

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR
WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON
WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. HOYER. 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 Maryland?

There was no objection.

HONORING HOUSE PAGES

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I would ask the pages to come up here and occupy the seats in the Chamber. Anywhere you want, either side. Maybe the next time you occupy that seat, you will be a Member of this body.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to express my personal gratitude and the gratitude of the entire House to all the pages who have served so diligently in the House of Representatives during the 110th Congress.

This is the 16th Congress that I have served in. I have been Chairman of the Page Board or ranking member for about 20, 23, 24 years. I was appointed by Tip O'Neill. That is probably ancient history to you. That is very recent history to me.

Mr. Speaker, I have attached a list of the fine young people who have served this House as pages and will include their names as part of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PAGES
SPRING CLASS OF 2008

Adriana Daniela Aguilar, TX; Claire Jumanna Ashcraft, CA; Cole Salim Ashcraft, CA; Hannah Elizabeth Barkley, MS; Maurice Patrick Barry, MA; Erika Lauren Bertrand, NE; Amber E. Cassidy, TX; Charles E. Coe, PA; John Cowart, FL; Maggie Carlisle Cupit, MS; and Matt Cyr, TN.

Carlos DeLaTorre, TX; Stephanie Diaz, HI; Brandon Estes, FL; Kelly Jo Fuller, GA; Shara Guarnaccia, NJ; Philmon Ghirmai Haile, WA; Jane Elizabeth Hamm, OK; Kathleen Shea Howard, NC; Michael J. Janusa, TX; Evan R. Johnson, IA; and Matt Jolley, UT.

Tara Marie Kelly, MA; Esther Kofman, CA; Satchel Clay Kornfeld, OR; Lauren LaVelle, CA; Thomas Lerum, CA; Brian Licata, NJ; Victoria Linville, TN; Jessica L. Malekos-Smith, CA; Jill E. Marshall, NY and Tara Mason, MO.

Elizabeth Milner, MS; Elizabeth L. Monsma, CA; Tiana Moore, CA; Jesse Mark Neugebauer, NE; Kaleigh Elizabeth Nolan, NY; Courtney Shene Owens, SC; Daniel Pavlovic, CA; Emma Peel, TX; Jacob William Peeples, MA; Ashley S. Pierce, DC; and Wylee M. Price, NM.

Miles Pulsford, KY; Andre Renaldo Fernandez, PR; Elizabeth Ann Reynolds, WA; Yi Ping Caitlin Patricia Roberts, VA; Max D. Robertson, NC; Jason Oliver Roman, NY; Jeffrey P. Schumacher, OH; Lea Shipman,

AK; Hannah Leigh Shuman, FL; and Katie Smith, CA.

Feddie Justin Strickland, SC; Lianna Stroster, MI; Alexandria Christian Templeton, AL; Callie Sioux Tysdal, SD; Timothy Wainwright, PA; Megan Walden, CA; Nicki Warner, WV; Gabriel M. Weinstein, MD; Nicole M. Westergaard, IA; and Kiyon H. Williams, NJ.

To the Page Class of Spring 2008—Thank you and good luck!

I am sure you will pick up several copies of that RECORD when you go home.

We all recognize the important role that congressional pages play in helping the U.S. House of Representatives operate. This group of young people, who come from all across our Nation, represent what is really good about our country.

To become a page, these young people have proven themselves to be academically qualified. They have ventured away from the security of their homes and families to spend time in an unfamiliar city. Through this experience, they have witnessed a new culture, made new friends and learned the details of how government operates.

As we all know, the job of a congressional page is not an easy one. Along with being away from home, the pages must possess the maturity to balance competing demands for their time and for their energy. In addition, they must have the dedication to work long hours and the ability to interact with people at a personal level. At the same time, Mr. Speaker, they face a challenging academic schedule of classes in the House Page School.

You pages have witnessed the House debate issues of war and peace, hunger and poverty, justice and civil rights. You served this House during a time of war. Many pages have never experienced that. You have seen the awesome responsibility Members of this House have when they vote on that question of war and when they vote on the funding of that war. You have witnessed a great deal of real history.

You have seen Congress at moments of greatness, and you have seen Congress with all its human frailties. You have witnessed the workings of an institution that has endured well over 200 years. No one has seen Congress and Members of the Congress as close up as you have. I am sure that you will consider your time spent in Washington, D.C., to be one of the most valuable and exciting experiences of your lives, and that with this experience you will all move ahead to lead successful and productive lives.

Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the House Page Board, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this group of distinguished young Americans. You certainly will be missed. Individually and collectively, you are great. I try to walk by the desk and say hello to you. I see you in the hallway carrying flags or whatever your mission may be. But

individually and collectively, you are great.

In closing, I would also like to thank the members of the House Page Board who provided such fantastic service to this institution. Myself as Chair; Congressman ROB BISHOP, the Vice Chair; Congresswoman DIANA DEGETTE; Congresswoman VIRGINIA FOXX. One nice thing about the congressional members is we are not only members of the Page Board, but we like one another. We get along really well, and that is very helpful.

We have also the Clerk of the House, Lorraine Miller; we have the Sergeant at Arms, Bill Livingood, as a member; and we have two members who are not directly attached to the House; Ms. Lynn Silversmith Klein, who is the parent of a page, and Mr. Adam Jones, a former page. I want to thank you for your service on the House Page Board. It has been really a great experience for me.

And I want to thank our departing pages. I can really say this: You have influenced us. You have inspired us. We look at you and say most of what we do here is going to affect you more than it affects us. I really have great hope for the future when I look at you. This House I can say because of that is a better House, because of you. I thank you.

I yield first to the Vice Chair of the Page Board, my friend from Utah.

ROB, come forward here.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I have to join with Representative KILDEE in thanking you for being here and being part of the system and for the service that you have rendered. I hope it has been profitable for all of you as it has been profitable for us as we benefited from your particular system here, and I hope it also spurs you to have a continued interest in government and in politics. I realize that is not the norm.

When I was born, my father was mayor of the community. I always saw him involved in politics. I thought every family did that. What I found out, quite frankly, is that it is atypical. But what I hope for you is it is not atypical, and this spurs you on to continue to want to study, to participate and be a part of government.

The brilliance of our system of lay government is that common people can come together and you don't have to be trained to do this job. I know the way we do it, you think probably we should be trained. But, at the same time, common people can talk about issues and can make decisions for themselves.

We are both old teachers. As a history teacher, I now get to talk about F-22s and F-35s and public land policy and can do that because that is the way the system is designed. And through all of the flaws and the bumps and the grinds, the bottom line is still our system works.

I encourage you as you go back there to finish your education, become involved in your communities, become

involved in your political parties, become involved in the system, and keep that encouragement, that interest alive. The future of this country depends upon you doing that.

So thank you for being here.

Mr. KILDEE. Thank you very much, Mr. BISHOP.

You know, it is interesting. We have friendships across the aisle and we do cooperative things across the aisle. I remember very early in your career here you came up to me and you said, I have an amendment I am going to offer in the Resources Committee, and could I talk to you about it and maybe get your help? I looked at it and it made good sense.

We do that. We do that more than what people realize. I appreciate working with you.

I yield now to the majority leader, Mr. HOYER, the gentleman from Maryland, and a dear friend.

Mr. HOYER. I am pleased to be here with all of you young people.

About, well, 45 years ago I was about 5 years older than you are now and I started working on this Hill for a Member of Congress. His office was on the sixth floor of the Longworth Building. You know enough about our offices to know that he was a junior Member, being placed on the sixth floor of the Longworth Building, those spacious offices that you have visited with various different items from time to time.

I had an opportunity, not as intimately as you have had because I did not have access to the floor as somebody working in an office, but I did have the opportunity to see the Members, to talk to some of the Members, to see what they were doing.

You have had an opportunity that very, very few Americans will ever have. I presume most of you are 16 years of age. Maybe some have reached 17. Maybe some are late 15. In any event, you average 16 years of age. As Mr. KILDEE pointed out, you have seen firsthand the best and the not-so-very best. To that extent, hopefully you have said, you know, they are a lot like us. Sometimes we are really good, and then sometimes not quite as good as we would like to be.

Because you have had this special window on your democracy, we call this the people's House. It is the people's House because every 2 years we have to go back to the people and get their imprimatur. We call it a vote. We have to be rehired. The Founding Fathers established that so we would stay in close touch with the people and reflect their hopes, their aspirations, yes, even their fears, their angst and sometimes their prejudices.

But we are a representative body. And there are too many people frankly around the country who don't have a lot of faith in this body and who don't think it works very well, and they see us on television largely in confronta-

tion. You have seen us more at work and cooperation than sometimes happens on this floor.

So, on behalf of both my friend Mr. BOEHNER and myself and Speaker PELOSI, I would urge you to go home to your respective schools, your respective communities, your respective families, and talk to your peers about your experience. Some of it will be perhaps not quite as positive as some of us would like.

