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NEWSLETTER

102-1392

31 December 1992

Washington, DC

A NEW BEGINNING. Tonight we bid farewell to 1992 -- gone, but not forgotten -- and welcome in the New Year, and, this coming week, a new Congress.

A new year never begins without first thinking about what we leave behind. Many are the accomplishments that characterize the 102nd Congress. We enacted such important bills as extended unemployment benefits, a comprehensive energy bill, a consumer protection package that will reregulate the cable industry, increased financial aid for middle class college students, a landmark highway bill, job training reform, and civil rights legislation, among others. There were also stalemates on some measures -- most notably an omnibus crime control measure, and an education reform bill -- but these are issues which I feel certain will be revisited.

Now for the 103rd Congress. Many are the challenges which are at our doorstep. Health care, reducing the deficit, ensuring America's competitiveness in the global economy, education, the environment, the homeless, the elderly, our nation's infrastructure -- these are but a few of the issues we'll be addressing. I also know I have very specific concerns which I will be pursuing -- among them, the establishment of a VA hospital in south Texas, and legislation proposing an amendment to the Constitution stating that nothing in the Constitution shall be construed to prohibit individual or group prayer in public schools or other public institutions.

There is nothing easy about the tasks we face. To me what is most important is that we tackle the issues that come before us in a spirit of cooperation -- that we move forward -- that we attain results. That is our job, and that is what we must do.

As I said several years ago, there is no one method which is best to attain these results. There is no one particular solution to any of our national problems which is ideal. Somewhere, someone or some group will be affected in a way that is not perfect. BUT, we can no longer put the country "on-hold" while Congress searches for the perfect answer that does not exist.

It is an exciting time here in Washington with the changing of the guard, and my resolution for this coming new year and this new Congress remains as always -- to pledge to each and every constituent of the 15th District who have placed in me their trust, to do my best to effectively serve you and to meet the needs of our area and our country. I re-dedicate myself to helping anyone in my district who needs my assistance -- that is the rock upon which this Congressional office rests.

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