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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. CHENEY).

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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