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Unveiling of a Portrait of
The Honorable
Harley O. Staggers

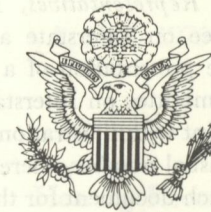


April 6, 1976

Unveiling of a Portrait of The Honorable Harley O. Staggers

*A Representative in Congress from the Second District of West Virginia
Since January 1949, Elected to Eighty-first Congress and Succeeding
Congresses*

Chairman, House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce



PROCEEDINGS BEFORE

THE COMMITTEE ON INTERSTATE AND
FOREIGN COMMERCE

TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 1976

*The Hearing Room
2123 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C.*

6:00 p.m.

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The Honorable Harley O. Staggers

H. Res. 1571 September 30, 1976

Ninety-fourth Congress of the United States of America

AT THE SECOND SESSION

Resolved in the House of Representatives, That the transcript of the proceedings in the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce of April 6, 1976, incident to the presentation of a portrait of the Honorable Harley O. Staggers to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce be printed as a House document with illustrations and suitable binding.

SEC. 2. In addition to the usual number, there shall be printed one thousand five hundred copies of such document for the use of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

Attest:

EDMUND L. HENSHAW Jr.,
Clerk.

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Unveiling of a Portrait of

The Honorable Harley O. Staggers

April 6, 1976

Hearing Room

2123 Rayburn House Office Building

Washington, D.C.

[iii]

RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
INTERSTATE AND FOREIGN COMMERCE

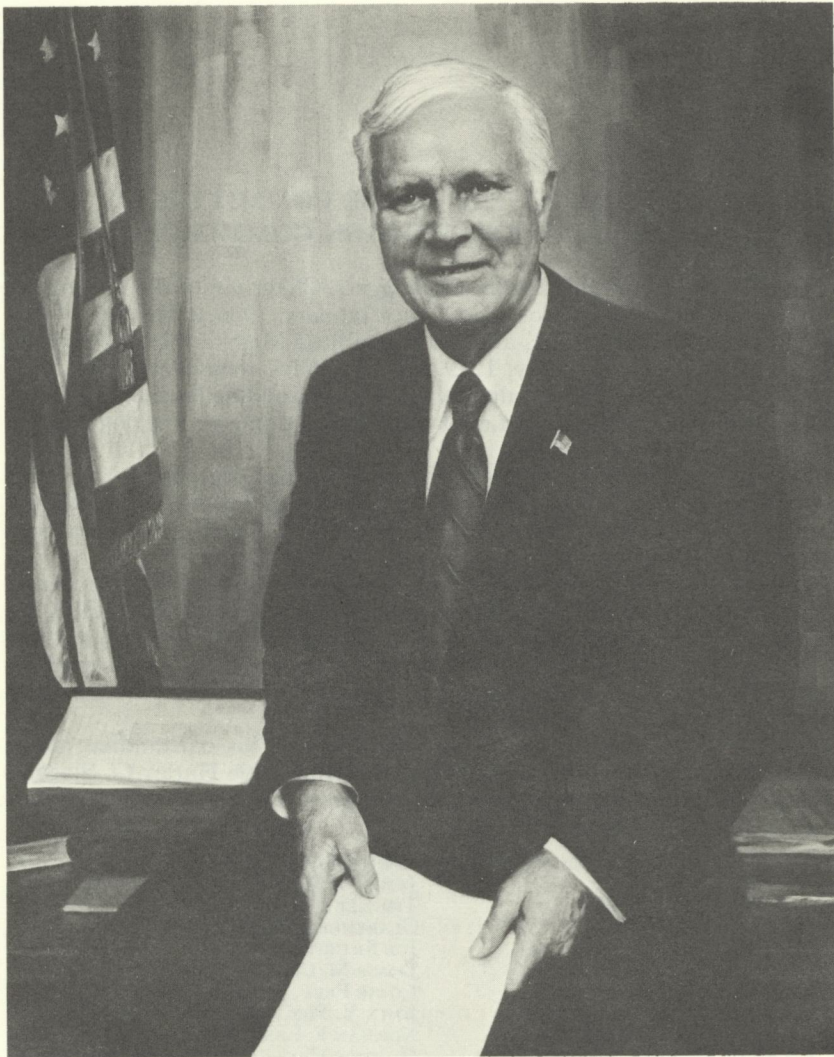
Whereas, the Honorable Harley O. Staggars, Chairman of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce since January, 1966, a Member of that Committee since April, 1951, and a distinguished Member of the House of Representatives since January, 1949, has served his constituency, his State and all the nation with honor, dignity and unsurpassed dedication and devotion to his responsibilities as a Legislator, a patriot and an untiring faithful servant of the people, and

