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Senate

(Legislative day of Thursday, January 3, 2008)

The Senate met at 10 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the Vice President (Mr. CHEENEY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal King, God of fresh starts and new beginnings, thank You for the gracious love and provision which You have lavished on us. As we begin the work of this second session of the 110th Congress, we commit anew our lives to You. Let this commitment empower us to keep our priorities in order so we may honor You with our work.

Guide our Senators. Help them to be accountable to the people who gave them their mandate and to the world which looks to this body for responsible leadership. But most of all, strengthen them to be accountable to You, the author and finisher of their destinies.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The VICE PRESIDENT led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Chair lays before the Senate the certificate of appointment to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of former Senator Trent Lott of Mississippi. The certificate, the Chair is advised, is in the form suggested by the Senate and contains all the essential requirements suggested by the Senate. If there be no objection, the reading of the above-

mentioned certificate will be waived, and it will be printed in full in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI,
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR.

CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that, pursuant to the power vested in me by the Constitution of the United States and the laws of the State of Mississippi, I, Haley Barbour, the Governor of said State, do hereby appoint Roger F. Wicker a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States until the vacancy therein caused by the resignation of Chester Trent Lott, is filled by election as provided by law.

WITNESS: His Excellency our Governor Haley Barbour, and our seal hereto affixed at Jackson, Mississippi this 31st day of December, in the year of our Lord 2007.

By the Governor:

HALEY BARBOUR,
Governor.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE

The VICE PRESIDENT. If the Senator-designate will present himself at the desk, the Chair will administer the oath of office as required by the Constitution and prescribed by law.

The Senator-designate, escorted by Mr. COCHRAN, advanced to the desk of the Vice President, the oath prescribed by law was administered to him by the Vice President, and he subscribed to the oath in the Official Oath Book.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Congratulations.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TESTER). The Republican leader is recognized.

WELCOMING SENATOR ROGER WICKER

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, with a new year we welcome the newest Senator, ROGER WICKER of Mississippi, to the 110th Congress. With the resignation of our friend, Trent Lott, the former Republican whip, Governor Haley Barbour has appointed Senator WICKER to fill the remainder of his term. He could not have made a finer choice.

Senator WICKER may be new to this Chamber, but he is no stranger to serving the people of Mississippi and the Nation. The son of a Mississippi State senator and circuit judge, public service has long been his life's calling.

It all began with his service as a House page in 1967 to Representative Jamie Whitten, the man he would one day succeed in the House of Representatives. Senator WICKER is one of the few people in history to have served as a House page for the Congressman he eventually replaced.

His first stint of public service left him wanting more. He served his country in the Air Force and retired from the Air Force Reserves in 2004 with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

He returned to the Hill in 1980 as a staffer to then-Representative Trent Lott, a man he would come to know very well. In fact, Senator WICKER has known and worked with both Senators COCHRAN and Lott for many years.

In fact, he and Senator COCHRAN were both born in the Mississippi town of—

Mr. COCHRAN. Pontotoc.

Mr. McCONNELL. Pontotoc. I wanted to make sure I got that right. I am sure Senator WICKER's friendship with both of these men will only benefit him as he takes up his new office.

In 1987, at age 36, Senator WICKER was the first Republican ever elected to the Mississippi State senate from northern Mississippi since Reconstruction. In 1994, he was elected to the U.S.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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House to succeed Jamie Whitten, ending over 53 years of Democratic possession of that seat. Senator WICKER quickly became one of the stars of the House freshman class of 1994. He was elected the president of that class. He won a seat on the powerful Appropriations Committee, and he served on the leadership team as a deputy whip.

Around this time, Senator WICKER also gained a keen understanding of how to handle the press attention that goes with being a Member of Congress. Allow me to share with my colleagues a brief story to illustrate.

It was 3 days after the historic election of 1994 which gave the Republicans control of the House of Representatives for the first time in 40 years. Naturally, the 73 Members of the 1994 freshman class—one of the largest ever—were getting a lot of media attention.

So early that morning, ROGER WICKER, the newly elected Congressman, was shaving. Suddenly his daughter burst in and breathlessly yelled, "Dad, it's Time magazine on the phone."

This was an important moment. So Congressman WICKER calmly wiped the shaving cream off his face and gathered his thoughts. Then he strode purposefully into the den and picked up the phone.

