

Mr. ARMEY. I can only say to the gentleman from Wisconsin at this time given that we will be working late Monday evening beyond the votes on the suspension bills, I can see no alternative to working on the health and human services bill. I will tell the gentleman from Wisconsin, I have heard his concerns and I will look for what alternative we might be able to work out, but at this time I do not see that.

Mr. OBEY. All I would say is that if we cannot work it out, we are not going to make very much progress on that bill on Monday.

Mr. ARMEY. I appreciate the gentleman's point.

COMMEMORATING HOUSE PAGES ON THEIR GRADUATION

(Mr. KOLBE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege today to speak about our pages. It is the last day of their service to us. I am going to yield to the chairman of the page board first, but as she speaks, I wonder if all the pages would come down and join us here in the well so that your families and others and everybody can see you here. I would like for all the pages to come down here to the well.

I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. KELLY).

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. Today is a special day for our pages. It is graduation day. It is a time to reflect on their past year of service to this body, on the school, on building relationships, on dorm life, and the range of experiences and emotions they have felt in their time in Washington. For many of you, this was a challenging experience. But I hope it was a special time for you as well. You are part of a select club, a small group of people who have served in Congress as congressional pages. Some of the Members of that club stand before you today as Members of Congress themselves. You are a special group of people. You have been given the opportunity to witness history's greatest experiment in democracy firsthand. During your time here, you have not heard this as much as you should have, but thank you. Thank you very much.

□ 1345

We thank you. I thank you from all of the Members and the staff of this House. You have been a very special part of this institution. You have witnessed firsthand the fact that Members of Congress tend to become wrapped up and focused on the day's floor activity and the tough debates which frequently characterize the House of Representatives.

Do not think for a moment, however, that we have not noticed the essential

work that you perform every single day. You are a special part of this place, you lend character to this place, and you are a daily reminder to all of us of why our work is so important, because you are our future leaders.

Over the course of the last year, as I have gotten to know each of you, I have seen something special in you. Many of you have told me how much you have learned about while you are being here. Remember this, knowledge is power only when you turn on the engine, so do not be afraid to turn on the ignition as you go on through life.

We are grateful for your service here. Your future and the future of this Nation is limited only by your ability to dream and the courage to pursue your dreams. I wish all of you the best of your future and the best of luck in all of your dreams.

Mr. KOLBE. I thank the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. KELLY), who has served in a very distinguished capacity as chairman of the page board. We recognize that the gentlewoman has another event that she has to get to, but we certainly appreciate her taking the time to speak to the pages and of the pages this afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great privilege to yield to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT.)

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to be down here, not just as Speaker of the House, but I spent a great deal of time before I got into politics as a teacher. I taught economics and U.S. history and world history and sociology and government and all of those things that we talk about here day in and day out.

Every time that we see a new set of faces come in, pages in this Congress, we also see a new challenge for each of you, a challenge of learning what this government is about, actually living the lives of what people do inside this House day in and day out.

It is certainly a lot different than what you read in the textbooks. It is a lot different from what you hear in lectures, because this really is the essence of this place. As we struggle here, day in and day out on issues that some of us care very, very dearly about and some of us other issues that we struggle on, trying to get things done, that is the essence of what this government is about.

It is the essence of what this country is about, that we can come here and we can sit on two different sides of an aisle, and we can disagree and we can fight, but at the end, we have a product, we have a law. We have something that guide the people in this country, and for a year you have been a part of that. You have seen the struggles. You have seen the fights. You have heard the debates.

You know that is something that I think you will take with you for the

rest of your lives. We appreciate the work that you do. We appreciate the challenges you have taken. You know we appreciate your families giving you up for a year to have this experience here. We depend on you. We appreciate you. We thank you for what you have done, and we just ask you to go on and live the rest of your lives as best you can.

You have seen what people can do. You have seen the very best and sometimes you have seen the toughest side of life here, but if you put your mind to it, you can do anything in this country. This country is an open door. It is an open book, all you have to do is write your page down. Thank you for being part of it. God bless you all.

Mr. KOLBE. I thank the Speaker for his kind remarks.

It is my privilege to yield to a very distinguished gentleman, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), my colleague, my ranking member of the subcommittee that I chair.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. KOLBE) for yielding.

This has been an extraordinary experience for all of you young people. Some of the best young people in America are chosen to come here to see firsthand American democracy in action. You have heard Members from time to time talk about this as the people's House, and that is what it is. A group of extraordinary human beings got together in 1787 in Philadelphia in what Catherine Drinker Bowan in a book the Miracle at Philadelphia called appropriately a miracle and created a government, a way that people could resolve their differences and set policies for their future.

