

## Local lawmakers snag coveted posts

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WASHINGTON--The Illinois congressional delegation gained new muscle on Thursday with two members landing prime committee assignments with the help of powerful patrons.

Rep. Mark Kirk (R-Ill.), sworn into his second term, was named to the Appropriations Committee with an assist from House Speaker J. Dennis Hastert (R-Ill.).

Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-Ill.), who is part of the inner circle of House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), was named to the House Commerce Committee.

Two Illinois lawmakers retained the chairmanship of their committees--Rep. Henry Hyde (R-Ill.) on International Affairs and Rep. Don Manzullo (R-Ill.) on Small Business.

Rep. Phil Crane (R-Ill.) won a waiver from term limit rules to continue on as the chair of the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Trade.