

overwhelming 77 percent of the vote in his special.

He is a carpenter by trade. He is a builder, a consensus builder. For the past 12 years, he has been the Democratic Party chairman in the City of Philadelphia and has done an exceptionally good job. In my view, he is the best chairman the city has ever had. His ability to build consensus is what makes him such a great chairman and I believe will make him such a great Member of this body.

When the special was called, Mr. Speaker, and when BOB BRADY announced his intentions to seek this seat, and I believe most of my colleagues understand that the First Congressional District of Pennsylvania is a majority-minority district, more African-Americans than there are white, but when BOB BRADY announced his intentions, the support that he received from the district was overwhelming from all sides, corners, races, religions, and an absolute true testament to the kind of a person he is.

He has demonstrated through his tenure as a chairman the ability to work across the aisle and certainly among the races. It is my great honor to be able to introduce him here today.

Mr. Speaker, I would first like to yield to my colleague, the gentleman from Philadelphia (Mr. FATTAH).

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BORSKI), the senior congressman from our city, for yielding. I also would like to welcome and add in part to this introduction of ROBERT BRADY to the United States Congress.

This body is made up of Members who come here from all walks of life and who have a desire to serve the public. BOB BRADY is going to fit in extraordinarily well, because he has walked through all of the shoes of the lives of millions of people in the southeastern area of Philadelphia region. He has worked with people to help constructively engage them in the political process.

He is someone I have known for at least 2 decades now who has worked with me and worked with others in Philadelphia to help us as we strive to serve in public life. I want to welcome him, acknowledge his family who I know very, very well, his wife and his mother and others who are here. But I just wanted to say to my friend, welcome to the United States Congress.

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON).

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding to me, and let me join in this side of the aisle in welcoming our newest Member to Congress.

BOB, you represent the American dream. You are here today with your family and your friends and all those carpenters and those building trade workers around Pennsylvania and the region are here with you because they understand the fight that you have

taken, the fight for jobs and better working conditions for people throughout our region.

As you know, I represented at one point in time or another probably a third to a half of the district that you now have. I had southwest Philadelphia and the Delaware County waterfront area that is now a part of your district. They are all good people. They are just like you.

The reason why BOB BRADY is going to be such a great Member of Congress is he has never forgotten his roots. He understands that this job in the end is really about helping those people that you have walked the streets with, that you have actually helped in constructing our city and our region. We are all very happy and pleased to have you here.

As a Republican with the great State of Pennsylvania, we join with you as what is a tradition in our State, bipartisan cooperation on behalf of our people. Congratulations and best wishes.

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FOX).

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to also rise to salute our newest congressman, Congressman BOB BRADY from Pennsylvania, who, as discussed earlier by prior speakers, has always been someone who has been a consensus builder, but he is also a coalition builder, someone to bring disparate groups together for a common good.

He has always been a great listener. To be a great congressman, you have to be a good listener. As a people person, he will work to make sure that, not only make sure the First District is represented, but he also has a regional view to not only what is good for Philadelphia, but what is good for Pennsylvania and what is good for the Nation.

Knowing of his principles and his core beliefs, we will have a great congressman come forward to help make this Nation stronger and help make this House stronger.

Congratulations to BOB BRADY and his family, and we are looking forward to serving with him.

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to introduce to you a man of the people to the people's House, Congressman BOB BRADY.

REMARKS OF HON. ROBERT A. BRADY, NEW MEMBER OF THE HOUSE

(Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To my dean from Pennsylvania, Congressman MURTHA, I always will respect the fact that you will be my dean and I will follow you, along with my leader.

I thank you, BOBBY BORSKI and CHAKA FATTAH. I thank the other Congressmen FOX and WELDON from the

other side of the aisle for those kind remarks.

After all you have said, I should not say anything else because I probably will just louse it up, but I need to thank a few people.

I am not here by myself. I am here with a lot of people that I brought, my family and my friends. But I am not standing here because of myself. I am standing here because of a lot of people had the faith to vote for me in this past reelection. Without labor, organized labor, which I am a part of, it would not have been able to be happening.

I am also a city chairman. So with my fellow ward leaders and all my committee people that shared the faith and came out and voted for me, I need to thank them, and I need to thank a whole lot of people that helped me get here through the tough times.

We had a couple campaign trail buddies running, as you know, from Congress, running throughout the district. It is a long and tedious thing to do. I just appreciate the Joel Johnsons, the Bobby Rebstocks, I do not want to get in trouble, but the Jimmy Harritys, the Steve Kaplans, the Phil Espositos, who was my motor guy. We had all kinds of vehicles running around. I want to thank him. He is our navigator, also.

I want to thank my staff down in City Committee in the City of Philadelphia, Linda Matthews and Charlie Bernard, the Elmers, all the staff down there, special people, a fellow that you may know by the name of Buddy Cianfrani, who was a mentor and pushed me right on through in some bad times, and a young lady who is the chairperson of the African-American Ward Leaders by the name of Carol Campbell that I would be absolutely wrong and remiss if I did not thank her personally for all the things she has done for me through many, many years helping me get here.

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There is another gentleman, our City Comptroller by the name of Jonathan Saidel. He is the gentleman that keeps us loose. He is also my finance chairman, who put a whole lot of money there. He is sitting up there. Jonathan, I love you for all you have done. There have been some tough times, and he has been by my side many times. I just hope that I can continue to be here and be by your side.

A lot was said about my candidacy. I had the fortune to bring a whole lot of people together from all different walks of life, different races and different creeds, the black clergy, the NAACP, the Jerry Mondessaies, the Senator Fumos.

It was written in the press that it was remarkable that I could have people standing next to me at an announcement and standing next to me at a victory party that will probably never stand next to each other again. But I am going to work to try to make that happen.