Whereas, the Committee under his leadership has compiled an enviable record of achievements and has caused to be enacted into law many bills and resolutions beneficial to the health, economy, environment and general welfare of all Americans, and

Whereas, by his scrupulous regard for the rights of others, his firm impartiality in all his dealings with fellow Members, his honesty, his loyalty, his long record of accomplishments and his unimpeachable integrity that flows from a deep religious faith, he has earned the high esteem and deep affection of his colleagues on the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, and throughout the Congress;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, in recognition of his outstanding public service and leadership, that a portrait of the Honorable Harley O. Staggars be displayed permanently in the hearing room of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

TORBERT H. MACDONALD, Massachusetts	SAMUEL L. DEVINE, Ohio
JOHN E. MOSS, California	JAMES T. BROYHILL, North Carolina
JOHN D. DINGELL, Michigan	TIM LEE CARTER, Kentucky
PAUL G. ROGERS, Florida	CLARENCE J. BROWN, Ohio
LIONEL VAN DEERLIN, California	JOE SKUBITZ, Kansas
FRED B. ROONEY, Pennsylvania	JAMES M. COLLINS, Texas
JOHN M. MURPHY, New York	LOUIS FREY, JR., Florida
DAVID E. SATTERFIELD III, Virginia	JOHN Y. MCCOLLISTER, Nebraska
BROCK ADAMS, Washington	NORMAN F. LENT, New York
W. S. (BILL) STUCKEY, Jr., Georgia	H. JOHN HEINZ III, Pennsylvania
ROBERT C. ECKHARDT, Texas	EDWARD R. MADIGAN, Illinois
RICHARDSON PREYER, North Carolina	CARLOS J. MOORHEAD, California
JAMES W. SYMINGTON, Missouri	MATTHEW J. RINALDO, New Jersey
CHARLES J. CARNEY, Ohio	W. HENSON MOORE, Louisiana
RALPH H. METCALFE, Illinois	
GOODLOE E. BYRON, Maryland	
JAMES H. SCHEUER, New York	
RICHARD L. OTTINGER, New York	
HENRY A. WAXMAN, California	
ROBERT (BOB) KRUEGER, Texas	
TIMOTHY E. WIRTH, Colorado	
PHILIP R. SHARP, Indiana	
WILLIAM M. BRODHEAD, Michigan	
W. G. (BILL) HEFNER, North Carolina	
JAMES J. FLORIO, New Jersey	
ANTHONY TOBY MOFFETT, Connecticut	
JIM SANTINI, Nevada	
ANDREW MAGUIRE, New Jersey	



Harley O. Staggers was elected to the House of Representatives from the 2d Congressional District of West Virginia in November 1948, and has represented that District in each succeeding term of Congress.

He is the Dean of the West Virginia Congressional Delegation having served in the House of Representatives longer than any other West Virginian in history. He has worked harmoniously and effectively with six Presidents of the United States.

Born in a two-room log cabin on a farm near Keyser in Mineral County, West Virginia, on August 3, 1907, Mr. Staggers attended public schools in Mineral County and later graduated from Emory and Henry College, Emory, Virginia, in 1931. He did graduate work at Duke University and has received honorary degrees from several universities and colleges.

After teaching in high school and coaching athletics at Potomac State College, Mr. Staggers was elected Sheriff of Mineral County in 1937. During World War II he served for nearly four years in the U.S. Naval Air Corps as a Navigator in the Atlantic and Pacific Theaters of War.