"Hello, this is ROGER WICKER," he said, in his most congressional voice. The voice at the other end of the line responded, "Mr. WICKER, this is Time magazine calling. For only a \$19.95 annual subscription . . ."

Senator WICKER will surely have some Members of the press who want to talk to him today, and I doubt they will try to sell him magazine subscriptions. Today, Senator WICKER is the story.

Senator WICKER, welcome to the U.S. Senate. With a seat in this Chamber, you not only have a unique view of history but a unique opportunity to shape that history for the betterment of the people of Mississippi and of your country.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today we are going to move shortly to the Indian health bill. We have a little business we need to take care of prior to that. We are going to be in a period of morning business. We will add to that period of morning business whatever time the Republican leader used. When we get to morning business, the first 30 minutes will be under the control of the Republicans. The majority will control the 30 minutes that follow.

Following morning business, the Senate will begin consideration of S. 1200, the Indian health bill. There will be

amendments offered today. We are not going to vote until 5:30. We hope to have a number of votes at that time.

On Wednesday, the Republicans will conduct a 1-day retreat or meeting. They are going to be at the Library of Congress. The Senate will be in session, and hopefully any amendments from the Democratic side will be offered and debated at that time.

Another issue which the Senate will be considering—and I will talk about that in a little bit—is the FISA legislation. That matter is going to expire on February 1.

HONORING THE LIFE AND EXTRAORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS OF DIANE WOLF

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 419.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 419) honoring the life and extraordinary contributions of Diane Wolf.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 419) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 419

Whereas the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret of the untimely death of Diane Wolf, a member of the Senate Preservation Board of Trustees and a former distinguished member of the United States Commission of Fine Arts; and

Whereas for over 2 decades Diane Wolf devoted extraordinary personal efforts to and displayed great passion for the preservation and restoration of the United States Capitol Building, and was singularly instrumental in supporting and guiding the early efforts of the United States Capitol Preservation Commission and developing the plans for striking the coins commemorating the Bicentennial of the United States Capitol: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the life and extraordinary contributions of Diane Wolf;

(2) conveys its sorrow and deepest condolences to the family of Diane Wolf on her untimely death; and

(3) requests the Secretary of the Senate to convey an enrolled copy of this resolution to the family of Diane Wolf.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I wish today to recognize the public service contributions of Diane Wolf. I also wish to join in cosponsoring the Senate resolution expressing condolences to the family of Ms. Wolf upon her unexpected

passing. Diane Wolf was a unique and remarkable individual. Diane Wolf was very inspired by our democratic institutions and, with an abundance of energy and goodwill, she inspired others to share her appreciation for the blessings of our liberties and the institutions that protect them. She was an enthusiastic student of the form and process of our representative democracy and she greatly admired the structures that house our government, especially the "Shrine of Democracy"—the U.S. Capitol.

It was her appreciation of the art, architecture, and history of the Capitol that initially brought Ms. Wolf to my attention. At that time, Ms. Wolf served as a member of the U.S. Commission of Fine Art, which oversees the design of U.S. coins. During my second tenure as majority leader of the Senate in 1988, I sponsored and achieved passage of a bill establishing the Capitol Preservation Commission and a bill authorizing the Congressional Bicentennial Coin Program. As these legislative items were developed, considered, and passed, Diane Wolf provided a wealth of ideas, expertise, and counsel, and the results of her efforts will prove beneficial to Americans and their Capitol for perhaps as long as this building shall stand.

As stated in the Capitol Preservation Commission law, the purpose of that Commission is to provide for "improvements in, preservation of, and acquisitions for, the United States Capitol" Additionally, through the Congressional Bicentennial Coin Program, Congress celebrated its inception and history by authorizing the minting of three commemorative coins, the surcharges of which were made available to the Capitol Preservation Commission for the preservation and improvement of the Capitol. As I stated on the Senate floor on October 7, 1988, these proceeds would provide historic art, furnishings, and documents for display in public areas of the Capitol to be seen by millions of Americans and international visitors for generations to come.

Diane Wolf was a very accomplished individual. She earned her undergraduate degree cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania, became a teacher with masters degree in education from Columbia University, and later became an attorney after graduating the Georgetown University Law Center. She served as President of the Capitol Hill chapter of the Federal Bar Association and was a member of the Senate Preservation Board of Trustees. Ms. Wolf also contributed actively to several other national and local civic organizations. She served on boards and councils supporting the National Archives, the Library of Congress, National Public Radio, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Georgetown University Law Center, the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the National Symphony