals of modern Washington. In my opinion, the American people have not been served well by them. Today, mindful of the lessons of the past, we open a new chapter.

Legislators and the public will have 3 days to read a bill before it comes to a vote. Legislation will be more focused, properly scrutinized, and constitutionally sound. Committees, once bloated, will be smaller with a renewed mission, including oversight. Old rules that have made it easy to increase spending will be replaced by new rules that make it easier to cut spending. And we will start by cutting Congress' own budget.

Above all else, we will welcome the battle of ideas, encourage it, and engage in it—openly, honestly, and respectfully. As the Chamber closest to the people, the House works best when it is allowed to work its will. And I ask all Members of this body to join me in recognizing this common truth.

To my colleagues in the majority, my message is this: We will honor our pledge to America, built through a process of listening to the American people. We will stand firm on our constitutional principles that built our party and built a great Nation. We will do these things, however, in a manner that restores and respects the time-honored right of the minority to an honest debate and a fair, open process.

And to my friends in the minority, I offer a commitment: Openness, once a tradition of this institution but increasingly scarce in recent decades, will be the new standard. There were no open rules in the House in the last Congress. In this one, there will be many.

But with this restored openness, however, comes a restored responsibility. You will not have the right to willfully disrupt the proceedings of the people's House, but you will always have the right to a robust debate in open process that allows you to represent your constituents, to make your case, offer alternatives, and be heard.

In time I believe this framework will allow the House to be a place where the people's will is done. It will also, I hope, rebuild trust among us and the people we serve and, in so doing, provide a guidepost for those who follow us in the service of our Nation.

To our new Members, Democrat and Republican alike, as you take the oath today, I know that you do so mindful of this shared goal and the trust placed in you by your constituents.

As Speaker, I feel part of my job is to help each of you do your job well, regardless of your political party. My hope is that every new Member, and, indeed, every Member, will be comfortable with approaching me with regard to matters of the House.

We will not always get it right, and we will not always agree on what is right. There is a great deal of scar tissue that has been built up on both sides of the aisle. We can't ignore that, nor should we. My belief has always been that we can disagree without being disagreeable. That is why it's critical that this institution operate in a manner that permits a free exchange of ideas and resolves our honest differences through a fair debate and vote. We may have different, sometimes very different, ideas about how to go about achieving the common good. It is why we serve.

Let us now move forward, humble in our demeanor, steady in our principles, dedicated to proving worthy of the trust and confidence that has been placed in each of us. If we brace ourselves to do our duty and do what we say we're going to do, I don't think that, together, there is anything that we can't accomplish, again, on behalf of the people we serve.

More than a country, America is an idea; and it's our job to pass that posterity of blessings that have been bestowed on us to those generations that follow us.

I want to wish all of you the very best. Welcome to the people's House. Welcome to the 112th Congress.

I am now ready to take the oath of the office, and I ask the Dean of the House, the Honorable JOHN DINGELL of Michigan, to administer the oath of office.

Mr. DINGELL then administered the oath of office to Mr. BOEHNER of Ohio, 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.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

Mr. DINGELL. Congratulations, Mr. Speaker.

**SWEARING IN OF MEMBERS**

The SPEAKER. According to precedent, the Chair will swear in the Members-elect en masse.

The Members-elect will rise and raise their right hands.

The Members-elect rose, and the Speaker administered the oath of office to them 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. You are now Members of the 112th Congress.

□ 1420

**MAJORITY LEADER**

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Republican Conference, I have been directed to report to the House that the Republican Members have selected as majority leader the gentleman from Virginia, the Honorable ERIC CANTOR.

**MINORITY LEADER**

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Congratulations to you, Mr. Speaker, and congratulations to my colleague and chair of the Republican Conference.

Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Democratic Caucus, I am directed by that conference to notify the House of Representatives officially that the Democratic Members have selected as minority leader the gentlewoman from California, the Honorable NANCY D'ALESSANDRO PELOSI.

**MAJORITY WHIP**

Mr. HENSARLING. 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 whip the gentleman from California, the Honorable KEVIN MCCARTHY.

**MINORITY WHIP AND ASSISTANT DEMOCRATIC LEADER**

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, as chair of the Democratic Caucus, I am directed by that conference to notify the House of Representatives officially that the Democratic Members have selected as minority whip the gentleman from Maryland, the Honorable STENY HOYER; and as assistant Democratic leader, the gentleman from South Carolina, the Honorable JAMES CLYBURN.

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

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

**H. RES. 1**

*Resolved*, That Karen L. Haas of the State of Maryland, 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 Daniel J. Strodel of the District of Columbia 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. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate my counterpart on his re-election.

I yield to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) for the purpose of offering an amendment.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. 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.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

**AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. LARSON OF CONNECTICUT**

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I offer an amendment to the remainder of the resolution.

The SPEAKER. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. LARSON of Connecticut:

That John Lawrence of the State of New Jersey be, and is hereby, chosen Clerk of the House of Representatives;

That Alexis Covey-Brandt of the State of Maryland be, and is hereby, chosen Sergeant-at-Arms of the House of Representatives; and

That Yelberton Watkins of the State of South Carolina 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 Connecticut.

The amendment was rejected.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the remainder of the resolution offered by the gentleman from Texas.

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 of the House.

The officers presented themselves in the well of the House and 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.

□ 1430

**SWEARING IN OF MEMBER**

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Oklahoma please present himself in the well.

Mr. SULLIVAN appeared 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 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.

**NOTIFICATION TO THE SENATE**

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution 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 John A. Boehner, a Representative from the State of Ohio, has been elected Speaker; and that Karen L. Haas, a citizen of the State of Maryland, has been elected Clerk of the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Twelfth Congress.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.