He became Chairman of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce in January 1966, and has chaired several of its Subcommittees. He has also been a member of the Committees on Veterans Affairs and Post Office and Civil Service. Since 1955, he also has served as Assistant Democratic Whip in the House.

Mr. Staggers is married to the former Mary V. Casey, and they are the parents of six children.

THE PORTRAIT

The portrait, done in oil, measures 30 by 40 inches and is framed in a 4-inch-wide, hand carved gold leaf frame. Chairman Staggers is depicted seated on the edge of his desk, legislative papers in hand, with the flag of the United States on a staff behind his desk.

The portrait is mounted behind the dais in the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee's hearing room in the Rayburn House Office Building.

THE ARTIST

CHARLES J. FOX was born in New York, the son of a well-known Austrian artist. During his father's lifetime, Charles J. Fox was his devoted pupil. His guidance and expert tutelage were his inspiration.

The signature of Charles J. Fox is a familiar one in such famous landmarks as the U.S. Supreme Court, National Portrait Gallery—Smithsonian Institution, and the Capitol in Washington, D.C.; Speed Museum, Louisville, Ky.; museums, public buildings and historical societies throughout the country.

Among his patrons are some of the foremost personalities of our times—and he is equally noted for his lovely oils of children. Many of his portraits hang in "first-family" homes, business institutions and universities.

Charles J. Fox achieved national recognition when the portrait of Chief Justice Harlan F. Stone was chosen by the Fine Arts Commission of the United States in competition with fifteen other portraits exhibited for the purpose of selecting the official portrait.

PORTRAIT COMMITTEE

Torbert H. Macdonald
John E. Moss
John D. Dingell
Paul G. Rogers
Lionel Van Deerlin
Fred B. Rooney

Samuel L. Devine
James T. Broyhill
Tim Lee Carter
Clarence J. Brown
Joe Skubitz
James M. Collins

Program

April 6, 1976, 6:00 p.m.

Room 2123 Rayburn House Office Building

Master of Ceremonies

Honorable John Moss
Chairman, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

Invocation

Dr. Edward G. Latch
Chaplain of the House of Representatives

Remarks

Honorable Carl Albert
Speaker of the House of Representatives

Honorable Thomas P. O'Neill
Majority Leader of the House of Representatives

Honorable John J. Rhodes
Minority Leader of the House of Representatives

Honorable Samuel L. Devine
Ranking Minority Member, Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce

Unveiling of the Portrait

Mrs. Mary Staggers
wife of Chairman Staggers

Acceptance of Portrait

Honorable John D. Dingell
Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy and Power

Response

Honorable Harley O. Staggers
Chairman of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce

Benediction

The Reverend Father James E. Casey
St. Catherine Laboure, Wheaton, Md.

[IX]

Unveiling of a Portrait of
The Honorable Harley O. Staggers

Tuesday, April 6, 1976

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON INTERSTATE AND FOREIGN COMMERCE,
Washington, D.C.

Remarks of the Master of Ceremonies

Honorable John Moss, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations: Ladies and gentlemen, The Speaker of the House of Representatives, The Honorable Carl Albert, has just arrived.

[The Speaker of the House entered the room to a standing ovation.]

Honorable JOHN MOSS. I see a lot of our colleagues of the House standing in the rear of the room and I would be most happy if they would come up to the front where we have reserved plenty of seats for them. Now, if we could have your attention, I would like to introduce Dr. Edward G. Latch, Chaplain of the House of Representatives, who will give the invocation.

Invocation

Dr. EDWARD G. LATCH. Let us pray.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who art the source of light and right and life and the companion of our pilgrim way, we pause in silence before Thee, acknowledging our dependence upon Thee and offering unto Thee the gratitude of our hearts.

We thank Thee for this land in which we live, this country of which we are a part, and pray that it may ever be the land of the free and the home of the brave.

We pray for the leaders of our Nation that they may lead us in right ways toward good ends and for our people that we may learn to live together with good will in our hearts, living under the flag of freedom.

We come particularly to this moment for this Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce. We thank Thee for the work the committee has done and for its chairman who has been its leader for these many months and years. Grant unto him the health of body and mind and spirit that he may continue the fine work he has been doing over this period of time, and as this picture is hung and as people look at it over the years, may they be able to say, "Here is a man of integrity, a man of sincerity, a man who devoted himself to his State and his country, to his church and his God."

