

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Congratulations, you are now a Member of the Congress of the United States.

REPRESENTATIVE CAPPS BRINGS WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE TO CONGRESS

(Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, LOIS CAPPS' journey to Washington, D.C., began in tragedy with the sudden death of her husband and our colleague, Walter Capps. Today, however, the journey has ended in joy and victory, not only for LOIS and her family, but for her constituents.

LOIS brings to Congress a wealth of experience as a health professional, community activist, and educator. LOIS was a nurse for the Santa Barbara School District for 20 years. In this capacity, she served as an elementary district nurse for the entire public school system. She was a coordinator of the teen parent program and was a health consultant for all child development programs. Since 1983, she has periodically taught in the Early Childhood Education Department at Santa Barbara College.

Thousands of Santa Barbara's children and families have benefited from LOIS's personal care and leadership. Under her direction, hundreds of young parents have received the encouragement and the support to stay in school as well as the child development education to ensure that their children grow up healthy and in loving environments.

LOIS also has vast working experience in the community, having devoted herself to many community organizations, including the American Red Cross, the American Heart Association, and the Family Service Agency.

During Walter's all too brief tenure, LOIS was an active partner, traveling with Walter around the central coast, to see firsthand the needs of the people he represented, and also, she traveled to Washington, D.C. where he fought for them and where she was one of the most visible of congressional spouses, frequently sitting in the gallery during votes and debates.

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LOIS is committed to continuing the CAPPS legacy of reconnecting people to their representatives, to helping families improve their everyday lives through better schools, quality health care, and a cleaner, healthier environment. LOIS is also committed to following the CAPPS tradition of working with the delegation in its effort to find bipartisan solution to California problems.

We welcome LOIS to Congress and to our delegation. We know that she will be an effective advocate for her constituents, and we look forward to working with her to ensure that the

priorities of her district and of all Californians are the priorities of this Congress.

LOIS, Walter would be very proud of your commitment and your dedication to the people of the 22nd Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), the Democratic leader.

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, this is indeed a joyous day of celebration as we swear in a new Member of the Congress.

I would simply say this one thing. There are a lot of reasons attributed to political victories in congressional seats, but in my view this victory is due to the character, the integrity, and the wonderful citizenship of a woman named LOIS CAPPS. We are very proud of LOIS CAPPS.

A COMMITMENT TO MAKE GOOD ON THE TRUST OF THE CITIZENS OF THE 22ND DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I am so thrilled to be here. I want to acknowledge my family: our daughter, Laura; my sister, Frieda; Walter's brother, Roger, and his wife; my cousin, Chuck; and so many friends and staff members. You know I could not be here without you.

My heart is so full, as you know, as I stand where Walter stood so many times and looked out at all of you who were his treasured friends, and friendship that extended to me. How can I thank you for your eloquence in the memorials that you gave to him, to me and to him, following his death? Now you welcome me here today. I will always be grateful for this moment.

As I think of the citizens of the 22nd District of the central coast of California, who elected Walter just a year and a half ago, they trusted him. Now they have extended that trust to me, so I have come here to make good on that trust, to build on that trust.

I bring with me so many stories from the over 30 years that I have lived in our District. Just last Saturday I was at a community college, Cuesta Community College near the city of San Luis Obispo, and I heard the remarkable stories of five distinguished women being honored for their community service. I thought to myself, that is my inspiration. These are my role models to take with me to this place. I have brought them with me in my mind's eye today, and so many other stories like that.

During the last 4 months, Mr. Speaker, I have received the mandate, several mandates, from the citizens of the 22nd District of California. Despite the din of outside special interests, in lan-

guage plain and simple, they have told me in no uncertain terms that they want us to work hard to make our schools better. As one who has spent a lifetime in the classrooms of my district, I know the importance of local control; but, believe me, this task is so great that we must all work toward this end. The goals are too important.

Business leaders have come to me, saying, I want to partner with education because the net result will be a work force, jobs that are meaningful, people's lives that are enhanced; the quality of life that we want in the central coast of California, yes, but throughout the country. This is what we need also to keep our economy moving.

As a nurse, Members do not have to tell me about the mandate to reform health care, to curb the excesses, to bring back patient-centered care, and to allow more access to it. For me, clean air and clean water are health issues. Where I come from, preserving a pristine coastline is a sacred trust.

Of course, the overarching mandate is, in all of our deliberations, LOIS, be sure to do this in a fiscally responsible way. My answer is, I had a good example in the 105th Congress in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. I say to the small business owners in my district, yes, now we are going to go to work to simplify that Tax Code, to reform the IRS. They have told me in loud and simple terms that we must do this.

So you can see, Mr. Speaker, that I have come here ready to go to work. This is not a partisan task, because the bottom line is the common good. That which unites us, not that which divides us, is of enduring value. And we all know in our soul, and I am so privileged to be a part, that in this place, in this House what we are about is nothing less than preserving and strengthening democracy. I thank you for the opportunity to serve.

URGING RESOLUTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ARMEY). The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 364, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 364, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

This will be a 15-minute vote, to be followed by a five-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 397, nays 0, not voting 34, as follows: