

This victory is really a great triumph for our Nation. Ms. PELOSI has broken through a glass ceiling that has long kept women from reaching the upper echelons of power in this House. As she said shortly after being elected, "We made history; now we have to make progress."

NANCY, congratulations on earning this place in history. Congratulations and Godspeed as you accept this place of distinction in the people's House. I know that there are many girls and young women throughout the world who are saying, "When I grow up, I want to be just like Congresswoman PELOSI."

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES).

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I would like to associate myself with the comments of my colleague, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE), and I stand here to congratulate the new minority whip of the House of Representatives, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI).

This is my second term in the U.S. Congress, and I have to express the fact that the joy I have had serving in the Congress I partly owe to NANCY PELOSI and the guidance she has given me as a colleague throughout these 3, almost 4, years in the House of Representatives.

The wonderful thing is that the world is very small, because I came to know NANCY PELOSI through some friends of mine from Cleveland, the Sklars; and so I stand here celebrating with them as well this great opportunity.

I also have to say that there was no greater joy than being a monitor in the room when those votes were counted and I was able to say, yes, I have been a part of history being made as those votes were counted on behalf of NANCY PELOSI. I am looking forward to her leadership and the opportunity to be there to help her lead this Congress and lead this Democratic Party into this new century and to have an opportunity to say to the world that "a woman's place is in the House, the House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress."

Congratulations NANCY PELOSI, and I am here to let you know I am here for you.

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

(Mr. KIRK addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. BERMAN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

MINNESOTA MOURNS THE DEATH OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE DARLENE LUTHER

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

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, the people of Minnesota are in mourning because we have had a death in the family. Minnesota State Representative Darlene Luther, wife of our good friend and colleague Bill Luther, passed away last week after a courageous battle with cancer.

Today in St. Paul, Minnesota, Darlene's family and hundreds of her friends and constituents attended her funeral mass at the Cathedral of St. Paul. From Governor and Mrs. Ventura, to members of Minnesota's congressional delegation, the Minnesota legislature, and supreme court; from Darlene's constituents in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, to Darlene and Bill's legions of friends across Minnesota, we said farewell to a loving and committed wife, a caring and loyal friend, and a compassionate and dedicated public servant.

Just as we mourned a great loss, we also celebrated a life of love and a life of service, a life of passionate advocacy and genuine empathy for people, especially people in need. Mr. Speaker, Darlene Luther was truly a loving daughter and sister to the Dunphy family; a loving wife and mother to Bill, Alicia and Alex; and friend to us all. She will be sorely missed by all of us who knew and loved her, by all of us whose lives she touched.

Most of all, Darlene loved her husband, Bill, and their children, Alicia and Alex, as deeply and as dearly as any wife and mother ever could. She was so proud of them, as she told me countless times. I will never forget how proud she was of Bill when he was sworn in as a new Member of Congress. Darlene ran over to me and proclaimed, "Not bad for a kid from Fergus Falls, huh, Jim?" I know Darlene also made Bill very proud, and their love for each other will continue to inspire us all.

I will never forget Darlene's pride when Alicia was accepted by Boston College. "I am so proud of Alicia," she told me, "and she did it despite a letter of recommendation from a Republican Member of Congress." Darlene was so proud of the wonderful young woman Alicia has become and so grateful for the loving daughter she has always been.

Mr. Speaker, I will never forget how proud Darlene was at Alex's very first Special Olympics, as we were there to cheer him on. And I will never forget Darlene's pride and her tears of joy when Alex moved into his new apartment. Alex Luther showed all of us what the dignity of independent living is all about.

Mr. Speaker, the loss of Representative Darlene Luther is a great loss for Minnesota. We have lost our leader for people who need life-saving organ do-

nations. We have lost a tireless advocate for early childhood education and kids with special needs. We have lost a true champion for health care and people with disabilities. We have lost a legislator with a big heart who made a big difference in the lives of so many Minnesotans.

Darlene Luther represented the best in public service because she always put people first. As her friends and constituents know, Darlene never took herself too seriously, but she took her job very seriously. And Darlene loved her job, just as she loved her colleagues and the staff of the Minnesota legislature, just as she loved Bill's colleagues and staff, just as she loved her constituents in Brooklyn Park.

As we celebrate Darlene's life of love and service, let us honor her legacy by keeping her passions alive. And may the tender strength of her love and her kind and gentle spirit live forever in the hearts of each of us.

TRIBUTE TO THE NEW MINORITY WHIP, NANCY PELOSI

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

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, it is really a privilege and a joy to be on the floor this evening and rise to honor our colleague, the gentlewoman from California (NANCY PELOSI).

I want to make my remarks tonight really in the form of a story. I do not have any notes in front of me, but I would like to hear back to over 25 years ago. So that is more than a quarter of a century, which certainly says something about my age, but that is how long I have known NANCY PELOSI.

Neither one of us were in elected public service at the time, but she was very well known throughout the State of California for the work that she was doing in her beloved adopted city of San Francisco, having been brought to San Francisco by a great San Franciscan, Paul Pelosi. And out of that marriage, that wonderful, wonderful marriage, have come five magnificent children.

First, let me say something about Paul. We all love him and respect him. He is one of the most gentle individuals, who always has a smile on his face and has done so much for so many of us. It is his singular joy to welcome us to his home to do for each one of us over the years. So this is a great party celebrated around the two of them and not just NANCY.

Five children: Nancy Corinne, Christine, Jacqueline, Paul, Jr., and Alexandra. Two magnificent sons-in-law, Jeff Prowda and Michael Kenneally; and five extraordinary grandchildren, Alexander, Liam, Madeleine, Sean, and Ryan. So you can see that there is both the Gaelic and the garlic that has been blended in this magnificent family.

NANCY PELOSI is recognized a leader not only in her own community but