But my experience has been, as President of the Senate when I was in charge of the Page Program in the Maryland State Senate and here, that the overwhelming majority of you will go from this place with a very positive view of how our people work, the passion they bring to their commitment to representing their community, and the integrity they have with respect to the issues that they argue on behalf of.

□ 1615

Do they all believe the same? No. Any more than all of you believe the same. I know there have been no debates in the dorms. I know that all of you have said, yes, we agree 100 percent. And if I thought that, I would think you were a strange group of people indeed.

You have been here at an historic time. Young women, you must be extraordinarily proud of the fact that for the first time in history we have a woman leading this body. Now, we have a woman presiding officer right now, she is from Florida, Ms. CASTOR, but we have a Speaker of the House who is a woman. And African Americans, you must be extraordinarily proud that for the first time in history we have an African American who is the nominee, presumptive, but is going to be the nominee of one of the major parties. And you can also be proud of the fact that we have a gentleman, JOHN MCCAIN, who served his country in war, and served as a prisoner of war for 5 years experiencing very substantial physical abuse, and came back to America as a young man and rose now to be his party's presumptive nominee for President of the United States. What an historic time for you to have served here in the House.

And I say served, because, frankly, the work of this House was facilitated by everything you have done. Sometimes the tasks may have seemed simple, but they were important to us accomplishing the people's business. And so on behalf of Mr. BOEHNER and myself and Mr. BLUNT and Mr. CLYBURN and Speaker PELOSI, I thank all of you for the work you have done, for the kindnesses that you have shown us; and I hope you in turn feel that you have received from us the courtesy and respect you deserve as outstanding representatives of your generation that may in time be referred to as well as one of the greatest generations.

Thank you for your service. God bless and good luck.

Mr. KILDEE. Thank you, Mr. HOYER.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Could I also ask that Representative FOXX from North Carolina, who is a member of the board, come and express her opinion as well.

Ms. FOXX. I want to thank my distinguished colleagues for the comments they have made. I agree with them, and I will not repeat the points that they have made in their comments to you.

I often like to look back at what our Founders of this country said about different issues and remind us of the things they brought, because our founders were remarkable people and we are a truly blessed country that they came together at the time that they did.

I want to give you a quote from John Adams who was writing about the importance of civic education in 1787. He encapsulated the idea behind the page program in a very simple but profound sentence on the importance of learning about freedom. He said, "Children should be educated and instructed in the principles of freedom."

Now, I know you all don't consider yourselves children, but I am sure if John Adams had been here, he would say, "Young people should be educated and instructed in the principles of freedom."

The experience of being a page has given you the opportunity to be instructed in the principles of freedom with firsthand experience in the halls of the world's greatest democracy. And that is what the page program is all about. That is one of the reasons I am so honored to serve on the Page Board. Having the fantastic opportunity to interact with you is another reason that I am so honored to serve on the Page Board.

You are an excellent group of young people who, in completing this year's program, are embarking on a lifetime of building on your experiences, learning and working in the Nation's Capital. You have performed extremely important functions for us; but I think one of the most important functions that you perform is simply being here and reminding us every day of the people we are serving, and reminding us that the actions we take are going to affect people like you, young people like you who are growing up in this country.

I do want to mention that I have had the privilege this semester of having a page here, Max Robertson, who is from the Fifth District of North Carolina. And the only reason I call attention to Max is because I think he is a great example of all of you. You are all model citizens, I think, of our country. You are all civic achievers, like Max.

I know that many of you will not want to serve in elective office, but I

think all of you will want to be citizens and voters after this experience. I hope that many of you will want to serve in the military, as I know Max has expressed an interest in doing, because that is one of the most sacrificial ways you can serve this country.

All of you, your lives and character are examples of the high caliber of students who serve as House pages. It really has been a delight for me to get to know all of you, to answer questions, to share my opinion with you, and to hear your concerns and your issues about things, because we certainly need to get the feedback that we get from you, too.

I want to congratulate all of you on successfully completing this program, and I want to wish you all the best in all your future endeavors. And I hope that you will not forget your experience here, and that you will stay in touch with us and let us know other successes that you are having and ways that the page program has impacted your life, particularly in positive ways.

I want to thank the chairman, Mr. KILDEE, for his leadership on the Page Board and Mr. BISHOP and all the other folks who are serving on the Page Board for their wisdom and insights, and the opportunity to serve and lend my few talents to that endeavor.