Without question, my family. My mother, I have to apologize for how I put her through three elections in the last six months. Between my younger brother becoming a judge, me winning a primary and the special election. Mom, I guess you are going to have to get used to it, because it is going to have to happen a couple more times. I hope to be here awhile.

My wife Debra, who again, was the one that when you come home, as anybody knows, to your spouse, there is somebody there that is going to help you, that is going to ask you how your day was and get you out in the morning to start another day. So, Debra, I thank you and love you.

To my children, Bobby and his wife, my daughter-in-law Maria, who stands behind me, as your children and your family stand behind me, they stood behind me.

My lovely daughter, Kimberly, my little kindergarten teacher, I can never forget my Kimberly who says, "Geez, dad, I am taking off Monday and Tuesday. I hope you can get sworn in on Wednesday," but it happened on Thursday, so she got a whole week off. So she is happy.

For my mother-in-law and father-in-law for putting up with me, and my brother-in-law Rick, my brother Frankie, his wife and little Taylor. My sister-in-law, Roseann, and my brother Frankie. I hope I don't miss anybody, but they are family, they will understand.

And I have two jewels. I have two jewels in my life. I have a little 18 month old granddaughter by the name of Serena and a little four year old granddaughter by the name of Alexandra. They are my two jewels. She is up there laughing now. Hi, baby.

They are interest on an investment, the grandchildren, and I love them dearly. When I look at them, I see my father, because my father fought a war for us to be here, got wounded a couple times for us to be here, and he cannot physically be here, but he is up there being here right now today.

I know that I am honored to be here. I did not think I would be this humbled. It is hard to humble me in the city that I come from. They tried 10, 15 years ago, and it has not worked and I am pretty callous to it. But I am humble today because of what has happened.

I thank all my colleagues, I thank all my old friends, I thank hopefully all my new friends, and I appreciate all the kind words, and I look forward to working with you. Sometimes you lead, sometimes you follow. It is a lot easier to follow. I do not care. I am a team player. I do not care if I have to pitch, catch, batboy, I just want to be on the team. As far as I am concerned, the team that I am on is the team of the United States of America.

So thank you all, and I appreciate that.

RABBI MOSHE BOMZER

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

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I join with all of my colleagues in congratulating BOB, and look forward to working with him here in the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to introduce to the Members of the House my good friend Rabbi Moshe Bomzer, the spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Abraham-Jacob of Albany, New York. Rabbi Bomzer delivered the opening prayer today, and, incidentally, for those who have been around here for a while, he also delivered the opening prayer 20 years ago this month.

Following in the footsteps of his father, who has led Brooklyn congregations for the past 45 years, Rabbi Bomzer is now celebrating the 13th year, his "Bar Mitzvah year," Mazeltov, as the spiritual leader of the largest Orthodox Jewish Congregation in our State's Capital District.

In addition to his congregational duties, Mr. Speaker, Rabbi Bomzer is also the Chairman of the Chaplaincy Committee of the Capital District Board of Rabbis, serving as Chaplain at the Albany Correctional Facility, St. Peter's Hospital, and Teresian House.

In 1996, Governor George Pataki appointed him to the Kosher Law Enforcement Advisory Board. Last year he was appointed a National Vice President of the Rabbinical Council of America.

Mr. Speaker, he has won the respect and admiration of his congregation and of our community as a whole, for his tireless dedication to the preservation of Judaism and the Jewish heritage. We are honored to have him here today, along with his wife, Rachael, and a large delegation from the Hebrew Academy of the Capital District.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, let me just say a word of special thanks to my friend Moshe for the part of his prayer that dealt with saluting the men and women who wore the uniform of the United States military through the years. Had it not been for their service, we would not have the privilege of bragging about how we live in the freest and most open democracy on the face of the earth.

Freedom is not free. On behalf of my brother Bill, who made the supreme sacrifice, and all of those who made the supreme sacrifice, and all of those who served in our Armed Forces through the years, like the late Pete D'Alessandro from Watervliet, New York, Congressional Medal of Honor winner, Moshe, I thank you.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent on Wednesday, May 20, attending a family funeral. As a result, I missed rollcall votes 165 through

174. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall 165, "no" on 166, "yes" on 167, "yes" on 168, "yes" on 169, "yes" on 170, "yes" on 171, "yes" on 172, "no" on 173 and "yes" on 174.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BONILLA). The Chair will entertain 10 one-minute speeches on each side.

GIVE ME LIBERTY

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

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, the First Amendment of the Constitution is the most famous and most effective campaign reform proposal in history. It has effectively protected the political freedoms of American citizens for over 200 years. If we leave it alone, it will protect the freedom of our citizens for the next 200 years.

So why are some Members of this House so desperate to change the First Amendment? They want the government to have a greater role in determining how elections are financed and how campaigns are run. They want a bigger government bureaucracy, they want to sharply limit campaign contributions, and they want the taxpayers to finance political campaigns.

Mr. Speaker, this kind of government intrusion into the election process would make Thomas Paine turn over in his grave. Now is the time for all good men to stand firm against Big Brother. Vote for free speech, and against amendments that take away free speech from our citizens.

SILENCING AMERICA'S WORKING FAMILIES

(Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, my California colleagues join me in bringing attention to an orchestrated campaign to silence America's working families.

Proposition 226, on California's June ballot, will undermine unions' efforts to advocate on behalf of our Nation's workers. By subjecting union members to a cumbersome annual verification of their dues, Proposition 226 will cripple organized labor's ability to promote fair wages, health care, retirement security and worker safety.

This initiative is harmful and unnecessary. The U.S. Supreme Court has already ruled that workers have the right to refuse to contribute to their union's political activities. This anti-worker movement is not about paycheck protection for workers, it is about the systematic disenfranchisement of American workers, such as our