We thank Thee for him and pray that Thy blessing may rest upon him and all whom he loves all of the days of their lives.

In Thy holy name, we pray. Amen.

Honorable JOHN MOSS. I think it is always a very warm and moving experience to join together and pay tribute to one who has worked closely with so many who are here today or whose life has been so closely tied to many who are present here. Too often the honor occurs at the end of a career or after the person is no longer with us and does not get to enjoy the good feeling that comes with the knowledge that one has so many good friends, the feeling that Chairman Staggers is having today.

I am proud now that we are paying tribute to a man in the very active stages of his career and that so many have come here to join in this ceremony. I wish it were possible to introduce each and every one of you. Obviously, that would be far too time consuming.

I would like to recognize the presence of the very distinguished Secretary of the Department of Commerce, The Honorable Elliot Richardson. [Applause.]

I would also like to recognize the presence of another very distinguished member of the President's Cabinet, The Honorable William T. Coleman, Jr., Secretary of Transportation. [Applause.]

Representing Secretary Mathews and the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare is Dr. Theodore Cooper, Assistant Secretary for Health. [Applause.]

Now, we had all looked forward this evening to having the President of the United States, the colleague with whom almost

everyone here at this top tier of the committee has served for many years and he and the chairman of this committee were and are very good friends.

Unfortunately, the President cannot be with us, but he has sent as his representative one of our distinguished former colleagues, Mr. John Marsh. [Applause.]

Also representing the President are Dr. Mosley C. Featherston and Mr. William Nicholson. [Applause.]

At this time it is my privilege and pleasure to introduce the distinguished Speaker of the House of Representatives, Speaker Carl Albert. [Applause and standing ovation.]

THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. Thank you, Chairman Moss, Dr. Latch, Mrs. Staggers, Harley Staggers, and distinguished colleagues and distinguished men and women, one and all.

The very weight of the talent which rests in this room this evening shows the strength of the position which the distinguished gentleman who is being honored has in the life of this country in this generation.

I have known Harley Staggers since the first day he came to the Congress, nearly 28 years ago. I have seen him climb the ladder of success. Not only personal success in his devotion to the country he loves; but also, success here in the committee he loves—the committee which I think probably furnishes his colleagues in the House more legislation or certainly as much legislation as any other committee in the Congress.

He represents a great heritage.

Oren Harris, long-time Federal judge, served immediately before him; and for a long, long time, the most distinguished legislator of this century, Sam Rayburn, was the chairman of this committee. The imprint of Harley Staggers will be on the work of this committee and the record of this committee as much as that of any other person, in my opinion, who ever served in this position.

Harley, it has been wonderful knowing you as the warm human being, the friend that you have been, as the legislator that you are. You, as much as any other Member of the House, in my judgment, have contributed immeasurably to the solution of the

problems of your day and generation. We salute you, not simply because we love you. We salute you because of what we owe you.

Thank you very much.

Hon. JOHN MOSS. I could say, at the risk of a touch of levity, that one of the true giants of the House is the distinguished majority leader whom I have had the privilege of serving with throughout my entire tenure in the Congress, arriving here as part of the same class, Mr. Thomas P. O'Neill of Massachusetts.

Hon. THOMAS O'NEILL. John Moss, Chairman Staggers, and distinguished Members of the House who are all present here today: We are here to pay honor to a colleague for whom we have the greatest love, affection and respect. He has been in the House for many years, he is known for his fairness, he is known for his ability and he is known for his cooperation with the leadership, for which I personally love you, Harley.

The Speaker has spoken about the committee which he represents. You are aware of that committee, what power it has and what responsibilities it has. And, Mr. Chairman, you have under your guidance the energy program of the United States, the rail transportation system of the United States which you have been able to keep together, the health of the United States—I could list all of the things that make America tick, that make America great, all of these things come before your committee with you, a man of power, as chairman.

With power goes the responsibility to act fairly with the members of your committee and to respect your subcommittee chairmen. This you have done along the line. But more than that, you have done your share of bringing this legislation to the House in a fine and honorable manner.