Mr. KILDEE. Much of the joy that I get from serving on the Page Board through the years is the pages. But you have heard the two Republican Members speak, and we indeed are friends and I really enjoy meeting with them. Our meetings, none are bipartisan, they are nonpartisan. The bottom line is you, and they are really friends of mine.

If you will make your concluding remarks, and then I will wrap it up.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Just stay involved, stay active, and stay the over-achievers you are. Thank you for your service here. We have appreciated you.

Mr. KILDEE. Thank you again for all you have done for us, for enriching this body, for, as I say, making myself a better person, making this body a better body. May the riches of God's blessings go with you as you return home. Thank you very much. God bless you.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DRIVE-IN THEATER

(Mr. DENT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DENT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of the drive-in theater.

On June 6, 1933, Richard Hollingshead, Jr., opened the first drive-in theater in the United States in Camden, New Jersey. Hollingshead's vision of enabling Americans to view movies from the comfort of their spacious cars

was mastered through trials on his own driveway where he nailed a bed sheet between two trees and placed a film projector on the hood of his car. From its simple origins, Hollingshead's concept would transform the movie industry and later become a lasting icon of Americana.

Today, there are close to 400 drive-in theaters operating 650 screens in 47 States across the Nation. As summer approaches and evenings become warmer, thousands of families, couples, and groups of friends will gather at drive-ins to enjoy the latest Hollywood blockbusters on the largest movie screens in the theater industry.

Throughout the U.S., moviegoers are rediscovering the pleasures of the all-American drive-in experience, which often includes dining on classic American foods and beverages. My district in eastern Pennsylvania is home to the famous Shankweiler's Drive-In Theater built in 1934. It is the oldest operating theater in the United States. Every summer, many of my constituents flock to local drive-ins like Shankweiler's for an evening.

I ask my colleagues to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the drive-in theater and I encourage all Americans to rediscover their local theaters.

A TEENAGE HERO IN A TIME OF LOSS

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, recently communities in North Carolina's Fifth District were hit hard by severe weather in the form of tornadoes. No one was badly injured in the town of Clemmons, North Carolina, when a twister left a trail of destruction leaving several families homeless but thankfully alive. But one young man, Chris Ellis, who is a senior at West Forsyth High School, proved his selflessness and heroism when he rushed to the rescue of his neighbors on Frye Bridge Road in Clemmons.

Risking his own safety, Chris ran to the aid of Amber Parker and her two children who were trapped in the wreckage of their collapsed house. His demonstration of uncommon courage in the face of the awesome power of a tornado is nothing short of inspiring.

Madam Speaker, I hope the example of Chris Ellis is an inspiration to his entire community as they cope with the loss of homes and memories during this difficult time. In times of suffering, it is always encouraging to know there are selfless souls like Chris ready to lend a hand even at their own personal risk.

HIGH FUEL COST CRISIS

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

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today, just as many of my colleagues have done, to address the urgent high fuel cost crisis. Yes, Madam Speaker, it is a crisis that is facing all Americans. From the trucker who can no longer afford to operate his rig, to the farmer who must keep the tractors in the barn, or to the small business owner who is being forced to close their doors, the daily commuter, or the general consumer. It is a crisis.

You know, we are being told that we buy petroleum from other countries, oftentimes countries that don't even like us, because many in this country see our resources as a liability, an economic or an environmental hazard. We have got to change that mind set. We must allow ourselves the opportunity to drill on our own land, in ANWR, off our own coastlines. We must increase refining capacity instead of continuing to shut down more factories.

□ 1630

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. CAS-TOR). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

NEWS FROM THE SECOND FRONT

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

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, I bring you news from the second front. The second front, of course, is the border we have, the southern border, where there is a war going on. It's a border war between the United States and those people who wish to enter the United States illegally.

During my travels to the Texas/Mexico border and, really, the southern border with Mexico, I've traveled all the way from San Diego to Brownsville, Texas meeting with the various law enforcement officers. Of course I've met with the Border Patrol, but more recently I've met with the sheriffs along the Texas/Mexico border.

Let me make it clear. The Border Patrol does as good a job as we will let them do. They patrol the first 25 miles inland into the United States. But that's all they patrol. And if an illegal individual, no matter who they are, comes into the United States and gets past that 25-mile marker, it's up to somebody else to patrol that area. And much of that time it's left up to the sheriffs throughout the States of Texas, Arizona, New Mexico and California.

The sheriffs patrol the entire county. And let me give you an example. When a crime is committed in a county, a