It perhaps does not seem quite extraordinary from the vantage point of the 21st century as it was in the 18th century, such a construct was unknown in the world. Now, in the world, there is a shining example for every Nation in the world, and it is the United States of America. It is that Constitution that was written in 1787.

It is an extraordinary document, and this House was created specifically to represent the people, directly to represent their passions, their fears, their hopes and their vision, and it does so. And as all of you live in communities and you see sometimes the people have great aspirations and sometimes they have feelings that are not so great, that are small, and, perhaps, not worthy of themselves or their community, and you see that reflected here as well sometimes.

But over the decades and, yes, the centuries that this House has been the repository of the hopes and visions of the American people, it has for the most part acted well and, as a result, is the example throughout the world of what a democratic institution ought to be.

Now, the body across the way, in which you have not served, the United States Senate, was created, as you know, as a representative of the States, of those 13 independent Nations that got together and formed a Nation, and, in effect, it gave up some of their sovereignty but made a deal in the process to make sure that the States were represented in the United States Senate.

In the last century, of course, we amended the Constitution, they are directly elected, not by the State legislatures, it is this House elected every 2 years that was designed to reflect the will of the American people. And you, as the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. KELLY) said a little earlier, had been given an extraordinary privilege.

Think of all the millions of young people your age in America today and think of how few of you got the opportunity to visit here, be here and work here every day that we were in session. And you got to learn firsthand how well this extraordinary experiment in democracy, in people working together to resolve problems and set policies can and does work. Because you had been given a significant privilege, you also have a very serious responsibility, and that responsibility is to go home and talk to your friends, your fellow students, people who you will work with, your parents, your sisters, your brothers, your aunts, your uncles and other relatives, and tell them about their democracy. And, hopefully, you will go from here excited about what you have learned and excited about this process and urge people to participate in their democracy, by voting certainly, but by participating as well on behalf of the party or candidate or policy of their choice, because that is what makes this an extraordinary body.

It reflects the sentiments of citizens, but it can reflect the sentiment of citizens only to the extent that they participate and articulate those sentiments and let the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. KOLBE), the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY), the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS) and myself and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KANJORSKI) know those sentiments and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE). And because you have firsthand knowledge that millions and millions of Americans will never have, you have had a special privilege, but also, as I said, a particular responsibility.

I would be remiss if I did not say to James Kelly from my district, who, in a few short years, will either vote to hire me again or fire me again, how pleased I have been to have him here. And I know every Member feels as keenly about each of you whom they had the privilege of representing as I do about Jim Kelly.

This is a graduation of sorts. I see some tears, and there will be more, but

those ought to be tears not just of sadness. You will have made friends that you will keep for all of your lives and information and knowledge that you will never lose. Use it well.

Thank you for your service, not only to us, not only to this institution, but to your country as well. Congratulations. And Godspeed. Thank you.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) for his extraordinarily eloquent remarks.

It is my privilege now to yield to an individual who can speak firsthand about the page program, in fact, I think he served certainly longer than I did here, he was here 4 years as a page. I only was here 3, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KANJORSKI) was here for 2. Okay. So the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS) holds the record. And we appreciate the gentleman coming today and speaking to the pages. I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to address this first page school class of the millennium here today. And although I served 4 years, it was in the other body, so it seemed like about 10 years. And this is a much faster and brisker pace over in the House of Representatives than we have down the hall.

I know it has been an extraordinary privilege and honor for all of you to serve here, and I hope that it has been worth your while in terms of the lessons you learned, the discipline you have had to achieve to move forward, and we appreciate you doing this.

This is probably the most difficult time to become a page because you are trying to balance your academics with working as a page on the floor, and it is very difficult with late night sessions coming back and forth. We understand the sacrifices that you have made, many of you coming from high schools where you had interests in sports and other activities, and you gave those up to come here to Washington to pursue this. We are very much appreciative of that.

You will make lifelong friendships here. My best friend today was someone who served with me as a page. I am going to see him this weekend out in California. He went on to be mayor of his town and we ended up marrying sisters, who would have thought when we were sitting here in the page school class. So you join a long list of page alumni, including many Members of this body, some Members of the other body. Bill Gates was a page, but not only that, every other segment of society, teachers, homemakers, attorneys, look around.

