

Tony Blair says farewell to Parliament

by UPI

LONDON - British Prime Minister Tony Blair said farewell to Parliament Wednesday, ending a decade in office and ushering in Gordon Brown as Labor's new leader.

In the House of Commons, Blair praised the bravery of British troops fighting in Iraq and of those who had been killed. Opposition Conservative leader David Cameron paid tribute to Blair as Blair's wife and children watched from the gallery, the BBC reported.

Formally, Blair has to submit his resignation to Queen Elizabeth at Buckingham Palace.

He is also expected to resign his seat as a member of Parliament for Sedgefield, opening the door for him to accept a widely reported post as international envoy to the Middle East.

Meanwhile, after being elected leader of the Labor Party on Sunday, Chancellor Gordon Brown will become prime minister and is expected to announce his own replacement and new Cabinet by Thursday.

Blair will receive a pension of about \$125,000, which is half his current salary. He will also get a \$170,000 allowance to help him pay for his continuing public duties as a former prime minister, The Times of London said.

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