Harley, we all love you and we have the greatest respect for you and I am delighted to be here at the dedication of the picture which is going to grace these walls for years and years to come.

To you and to your loving family, particularly your wife, may God's blessings be always with you. [Applause.]

Hon. JOHN MOSS. The 83d Congress, which saw the entry of Thomas O'Neill into the House, also produced another very distinguished leader, a very warm human being, one for whom I have the utmost respect. I know we all have. The Honorable

John J. Rhodes, the minority leader of the House of Representatives. [Applause.]

Hon. JOHN RHODES. My good friend, John Moss, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Majority Leader, Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen: It is, of course, an honor to take part in an occasion like this. As has been mentioned, it is too often that we forget about honoring people until they are no longer able to enjoy it. Harley, I am very pleased to be here to tell you what I think of the very fine service that you have given while you are still here to hear it.

This is a great committee, and as the Speaker mentioned, the only proof you have to have is to look at the legislative accomplishments, and in fact, the legislative days which have been taken up by legislation from this committee.

I haven't always agreed with it. There are lots of people on my side who haven't, but I will say this: There isn't a single person who ever served with Harley Staggers who has ever been able to say that he didn't have his say, that his point of view was neglected because he wasn't allowed to express it, because Harley is the kind of man who has always taken care of the rights of all Members, whether of the majority or of the minority.

Believe me, those of us in the minority appreciate that, as we do the kind treatment which we have always received from our distinguished Speaker and the majority leader.

The spirit of the House of Representatives is present in the makeup of Harley Staggers and it is a great spirit. It is a spirit of wanting to do things for the country, of feeling that if we work together we can accomplish mighty things for our people and for posterity. And, Harley Staggers' accomplishments along these lines will live and be recognized by many people who will come after him.

So, my good friend, it is with a great deal of pleasure and a feeling of great honor that I join with the Speaker and the majority leader and the others of us who are here, in telling you that I am very proud of the record which you have made as chairman of this great committee and I am proud of the kind of man you are and I am proud of the fact that I can call you my friend.

Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Hon. JOHN MOSS. One of the most important members of the committee is always the ranking minority member. His cooperation is sought. It is essential that a committee that is to be productive have cooperation between the chairman and the ranking minority member.

At this time, I would like to call upon the Honorable Sam Devine of Ohio, the ranking minority member on the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce. [Applause.]

Hon. SAMUEL DEVINE. Thank you, John. This shouldn't be such a solemn occasion. It is one of joy. I am reminded of the story of the man who was talking with a friend of his who claimed that he was in communication with the Lord and that he could predict what was going to happen. His friend said, "Do you mean you can tell me whether I am going to heaven or hell?" And he said, "I sure can." And the man hesitated for a moment and finally he said, "I have some good news and some bad news." The friend said, "Tell me the good news first." He said, "You are going to heaven." And the friend asked, "And what is the bad news?" And he said, "You are going next Tuesday." [Laughter.]

There is no particular relevance except this is a Tuesday, Harley, and this is a Tuesday that I think you will always remember as one that will go down in your personal history. You know, Harley and I sit here day after day, side by side, and he is a former sheriff and I am a former FBI agent, and he is a former athletic coach and I am a former sports official, so when we get our heads together and discuss serious matters that you think relate to legislation, it may be having to do with athletics or law enforcement. But we have had an excellent relationship over the 18 years I have had the honor to serve on this committee—under Oren Harris before Harley, and Harley since him. I succeeded our good friend, Bill Springer, who is here in the audience and who left us to join the Federal Power Commission.

We are glad to see you here, Bill.

I am speaking here on behalf of the minority, the members of the minority here that would all like to join in and say a word for Harley, of the great contribution he has made not only to the country but to his district and the State of West Virginia.

He has been an eminently fair chairman. We haven't always agreed on every issue that has come along here but, Mr. Chair-

man, today you have the unanimous support of the minority side and their congratulations on this occasion. [Applause.]