The important thing is when you leave here, the lessons that you have learned here, you take what you have learned and you use it to become better citizens and you have a better under-

standing of government. And, most importantly, even if you do not pursue any role in politics, you can pursue helping others, that is what this is all about, that is why we serve here, to try to help our country and to help other people.

And I hope you will take that with you, that is what inspires us to get up every morning and go through those long hours. And I think that is what has inspired you to come here and give up what you had back home and get up early in the morning and go to the school all day and then work the rest of the day and study at night.

I am just most appreciative for what you all have done here over the last session. The best of luck to you as you pursue your dreams in this very most exciting time in history and thank you very much for what you have done.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his remarks.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize another former page, who has had the distinction of having served at one of the most dramatic moments in history for pages and he is memorialized forever in that photograph in the cloakroom as he was carrying stretchers down the front steps of the Capitol after the attack by some of the independent-minded people from Puerto Rico in 1954. And with, I might add, our former and beloved colleague who is no longer with us, Bill Emerson. It is my privilege to recognize the gentleman from Pennsylvania, (Mr. KANJORSKI).

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the comments of the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. KOLBE). Today really was an interesting day, because it allowed me to relive my youth in a way. I had the great pleasure of having a night conversation and lunch with my sponsored page Becky Hoffman, who is part of this class. And her grandmother and her grandfather are very old and dear friends of mine are in the gallery watching this ceremony.

I went over and thought how being a page some 47 years ago had changed my life. And as my friend, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS) said, it allowed me to form my best friend relationship through my entire life, Bill Emerson, who I met here on my first day as a page, was a roommate with him for 2 years while I was here. And he continued on for his 3rd year, and then we had the honor to come back and serve in the Congress together for about 7 years prior to his untimely death.

□ 1400

My class and my Congress that I served in was exceptional because out of that class of pages we produced three Members of Congress. I know that after having been here, maybe you all think, gee, that is the last thing in the world I would ever want to be; but

I hope you have taken the charge that Mr. HOYER has given you, and that you have had this window of opportunity to see from within, as the Speaker said, the real activity of the legislative process and democracy in action. I hope it spurs you on to develop an ambition to be in public service, particularly to be participants.

I know you are the best and brightest from all over the country, and you are going to go to great attainment in your life. If I could give you a little advice for when you go back to your schools: you will be different. You are more mature, more worldly; there will be some jealousy toward the experience you had. You have to treat that gingerly so that your peers learn something from you and do not have envy for what you had. Take the opportunity to bring them along in your peer groups in your various high schools. Do that. Do not be foolish enough to think about this experience as having made the touchdown, as being the most important game of your senior year in high school and as the high point of your life. Page activity is very important, but do not let it ever be the high point in your life. You are just beginning now to go on to attainment and to great success, and you should look forward every day in your life to doing bigger and better things, and every one of you can.

I would just like to say that over the last 47 years since I started here as a page with Bill Emerson and Bob Bauman, we were both in the 83rd Congress, the last Republican Congress before these three Congresses when the Republicans were in power, I formed a friendship for life, I learned what I wanted to do, and I had an experience that I have carried with me, and I want to pass it on to you. These Members that you deal with day in and day out and you see and you witness, and the Members of the Senate, you have already met four or five future Presidents of the United States. They are here among us. How to discern who they will be is another matter, and that will test how perceptive you are; but they are here.

I was thinking back how fortunate I was in 1953 and 1954. I got to meet almost every President of the United States who subsequently became President when they were either a Member of this House or a Member of the Senate. So you have had that same enjoyment. You have probably met and have served with a lot of future cabinet officers, governors, all kinds of individuals. You, if you are interested in public service, can be like Bill Clinton, the President of the United States. You are about the same age as he was when he met with President Kennedy when he was your age in Washington. He looked around, he looked at his classmates, and he decided that he too would like to be President of the United States.

He tells an interesting story, because 30 years later from that day, almost within 3 or 4 days, he took the oath of office as President of the United States. Every one of you have that opportunity. But most of all, every one of you have the opportunity to serve, to distinguish yourselves and honor your classmates, and the institution of being a page.

I cannot think of all the great pages, but the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS) mentioned Bill Gates. Well, he is the wealthiest, I am sure, of the former pages. But people like Daniel Webster, people like Senator Arthur Vandenberg, one of the original charter writers of the United Nations charter, and on and on we could go. It is quite a tradition. Now that you are part of it, you have an obligation to use it wisely, treasure it, and not to embarrass it. We are honored to have served with you, and I am sure I speak for all 435 Members of the House. You have done a great job. Go on now and do an even greater job in life.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his wonderful remarks. I am sure I speak for all of the pages when I say that one of the favorite Members is the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY), who never fails to stop by the page desk and inquire about the pages and spend a little time talking to them. It is my privilege to yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY).

