

Congressman Ed Pastor introduced Arizona's new Congressman Ron Barber on the House Floor on June 19, 2012. Rep. Pastor's comments are below.

**Honorable Ed Pastor Introduction of Congressman Ron Barber, Eighth District of Arizona**

"Mr. Speaker: The world sometimes leads us down strange and troubling paths, and the fact that we are gathered today, swearing a new Member of Congress into the most deliberative body in the world, is a tribute to our former colleague Gabrielle Giffords, a tribute to the resilience of the people of Arizona, a tribute to our strong and fruitful democracy that has continually endured hard and challenging times, and a tribute to our new colleague, Ron Barber.

"And so, it is with great pride and a renewed zeal for the strength of the American people and our system of governing that I introduce our newest colleague, Congressman Ron Barber.

"As we all know, Ron has big shoes to fill, just as Gabby did when she replaced our colleague Jim Kolbe. Gabby surpassed all expectations, and I know that Ron will, too.

"I have gotten to know Ron better over the past few months, and there is no one who will work harder to make sure that the people of the Eighth District are treated fairly, with dignity, and with honor. Ron and his wife Nancy have dedicated their lives to Southern Arizona. They've run a business for more than twenty years – a business that helped young parents provide for their own children. They've raised their two daughters, Jenny and Crissi, right at home in Tucson. They're watching their four grandchildren grow up in Tucson. But, Ron also wanted to do more for his community. So he spent thirty years with the Arizona Division of Developmental Disabilities where he worked countless hours helping people with disabilities get out of government-run institutions and back into their community, fully employed, contributing to their society, and living with their families. His service then expanded beyond those with disabilities, becoming Gabby's District Director and coordinating all her efforts to assist her constituents experiencing personal problems with the Federal bureaucracies.

"And now, these same people are his own constituents.

"Each and every one of us miss Gabby Giffords each and every day. There is no replacing her smiling face, her dogged determination, her quest for excellence. But Ron is the man to try, and I can assure you all, Ron will not only be loyal to the institution of the United States House of Representatives, but he will be loyal to you, each and every Member, regardless of your politics. And most importantly, he will be loyal to the Constitution, to Arizona, and to America.

"Ron, we welcome you."

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