Hon. JOHN MOSS. I think there is only one thing that Harley loves more than his committee and the Congress and that is his family. He has present with him this evening many members of that family and I would ask them to stand and be recognized so that we may all see the very fine family that Chairman Staggers has. [Applause.]

Now, if Ed Williamson, the Clerk of the committee, would come forward, I would ask that he escort Mrs. Mary Staggers over for the unveiling of the portrait. [Applause.]

[The portrait was unveiled.]

[Applause.]

Hon. JOHN MOSS. Now, I will call upon Congressman John Dingell, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Energy and Power, for the purpose of accepting, on behalf of the committee, the portrait.

Hon. JOHN DINGELL. My friend, John Moss, our distinguished Chairman, Harley Staggers, our Speaker, majority leader, and distinguished guests, I have a very simple task and that is to accept the portrait on behalf of the House of Representatives, his colleagues on the committee and the United States.

I have asked Mrs. Staggers to stand beside me when I do so because she isn't getting all of the recognition that she is entitled to, and if she does have something to say at this time as we accept the portrait it would be my privilege to yield to her.

It is a privilege on behalf of your friends, Harley, to accept this. It is a fine portrait of a distinguished American, good friend, an outstanding chairman and great patriot. We are very proud that it will hang here in this committee. [Applause.]

Hon. JOHN MOSS. And now I yield to the chairman of the committee, The Honorable Harley Staggers.

[A standing ovation of applause was given to the chairman of the committee.]

Hon. HARLEY STAGGERS. My sincere thanks to our master of ceremonies, John Moss; Speaker of the House of Representatives, Carl Albert; our majority leader, Tip O'Neill; our minority leader, John Rhodes; the ranking minority member on the committee, Sam Devine; and John Dingell, all of whom have spoken

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here, as well as the other distinguished guests here in this audience. My fellow colleagues, my great friends, and to all of you, I am somewhat speechless by the words that have been spoken and by the large group that has come here on this occasion.

It is an honor and pleasure to see some of the most eminent people in America here. Men and women who are not only the leaders of America today but are destined for distinction in the future.

I thank each of you for being here and certainly want to express my deep appreciation to each and every one of you for everything you did in making this occasion possible. I shall be forever grateful for your friendship.

Thank you, John, for serving as master of ceremonies, and for your kind words.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for coming and being a part of this ceremony.

Thank you very much, Tip, for being here and for the words you have spoken.

I certainly thank you, John [Dingell], and all of you, especially you, Sam, for being here. Thank you, all of you, for your friendship.

I do value that more than I can tell you.

I want to thank those of you who are on the Portrait Committee. You will find the list on the back of your program. Torbert Macdonald, who, unfortunately, could not be with us tonight; John Moss, John Dingell, Paul Rogers, Lionel Van Deerlin, Fred Rooney, Sam Devine, James T. Broyhill, Tim Lee Carter, Clarence Brown, Joe Skubitz, and Jim Collins—men whom we serve with here. To them I say, "thank you for making this possible." I am indeed grateful to Ed Williamson, clerk of the committee, and his assistants, Ken Painter and Eleanor Dinkins, for making all of the arrangements for the program and the reception which will follow.

So, Ed, thank you so very much and you, Eleanor, and you, Ken.

I am deeply grateful also to Dr. Latch, for coming as a friend and as a member of the faith. I thank you so very much for being with us tonight.

And, of course, I thank Father Casey for being here. He will

give the benediction. He happens to be a little bit closer to me than just being a member of the Cloth. I think perhaps our master of ceremonies might explain this a little more later.

You know, as I sat here and heard all of these kind words that were said about me, I felt a speech coming on. I kept fighting and fighting the feeling—and in a minute or two, you will know whether or not I was able to whip it.

As has been said, this is a great and mighty nation and some of the architects and the builders are right here around this dais this evening and in this audience. They have helped make this the great and mighty nation it is, and some of them who are here will continue to build and make it an ever greater nation.

My hope and my prayer is that it will be a model to all of the nations of the world so that they will want to follow what we have done in the Congress of the United States and in the agencies and in the executive branch of Government and build a society of which all men can be proud.