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. First let me pay back the compliment you have just given me and ask the pages to salute him for his dedication to the page program.

Mr. KOLBE. I thank the gentleman. Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I wish I was in Bill Gates's class. I would be planning my estate taxes and issues like that, because obviously, he has done very well. It is not just about wealth; it is about this country. I hope I can get through this, because this is a sad day. We watched the kids come here, excited, exuberant, happy about serving their country; and we see them leave as mature young people who are ready to carry out life's dreams.

In this class we had several Andrews and several Adams and multiple Christophers, several Lindseys. Some came with dyed hair, Christopher; some have used the Nation's supply of gel; Spike, as I call him. Some of you have changed outfits and changed looks, but the thing that I think unites us all is that you are outstanding young people.

Oftentimes, you read the newspaper and you look at the TV news and you hear about the bad kids in life. Happily for America, that is only about one-half of 1 percent. Regrettably, we do not read about the good kids, the kids that are here today that are sacrificing being away from their friends and family back home, the time that they could spend in high school, the favorite years of your life in your hometown, in

your home community, with your boyfriends and girlfriends and family.

But instead you chose to venture to our Nation's Capital, the seat of government, the center of the world. You have served, and I know at times you have been frustrated. I have seen some of you dragging in at 10:30 at night while some of us continue to talk to the cameras above, talking to our residents back home on C-SPAN, and you say, are they ever going to stop? Will they cut special orders sometime soon? And yet you get up the next day full of exuberance.

As I am running in the morning, in fact, I run on Thursdays with KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON, I said, KAY, you better watch your job, because Parker Payne may be running for Senator some day in this class. He is already threatening, so I think you and I should keep running and keep working to make sure that you are the Senator from Texas.

But you will have elected officials in this class. You will have entrepreneurs; you will have doctors and lawyers and scientists. But the one thing that is sure, as was mentioned, you will have lifelong friends. You will have bonded together; and 10, 15, 20 years from now you will look back and think of that special time you had when you were sharing dormitory space and thinking about how your senior year would be and how the prom would be. Tonight we will send you off back to your families and back to your parents, many of whom I have met; and I know that they are proud today and that they have helped raise you. And I think you have to recognize how proud you are of them, for thinking of you and to recognize your maturity to allow you to leave home. Your fathers were ready to get rid of you when your mothers were probably weeping daily as the time approached to head to Washington.

But in all sincerity, I am going to stop soon, because I see some of you crying already; and I will start too, because I am sad. But knowing you are going off a better person makes me all the more happy.

In conclusion, let us make sure that we thank some people here that have also made your experience both memorable and wonderful, and I am sure Jim is going to do that; but Ms. Sampson, Harroun and all the staff, for their stewardship, guidance and leadership of this class, we should salute them as well.

God bless you, kids. You are great, you are fabulous, and I love you. Thank you.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his very kind remarks. If I might, just in conclusion, make a few of my own.

About 3 weeks ago, we held a reunion here in Washington, it was the 40th page school reunion for my class. Among those in that class are two that are known to most of these pages here.

One, of course, is one of the most beloved former pages, Donn Anderson, who served this House as the Clerk of the House for many years and has been the staunchest supporter of the page program. Also in that same class was Mr. Ron Lasch who serves as a floor assistant for the Republican majority here and has been a stalwart person for a number of years on behalf of our party in the House of Representatives. Both of them believe so strongly in this institution, and I hope that is part of what you will take away from here.

There is no doubt, as I had that reunion, while I know what you are thinking; you are thinking, certainly I could never look that old some day, but maybe some of you will, although most of you will probably be in much better shape 40 years from now. But what I remember, what I think was evident at that reunion for all of us is this was a very life-changing experience. Several people have talked about the friendships that you will make and that you will have for a lifetime, and you will. It is incredible how bonded our class has become over the years. For all of us, this was very much a life-changing experience. It has brought us closer to each other through the trials and tribulations; and yes, I am sad to say we have lost 4 members of our class now. But it has brought us closer together. And as we watched our families grow, we have shared those experiences with each other. That is very much the human part of what this program is all about.

