

1/12/2009 This Week in Congress

This Week in Congress

January 12, 2009

Dear Friend,

Welcome to "This Week in Congress." I hope you find this newsletter useful.

Taking the Oath of Office

This week, I had the honor of being sworn in as a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives for the seventh and final time. My wife, Robba, and two daughters, Kelsey and Alex, joined me in Washington, D.C., to share in this event. Senator Pat Roberts was also sworn-in this week for his third term as a Kansas senator. [Click here to view photos of me and my family with Senator Roberts following my swearing-in ceremony.](#)

Every time I take the oath of office I am reminded of the great responsibility Kansans have entrusted to me. I approach the next two years of public service with the same humility and sense of duty that I have held since you first elected me. Many challenges face our state and nation that demand honest and carefully-crafted solutions. I am eager to work on your behalf to make sure good things happen for Kansans. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if there are ways I can better represent you in our nation's capital.

House of Representatives Shows Support for Israel

While the conflict between Israel and Hamas continued this week, the U.S. House of Representatives reaffirmed our country's support for Israel and recognized Israel's right to defend itself against attacks from terrorists in Gaza. As one of our strongest allies, it is critical Israel knows it has the support and backing of the United States in its effort to make sure its citizens can live in peace and without fear of rocket and mortar attacks. I was pleased the House overwhelmingly approved this legislation to send a strong message of support to Israel.

In addition to expressing support for the welfare, security and survival of Israel, the resolution also encouraged the Administration to work actively to support a durable and sustainable cease-fire in Gaza that prevents Hamas from retaining or rebuilding its terrorist capabilities. It is my hope that both groups will implement a swift end to this conflict that ensures future peace and stop unnecessary civilian casualties.

Speaking at Americans for Prosperity Kansas Summit

On Saturday, I spoke at the Americans for Prosperity Kansas Summit in Wichita. The group supports limited government and works to educate citizens about economic policy. I spoke to members and guests about the need to restore fiscal restraint and responsibility to help our economy. While the economy could benefit from directed and disciplined economic stimulus legislation, I am fearful Congress will load the bill with spending provisions that do little to get our economy back

on track. Thanks to Susan Estes, the group's field director for western Kansas, for inviting me to speak and to Alan Cobb, the group's outgoing executive director, for all his work. I also congratulate and look forward to working with Derrick Sontag, the group's new executive director.

Attending Soup Dinner and Bake Sale in Culver

On Saturday, I joined members of the Culver community at a soup dinner and bake sale sponsored by the United Methodist Women's Group at the United Methodist Church. The proceeds support the Culver United Methodist Church and its activities. I appreciated the opportunity to visit with folks and share my expectations for Congress in 2009.

From Washington to Home: Continuing My Thirteenth Annual Listening Tour

I continued my thirteenth annual listening tour today with town hall meetings in Rush and Edwards Counties. Later this week, I will be in Clay and Ellis Counties. I learn something from every meeting and conversation I have with Kansans during my listening tour. I look forward to visiting with many more Kansans as my tour continues. [Click here to view times and locations of town hall meetings and to stay up-to-date on tour stops still being scheduled.](#)

Very truly yours,

Jerry