

DeLaForest says this term is his last

Rep. Chris DeLaForest (R-Andover) announced that he will not run for re-election this year.

DeLaForest cited the difficulty of balancing his political, professional and family commitments as the primary reason for his decision.

“I’m just not in the same place I was six years ago,” DeLaForest said in a press release. “Over time it became exceedingly difficult to meet my goals in these three areas. I realized it was time for a change.”

DeLaForest said his future plans include spending time watching Little League baseball, attending swimming lessons and taking a family vacation to recharge his batteries and plot new goals.

“While I have very much enjoyed elective office, its is now time for me to return to private life and begin the next chapter in my journey,” he said.

— B. HOGENSON

Rep. Olson apologizes

In an emotional apology on the House floor Feb. 18, Rep. Mark Olson (IR-Big Lake) implored his colleagues to forgive him for actions that he said brought “dishonor and disrepute” to the House.

“Madame speaker, members and staff: you are all aware of my personal failure in November of 2006,” Olson began, referring to a highly publicized incident in which he was accused of pushing his wife to the ground. He was ultimately convicted of one count of misdemeanor domestic assault and acquitted of another.

Olson said he accepted “full responsibility” for his actions, and noted that “all the responsibilities placed upon me by the court have been fulfilled and completed.”

“Will you forgive me for bringing dishonor and disrepute to you as my colleagues, and to this institution?” Olson asked.

Olson was suspended and then ultimately expelled from the House Republican caucus in the months following his arrest. His remarks were greeted with a brief round of applause from his colleagues in the House Chamber.

— N. BUSSE

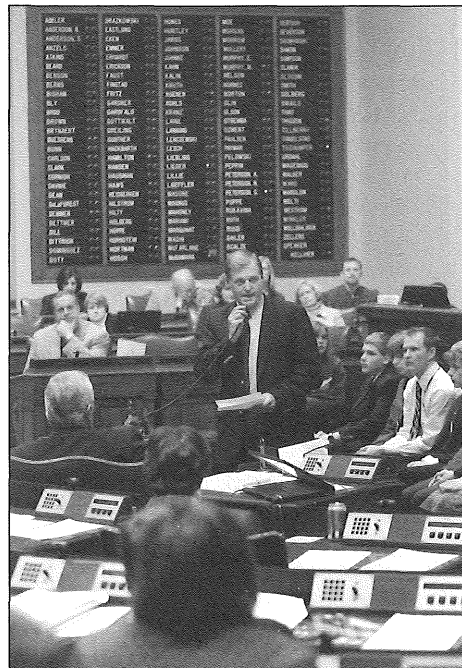


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Rep. Mark Olson asks members of the House: “Will you forgive me for bringing dishonor and disrepute to you as my colleagues, and to this institution?” Olson was convicted last summer on a domestic assault charge.