I am often asked as a member of the page board, why do we need a page program? Why do we not just hire messengers? It would be so much easier to do that than to maintain a staff and a place for the pages to live and a school and all of that. There is no question there are easier ways to handle the invaluable services that you provide for us. But I do not think there are very many Members of this House of Representatives that have ever wanted to give up this program, because we all understand that it is an opportunity every year to give a handful, a small handful, but a wonderful handful of young people an opportunity to understand their government in a way that their friends and classmates and others across this country will never, ever be able to have.

But you can share that experience with them. That is really the message that I want to leave with you today as you go forward from this experience. You go forward as ambassadors, really, for our government, for the institutions of democracy that make this country such a great place. Your responsibility, having completed this year as pages, is not to be elected to office, though there will be some of you that will be elected. I will guarantee somebody in this class that will be serving some day in the House of Rep-

resentatives or the United States Senate, and others of you will serve in State legislatures and city councils and school boards, other kinds of equally important tasks in life. Your job is not to be elected and your job is not to make as much money as Bill Gates; very few of us could ever hope to accomplish that. But your job is to serve, to serve your community, your country, your family in the best way possible. You have been given a great opportunity, and I know that each and every one of you will make the very most of this opportunity.

So I hope that you will go out from here and help others understand what our government is about, and how wonderful it is, because these institutions of democracy, for all of their failings, is still the very best that we have been able to devise. You have done us a great service during this last year. Sometimes we do not even realize how the work of the House of Representatives depends on what you are doing every day, and it becomes a part of us, and yet you are so important to the operation of this House. So we will miss you. On Monday there will be a new batch of pages in here, and we will all be busy trying to orient them and get to know them. But we will miss you, and we hope that you will stay in touch with us and with others that you have gotten to know back here; and we look forward to the great service that you will be providing for your country in whatever capacity that might be, and there will be very many different kinds of things.

At this point, Mr. Speaker, I will enter into the RECORD a list of all of the pages.

Max Abbott, Dominic Adams, Sarah Baca, Thomas Bazan, Christopher Bower, Geoffrey Brown, Diane Bruner, Michael Buck, Eric Cercone, Adam Cheatham, Christopher Clark, David Cook, Andrew D'Anna, Ashley Daugherty, Ashley Foster, Katherine Fortune, Kara Frank, Amy Gaddis, Adam Gellman, Dana Hall, Kristopher Hart, Laura Heaton, Androni Henry, Rebecca Hoffman, William Hooper, Jay Kanterman, James Kelley Stevens, Kelly, Susanna Khalil, Jule Kolbe, Julia Koplewski, David Kroontje and Adam Kwasman.

Ray LaHoud, Andrew Lerch, Yun Hsin (Amy) Leung, Brad Lyman, Alison Lowery, Renee Mack, Megan Marshburn, Jeffrey Mannion, Marcella Martinez, Lindsay Moon, Clinton Morris, Nancy Nicolas, Casey Osterkamp, Parker Payne, Ashley Percy, Christopher Perr, Jessica Porras, Tessa Powell, Lindsey Ransdell, Jennifer Reed, Moriah Reed, A.J. Rosenfeld, Chase Rowan, Danielle Ruse, David Schweinfurth, Samuel Sinkin, Megan Smith, Nouvelle Stubbs, Erin Sweeney, Christine Tancinco, Anika Tank, Margaret Theobald, Lindsay Thomson, Amber Walker, Lauren Weeth, Julie Wise and Jessica Wood.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I would, in conclusion, also just like to mention my own page, as others have done, Adam Kwasman from Tucson. He has been a great page this last year and has become a great friend of mine, but each

and every one of you have become great friends of mine. Some I have gotten to know, obviously, better than others. But I admire what you have done, we appreciate the service, we thank you for that, and we wish you Godspeed. Thank you.

□ 1415

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2000

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Monday next for morning hour debates.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

REAPPOINTMENT AS MEMBER TO FEDERAL JUDICIAL CENTER FOUNDATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 629(b) and upon the recommendation of the Minority Leader, the Chair announces the Speaker's reappointment of the following member on the part of the House to the Federal Judicial Center Foundation for a 5-year term:

Mr. Benjamin Zelenko of Maryland.

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBER OF FIRST FLIGHT CENTENNIAL FEDERAL ADVISORY BOARD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, pursuant to section 12(b)(1) of the Centennial of Flight Commemoration Act (36 U.S.C. 143) and upon the recommendation of the minority leader, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following citizen on the part of the House to the First Flight Centennial Federal Advisory Board:

Ms. Mary Mathews of Ohio.

There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order