I am especially proud that the Honorable Leonor K. Sullivan, Chairman of the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee is with us, and I see that the Honorable George Mahon, Chairman of the Appropriations Committee is here too. As I look over the audience, I find that there are many other fellow chairmen present. I do want all of you to know that I am especially proud and happy that you took the time from your busy schedules to come here this evening. There are so many additional distinguished guests whom I would like to welcome at this time—I say welcome everyone, a very special personal welcome, to each and every one of you.

We know that power is the might of America. Many who are sitting right here now will help to determine the destiny of this nation in the future.

May the Lord lead you tomorrow and the tomorrows that follow, with strength and goodness in your heart to build a better America, one that we all are proud of now but hope to make it a stronger and better land in which to live.

I think I have said enough but in closing I would like to express this hope and prayer: May the Lord in Heaven watch over this great and mighty nation and with his help may we be successful in keeping it strong, healthy, and peaceful. It is only with His

help, as Reverend Latch said, and only by His help that we do anything. May his angels watch over each of you, guide and guard you and lead you along life's pathway and may that pathway lead you to the heights where you look over into the promised land and may he lead you there where you will find peace and happiness and prosperity; the things we have been striving for here on Earth.

Thank you kindly.

[A standing ovation of applause was given to Chairman Staggers.]

Hon. JOHN MOSS. The portrait is not only the portrait of a very fine human being and a very distinguished American, but it is in every sense a very distinguished portrait.

The artist has painted many persons of distinction, including three Presidents of the United States.

I think that the chairman and members of the committee are most pleased that he could be with us this evening, traveling from his home in Florida to participate in this ceremony. I would like to ask that Mr. Charles J. Fox stand and be recognized. [Applause.]

Now I am going to call upon the brother of Mary Staggers, the Reverend Father James Casey of St. Catherine of Labour Church in Wheaton, Md., for the benediction.

Father Casey.

Father CASEY. The Lord bless and keep you. Let his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May the Lord look upon you kindly and give us peace.

We are about to leave this gathering, a symbol for a great man, Harley Staggers, whom I have known for so very long and one whom we all love and respect and with the great men who are assembled here this afternoon, I think the words of the poet Longfellow seem very appropriate.

"Lives of great men all remind us, we can make our lives sublime and departing leave behind us footprints on the sands of time."

I think that catches the spirit of this gathering. So, let us pray that God, who is a Father of all and from whom all Holy desires, right counsels and just work come, may He inspire all of our actions as we go forth from here to pursue our daily tasks. May

we be instruments of His peace. Where there is hatred, let us show love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith.

Where there is despair, hope. Where there is darkness, light, and where there is sadness, joy.

Grant that we may not seek to be as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love, for it is in giving that we receive. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

May the grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and the love of God and fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you now and always.

Amen.

Hon. JOHN MOSS. I have been asked to invite everyone to the reception across the hall in room 2118.

Thank you.



Chairman Staggers, far right, receiving congratulations from Speaker Carl Albert, third from left. Others in the group (from left to right) are: Hon. George Mahon, Chairman, House Appropriations Committee; Artist Charles Fox; Hon. William Coleman, Secretary of Transportation; Mrs. Mary Staggers; and Hon. Elliot Richardson, Secretary of Commerce.

[The program ended at 6:45 p.m.]

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 7, 1976

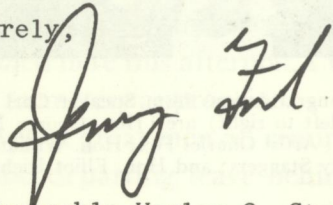
Dear Harley:

I want you to know how much I regretted that it was not possible for me to attend the ceremony for the unveiling of your portrait last night. Although I know that both Jack Marsh and Max Friedersdorf have conveyed my apologies, I wish to do so personally.

From the reports I received this morning the ceremony was very impressive, and it would have been a privilege to join with your friends and associates who gathered to honor you on this occasion. The Congress and the American people have been fortunate that the important work of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce has been under your Chairmanship, and the tribute paid to you last night was certainly an appropriate recognition of your dedication and leadership.

With warmest personal regards,

Sincerely,



The Honorable Harley O. Staggers
Chairman
Committee on Interstate and
Foreign Commerce
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515