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CONGRATULATING THE HONORABLE NANCY PELOSI ON HER ELECTION TO MINORITY WHIP

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BROWN of South Carolina). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. WOOLSEY. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I want to tell our colleague and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) that every single day she teaches me something. In my 1992 campaign, the gentlewoman from California showed me that senior Members, important Members, actually help candidates. In fact, I learned how to run my first race by watching her first race in San Francisco. After I was elected, NANCY showed me and the rest of my class that more senior Members step aside and push junior Members forward to give them the exposure that they need and to give them the guidance that is so important in getting your feet on the ground around here.

NANCY has shown us what a real Democrat is, what it is all about, while at the same time how to get bipartisan support. That is no easy task. She has shown us how to run a whip campaign, how to win, and how to bring the caucus back together at the end of that race. Finally, now that NANCY is the whip-elect and when she takes over tomorrow, she is going to show us how to fill the position of the highest-elected office for any woman in the history of the United States, while remaining the same gracious, genteel, fair and generous person that she is. I think that is the most important lesson of all that I have learned from the gentlewoman from California. You can actually be all of that and be successful.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. OWENS. NANCY PELOSI is a national political leader and has deep practical political roots, while at the same time she maintains bright, widespread idealistic wings. I can think of no better trait for leadership than to have roots and wings. She is optimistic and idealistic, but she also is a great political strategist.

Last year she led the congressional delegation from California to victories which were greater than all the other combined Democratic Caucus members together. As a compassionate idealist, NANCY refuses to adopt a position that certain vitally needed reforms are impossible. We are proud to follow a great leader that has roots and wings, NANCY PELOSI.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, NANCY has asked us all to be brief and therefore I will be. After all, she is the whip.

NANCY, you are the greatest. Thank you for the passion you bring to your

office. Thank you for all you have done to improve the quality of life for America's families and our most precious resource, our children. Thank you for all you have contributed to the Congress, for your advice and counsel to Members, old and new.

And, America, get ready. If you do not know NANCY PELOSI yet, you are going to love what you see.

Congratulations, NANCY. You make us all proud.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. SANDLIN. I thank the gentleman for yielding. Focused, organized, hard working and goal oriented: those are words that spring to my mind when describing our new whip, NANCY PELOSI. As will no doubt be mentioned many times tonight, NANCY PELOSI's election is historic and an indication of positive change to come. NANCY's leadership will complement our current leadership. She will bring a new energy, a new vision to our caucus and to our country. Her leadership may be to the same destination, but I suspect that she will have a few new road maps for us to follow.

I am proud of our caucus, particularly the men of our caucus, that we were able to be a part of breaking the glass ceiling for women in leadership. And make no mistake about it, that glass ceiling is shattered forever.

This is important to men and women all across the country, and it is important to me personally. I am the father of four children, two boys and two girls. I want to make sure that my daughters have the same hope, the same opportunity, the same vision as my sons. NANCY PELOSI will guarantee that. We all congratulate NANCY PELOSI; and I say thank you for including us all at the table, from left to right, region to region, persuasion to persuasion, but most of all thank you for your years of hard work, your dedication and your preparation in earning this leadership position.

The country will be better for the leadership of NANCY PELOSI.

STAY THE COURSE ON TAX RELIEF

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, when Congress makes a commitment to give Americans tax relief, it should honor that commitment. To put it plainly, Americans should get the tax cuts that they have been promised. Americans should have the tax relief that they desperately need.

Passage of President Bush's tax cut late last year was a historic bipartisan achievement. Only three times since World War II have we had an across-the-board tax cut: President Kennedy's tax cut in the 1960s, President Reagan's tax cut in the 1980s, and now President George W. Bush's tax cut. But now some want to break the agreement.

Some argue that we should repeal or delay the tax cuts. The gentleman from Illinois who addressed the House a few minutes ago and I believe that this is a debate worthy of having. If Members of Congress truly believe we should raise taxes, our resolution gives them an opportunity to record their votes in favor of a tax increase. Our resolution states, the tax cuts should not be repealed or delayed. If they want to raise taxes, they need to vote against the resolution offered by the gentleman from Illinois and me. Every American deserves to know where their Representative and Senators stand on this important issue.

