



# Three Fellows elected to Congress

by Julie Lewis, Legislative Assistant, Division of Advocacy and Health Policy

On January 4, 2005, three Fellows of the American College of Surgeons were sworn in as new members of the U.S. House of Representatives. This article presents brief biographical information about each of these surgeons.

## Rep. Joe Schwarz, MD FACS (R-MI)

Joe Schwarz, MD, FACS, is the new congressman from Michigan's seventh district. Born in Battle Creek, MI, Representative Schwarz received his medical degree from Wayne State University in Detroit and has been in private practice since 1974.

Throughout his life, Representative Schwarz has served his country, his state, and his community. He was a naval officer in Vietnam and worked as an assistant naval attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia, from 1966 to 1967. Following his naval career, he went to work for the Central Intelligence Agency, stationed in Southeast Asia from 1968-1970.

Above, left to right: Thomas R. Russell, MD, FACS, ACS Executive Director; Andrew Warshaw, MD, FACS, Chair of the American College of Surgeons Professional Association SurgeonsPAC; Representative Schwarz; Representative Price; and Representative Boustany.

As a Michigan state senator for 16 years, mayor of Battle Creek for two years, and city commissioner of Battle Creek for six years, Representative Schwarz has enjoyed a distinguished political career.

During his years in the Michigan Senate, Representative Schwarz was a member of the Appropriations Committee and chaired the Subcommittee on Higher Education and the Subcommittee on General Government. His reputation for being plain spoken has garnered him the support of both his colleagues and constituents. He was elected president pro tempore of the Michigan senate in 1993.

As a member of various boards, including the one at Detroit Receiving Hospital, Representative Schwarz has remained actively involved in the Battle Creek community and greater Michigan. He has one daughter, Brennan Louise.

## Rep. Tom Price, MD, FACS (R-GA)

In the 109th Congress, four health care professionals (two physicians and two dentists) will represent the state of Georgia in the U.S. House. The newest member of the Georgia delegation is orthopaedic surgeon Tom Price, MD, FACS, of the state's sixth district. Congressman Price has had

---

a long history of public service in Georgia as a practicing surgeon and as a member of the state senate.

Congressman Price received his medical degree at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and completed his orthopaedic residency at Emory University in Atlanta, GA. He established an orthopaedic clinic north of Atlanta and was in private practice for 20 years. He was also an assistant professor at Emory University School of Medicine. In order to have an impact on legislation affecting physicians, he ran for the state senate in 1996 and won.

Representative Price was a member of the Georgia state senate for eight years. His colleagues twice elected him as their minority leader, and in 2002, Congressman Price was elected to serve as the first Republican majority leader in the history of Georgia. As a leader in the state senate, Dr. Price was an advocate for medical liability reform, increased patient choice in a more flexible health care system, enactment of medical savings accounts, and Medicaid reform.

He now intends to bring his expertise and passion for the issues to the U.S. Congress. Representative Price has stated that his goals will be reforming the tax system, strengthening health care, securing the future of Medicare, and bringing common sense to the country's litigation system. House leaders spotted Representative Price's potential early, naming him Deputy Whip as a freshman congressman. In this role, he will aid Majority Whip Roy Blunt (R-MO) in gathering votes for important legislation, such as medical liability and Medicare reform.

Representative Price and his wife Elizabeth have a son, Robert.

#### Rep. Charles W. Boustany, Jr., MD, FACS (R-LA)

Rep. Charles W. Boustany, Jr., MD, FACS, is the new congressman from Louisiana's seventh district. He is the first Republican ever elected from that district.

Representative Boustany was raised in Lafayette, LA, and in 1978 received his undergraduate degree from his hometown school, the University of Southwestern Louisiana. He received his medical degree in 1982 from Louisiana State University (LSU) School of Medicine, New Or-

leans. Representative Boustany was a general surgery resident at the LSU Division Charity Hospital in New Orleans and then moved on to become chief resident in thoracic and cardiovascular surgery at the University of Rochester, New York. Upon completing his residency in 1990, Representative Boustany returned home.

Representative Boustany has served on the Louisiana Organ Procurement Agency tissue advisory board, as well as the board of directors and as the vice-president for government affairs for the Greater Lafayette Chamber of Commerce. In 2000, he also served as president of the Lafayette Parish Medical Society. He was an at-large member of the Lafayette Parish Republican executive committee from 1996 to 2001 and was named the vice-chairman of the Bush/Cheney Victory 2000 Campaign for Lafayette Parish. Representative Boustany currently sits on the board of directors for Lafayette General Medical Center.

Representative Boustany and his wife Bridget have a son, Erik, and a daughter, Ashley. 