

Broomfield's career long, scandal-free

HE SERVED alongside eight presidents, eventually becoming the most senior Republican in the U.S. House. But William Broomfield said Tuesday he was retiring from Congress.

Broomfield, 69, had served since 1956. For many constituents, he was the only Congressman they'd ever had.

A longtime Birmingham resident, and descendant of one of Rochester's pioneer families, Broomfield's Oakland County roots run deep.

Vice chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Broomfield enjoyed a Congressional career free

from scandal, but not controversy.

His 1980s support for Nicaraguan contras drew public protests outside his district office.

Others called him aloof and increasingly isolated from constituents.

But Broomfield always outlasted his critics at the ballot box. Among all House members in Michigan history, only John Dingell Jr., D-Trenton, served longer.

Meanwhile, area Republicans are preparing for something they haven't had in a long time — a primary in the new 11th Congressional District to determine who their party's nominee would be.



William Broomfield, R-Birmingham, the most senior GOP member of the U.S. House announced his retirement Tuesday, bringing to a close a 36-year career that ranks him among Michigan's longest-serving elected officials.



Jane Broomfield recalled the couple's "wonderful life" in a recent interview. In addition to raising three daughters, she is credited with lobbying for her husband on issues ranging from illiteracy to abortion rights.

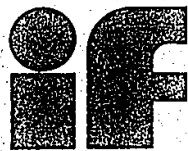


The Congressman's foreign policy expertise and interest got him the vice chairmanship of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, but his

1980s support for Nicaraguan contras also made him the target of protesters, shown here outside his Birmingham office.



Broomfield sat alongside former Michigan Gov. George Romney at this 1968 campaign rally for GOP Presidential nominee Richard Nixon. Nixon was one of the eight presidents who held office during Broomfield's 36 years in Congress. Romney was one of six Michigan governors who held office during that same time period.



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