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CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

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Mr. FORBES appeared at the bar of the House and took the oath of office, as follows:

Do you solemnly swear that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion, and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter. So help you God.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations, you are now a Member of the 107th Congress.

WELCOMING THE HONORABLE J. RANDY FORBES TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to welcome the newest Member of the House, RANDY FORBES, of Chesapeake, Virginia.

RANDY won a hard-fought battle to represent the Fourth District of Virginia, which was represented by our former colleague and very, very good friend, Norman Sisisky, for the last 18 years.

RANDY comes to Congress with a strong legislative background. He has served in the Virginia General Assembly since 1990, first as a member of the House of Delegates, then as a State senator since 1997. He held leadership positions in both bodies.

RANDY also has served as the chairman of the Republican Party of Virginia. He had tremendous success recruiting candidates and is credited with helping Republicans take control of the Virginia House of Delegates for the first time in modern history.

While in the General Assembly, RANDY was a leader in the Commonwealth’s drive to abolish parole and enact truth-in-sentencing laws. He was the chief patron of a bill that allows teachers to enforce discipline in their classrooms without fear of being sued. And he led the effort to create a school construction grants program to assist localities with the skyrocketing costs of building new schools to help reduce classroom overcrowding.

I have known RANDY for a long time. He is good, he is honest, he is ethical, he is decent, he is humble, and he is very capable legislator. I know he will be an outstanding addition to the United States Congress. He has a longstanding relationship with a number of other Members, particularly with those of us from the Virginia delegation and will no doubt have no trouble at all adapting to how things are done here in Congress.

RANDY earned his law degree from the University of Virginia and was the valedictorian of his 1974 graduating class at Randolph-Macon College. He and his wife of 22 years, Shirley, live in Chesapeake, Virginia. They have four children.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to welcome RANDY to the United States Congress. Joining us today are Senator JOHN W. WARNER and Senator GEORGE ALLEN, I, along with my other colleagues from Virginia and across the country, look forward to working with you.

EXPRESSING GRATITUDE ON ELECTION TO CONGRESS

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

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I can think of no honor greater than the privilege of joining the men and women of this body for whom I have such great respect. I want to personally thank you, the congressional leadership, and those men and women on both sides of the aisle who have been so gracious in assisting us in our quick transition to this new office.

Mr. Speaker, I am also aware that I will benefit greatly by standing on the shoulders of a great legislator, Norman Sisisky, who worked tirelessly for his constituents for over 18 years. Since he is no longer with us, and I cannot thank him personally, I would like to thank his family and his staff for the service his office has provided over the years.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank all the people of the Fourth Congressional District for giving me their trust and confidence. I particularly want to thank my wife, Shirley, my children, friends, and neighbors for all their help. I promise to each of you that I will give all my energy, all my ability, and all my passion to representing the ideals of this Congress and of fulfilling the hopes, dreams and needs of the people of the Fourth Congressional District of Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, last but certainly not least, I am grateful to the Lord for giving me the wonderful gift of living in the greatest Nation on the face of the earth. I will continue to pray that God will give me the wisdom and strength to serve the men and women of the fourth district and that He will continue to bless this great Nation.

REPUBLICANS TRIUMPH IN ANNUAL CONGRESSIONAL BASEBALL GAME

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

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, today is the day of bragging rights for the congressional baseball game. I am proud to...