Some in Congress, Mr. Speaker, lately have tried to maneuver and scheme for political advantage by blaming the President's tax relief package for the deficit and recession. They are not telling the truth. These tax supporters try to sell the myth that we must increase taxes just 6 months after we promised Americans they would start receiving their rebate income tax checks in the mail. The ink on the new tax relief package has barely dried. Now they want to repeal it or, as they say, delay or postpone it. They said the same thing about the economic stimulus package: let's take a long look. Let's delay it a week. Let's postpone it a month. Today they killed it, which really killed the chances that many of my constituents and their companies have to rebound from this recession.

As the chart I prepared shows, economic conditions account for 72 percent of projected 2002 deficits. Spending accounts for 16 percent. Tax relief only contributed 12 percent. Yet there is a growing cry to delay or postpone, we know in Washington that means kill, the tax cuts.

We have got to revitalize our economy. Tax cuts spur economic growth and create jobs. The bottom line for President Bush and this Congress ought to be jobs, preserving jobs and creating good jobs. Senate inaction on the economic stimulus plan cost us 800,000 jobs. The House passed a stimulus many months ago; but it is not only stuck in the Senate, it is dead in the Senate today. Now these same obstructionists want to repeal the tax cuts we have passed last year.

Our resolution reaffirms that promise to the American people. It reaffirms the tax relief. It reaffirms the tax cuts. We cut taxes because it is the right thing to do, it is the fair thing to do, it is the compassionate thing to do for families struggling from paycheck to paycheck.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, as the gentleman from Illinois has so adequately said, our choice is simple. Do we leave the money in the pockets of the American workers and families, or do we bring it up here and spend it as we see fit?

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair reminds all Members to refrain from characterizing the action or inaction of the Senate.

 TRIBUTE TO NANCY PELOSI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues today in celebration of the official swearing-in of the Democratic whip, my colleague and friend, NANCY PELOSI.

Today, we celebrate a historic event. NANCY PELOSI is the highest-ranking woman ever to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives. Her success is also a tribute to the women who came before her. From the election of Representative Jeanette Rankin to the House in 1916, to today, when a record number of 75 women serve in the 107th Congress, women Members of Congress have made significant contributions to the legislative accomplishments of the House and Senate. They have served with distinction as chairs of committees and subcommittees, members of our most powerful committees, and in leadership positions within the Democratic caucus and the Republican conference.

But, today is notable because NANCY has been elevated by her peers to one of the top two positions that the history books recognize as the key party leadership posts. So it is fitting that we gather today to recognize the leadership exemplified by our new Democratic whip, NANCY PELOSI, and to celebrate the accomplishments that have earned this great distinction.

NANCY was a leader in California and in the California Democratic party for many years before her election to Congress in 1987. In many ways, her political experience provided a model for me in becoming the first Mexican-American woman to be elected to Congress, and I have appreciated the many ways she has supported me both before and after I joined her here in the House in 1993.

She has also provided additional leadership to me as I have followed her to the House Appropriations Committee. I believe it is NANCY's service on that committee that demonstrated her leadership abilities to the members of our caucus. First, NANCY serves on the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee, which may recognize as the most problematic appropriations bill passed by Congress each year. The bill's long list of worthy programs necessitate hard work and numerous, bipartisan compromises in order to produce the final version that is enacted into law. NANCY's contribution to that process each year has been essential in protecting health and education programs that benefit millions of Americans.

In addition, as ranking Democrat on the Foreign Operations Subcommittee, NANCY has been the Democratic floor manager for that bill since 1995. From that position, she has been instrumental in advocating our caucus's position with regard to programs that address global poverty, international family planning, and global environmental issues while working with her Republic chairman to fashion a com-

promise bill that can withstand scrutiny by the House. She has worked uncomplainingly in the spirit of compromise each year to produce legislation the House can support.

NANCY's race for whip pitted her against one of the Democratic Caucus' most active and distinguished members, our colleague STENY HOYER, who has been one of my mentors on the Appropriations Committee. STENY's outstanding credentials as our former caucus chair, as a chairman and now ranking member of the Treasury-Postal Appropriations Subcommittee, and as chief recruiter for our party of congressional challengers, made the race for whip a difficult decision for everyone in our caucus. But we all recognized that with choices such as NANCY and STENY for this coveted leadership position, the Democratic Caucus, as well as the entire House, would be well-served by the victor. NANCY's tough but successful race against STENY represented another example of leadership—not just of her ability to mobilize the diverse elements of our caucus, but also her ability to organize in the systematic manner essential to the success of any party's whip.

As Californians and as members of the Appropriations Committee, NANCY and I share many experiences. But we also share a distinction enjoyed by only a handful of women Members of Congress over the history of Congress because each of our fathers served in the House before us. NANCY's father, Representative Thomas D'Alesandro, served in the House from Maryland from 1939 to 1947. My father, Representative Edward Roybal, served an area of Los Angeles near my current district from 1963 to 1993. I know that the model of public service provided by our fathers was essential to each of us as we decided upon the course of our careers.

I congratulate NANCY PELOSI as she officially assumes her leadership duties today. She takes her place today among a long line of outstanding Democratic whips that go before her in the House's history, including Representative DAVID BONIOR, whom she succeeds. I pledge to work with her and our other Democratic leaders, indeed all the leaders of the House, in going forward with our work in a manner that best reflects the American people and that always strives to make the House of Representatives truly "the people's House."

 CONGRATULATING THE HONORABLE NANCY PELOSI ON HER ELECTION TO MINORITY WHIP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues, and the fact that so many remain here this evening to laud our newly elected whip, NANCY PELOSI, is testimony to the fact that she will be a strong and forceful voice for our party. She is good news for my special passion in Congress, for she understands better than anybody I have met here that the Federal Government can be a better partner to make our communities more livable, to make our families safe, healthy and more economically secure.

But the best news, Mr. Speaker, is for the American people and for this

Chamber. It seems that at times we have forgotten how to work together to solve problems here in this House. But the gentlewoman from California's special skills not only as the only Westerner in leadership, not only as the first and only woman in either party to reach this exalted level but as somebody who embodies what it means to be a legislator, her insight, intelligence, grace and tenacity will help us do our job better for the American public.

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We all welcome this gift from California and the Pelosi family, and I hope we are equal to the challenge.

I would like to yield to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY).

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I feel privileged and honored to join my colleagues on the House floor to mark an historic day for this body, for Democrats, for women and for America. Tomorrow, the distinguished gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) will be sworn in as the Democratic whip. This occasion is cause for celebration and is a sign of great progress.

The gentlewoman from California's election to whip is an historic landmark in the evolution of our great democracy. She will now emerge more fully as a leading voice on the national stage for the Democratic Party and for the Congress, and she will motivate women of all ages, because of her eloquence, her competence, her confidence and her passion, to strive for new heights and to participate more fully and completely in politics and policy.

We are witnessing a shift in the national political landscape. It is a movement. Women do not want to just be at the table, we want to be at the head of the table. Because of the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), we are energized and empowered. Our new Democratic whip was not elected because she was a woman. That she is one is a real benefit, and she will send a strong message as an inspiration for aspiring women throughout the country.

Her election is a demonstration of the reality that the Democratic Party is a party of diversity, inclusion and opportunity. She has made great efforts to reach out to members from all parts of the Democratic Party and is committed to the needs and values of this caucus and our diverse constituencies.

But to me she is not just the whip; she is an inspiration, a mentor, a dear friend and a true leader in every sense of the word. I look forward to following her to advance an agenda we can all be proud of. I join my colleagues in congratulating her and wishing her well.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON).

Ms. WATSON of California. Mr. Speaker, when I think of the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), these words come to mind: N, never