

## Knollenberg from page 1A

This day, Knollenberg is starting off from the Capitol Hill office of his predecessor William Broomfield. It is gloomy — and a bit awkward. Lame duck staff members are clearing up loose ends — and looking for new jobs. Knollenberg has offered a few of them positions.

Broomfield's mammoth desk is already gone — and the photographs which mirror his 36 years in Congress are due to be taken down that day.

"I'm getting Pursell's (Rep. Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth) equipment. The government owns all this," Knollenberg said wryly at the assorted tables and chairs. He doesn't yet know where his own office furniture will come from.

As for offices, he's hoping that the luck of the draw will keep him away from occupying an attic office, which only has elevator service part-way up.

Presumably he's not concerned so much for himself, since he's a runner, but for his staff and constituents.

As established congressmen vie for the choice offices, such as Broomfield's which looks out onto the Capitol Dome, the freshman class is updated daily on which of the lesser suites are available. They will be drawn by lottery.

### Mission accomplished

"My most immediate goal is to accomplish the committee assignments," Knollenberg said. Late last week, he realized that goal. He was named by the House Republican Committee on Committees to his first and second choices: the House Committee on

**■ 'This is exactly where I want to be. I will be contributing my real world experience to the deliberations of these committees. And I will be able to play a key role on issues of vital concern to my constituents.'**

**Joe Knollenberg**  
Incoming U.S. representative

Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs and the Committee on Small Business.

They reflect experience he's gained as the head of the Troy insurance agency, that sons Marty, 29, and Steve, 25, now run.

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Although he shares his predecessor's conservative political views, his approach will be quite different. For one thing, Broomfield was primarily interested in foreign affairs.

For another, Knollenberg will spend a lot more time in the 11th District. "I'll be coming back frequently. I know you'll see me. I will be much more visible."

And so, he says, will his chief of staff, Paul Weiday, a Farmington Hills native, who has had experience on the Hill and whom Knol-

lenberg describes as "fairly aggressive."

Knollenberg and his wife, Sandie, plan to rent, then buy a place in Greater Washington — and will move there. But, unlike Broomfield, who basically had given up his local residence, they will keep their Bloomfield Township home.

And, while Broomfield's offices are in Birmingham (until Dec. 17 when the phones shut off) with a smaller outlet in Millford (already closed), new district boundaries have Knollenberg looking at a more centrally located office in Farmington Hills with a branch in Livonia.

### Smaller staff

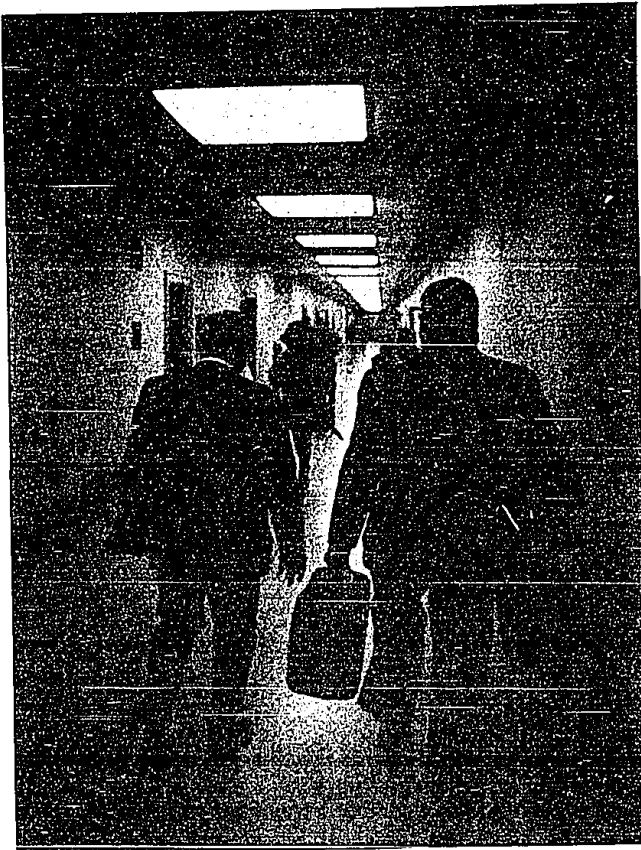
"We're looking to mesh a variety of people — all with experience," Knollenberg says of feverish efforts to put together the best possible staff.

He also is dedicated to hiring fewer staff members — one of his campaign promises. "We're going to be pretty lean, well under the allotted 18 full-time and four part-timers."

Knollenberg is impressed with his fellow freshmen representatives, who make up one of the largest, and definitely the most diverse, class Congress has seen. "It's very easy to identify, because they all are going through the same things as you are."

And he sees potential for them to band together. But, "I can't say we're anywhere near agreement on forging a new path."

We know, he says, that "the public is watching. A lot of it will depend on what the new administration proposes."



PHOTOFEST INTERNATIONAL

On his way: Joe Knollenberg (left) and his new chief of staff, Farmington Hills native Paul Weiday, hurry through the halls of the Rayburn Office Building on their way to pick up the mail.

## Sandie Knollenberg: 'I feel like the luckiest person in the world'

By JUDITH DONER BERNE  
STAFF WRITER

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Sandie Knollenberg doesn't hedge. "This is probably the most exciting time of my life," said the excited spouse of the 11th District's congressman-elect. "I feel like I'm the luckiest person in the world."

"There are only 435 people (at a time) who have this privilege. I want to learn as much as I can, do as much as I can, give as much as I can."

Knollenberg recently took a few minutes out from her own introduction to Washington to be in-

terviewed in the lobby of the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

She was coming from a luncheon at the Capitol Hill Club given by the Congressional Republican Spouses on her way to a workshop to help the newest spouses on the Hill define their roles and even the roles their children will play.

The Congressional Republican Spouses organization, she said, had been renamed that very day. It was formerly the Congressional Republican Women.

Up to this point, her orientation had been nearly as hectic as her husband's — except that "we get better food," she said. "This is

definitely not a little old ladies' sewing circle."

Both the Republicans and the Bipartisan Spouse Program sponsored by the Congress cover the basic information anyone moving to a new place and a new job would want, starting with a tour of the city, she said.

Health care plans, "the commute," how to help constituents when they come to town, where to live, information on schools and health clubs are all part of the package.

Since customs are different in different parts of the country, "They tell you what 'formal,' 'informal' and 'business attire' mean in Washington, so you won't be embarrassed."

Knollenberg is particularly interested in the information on health clubs, as the owner of an Oakland County-based health and fitness company and a member of Gov. John Engler's Council on Physical Fitness, Health and Sports.

She has put a manager in charge of the aerobics classes she runs for community education programs. But she will continue to make workout tapes for her regular Bloomfield Community Television cable show which is also shown weekday mornings on Channel 56.

She plans to volunteer in her husband's office, and would like to teach at one of the Washington health clubs — or begin her own program — "somewhere, somehow."

Some congressional spouses have already been supportive. "Each of us had to introduce herself and tell a little about us. When I told them my background, they said 'Let's have a class here.'"

Knollenberg has been impressed. She has met a number of people with whom she feels comfortable. "Our best friends in Washington probably will be the members of this class."



FILE PHOTO

Moving on: Sandie Knollenberg hopes to continue to teach aerobics "somewhere, somehow" in Washington.

## Toys wanted for brighter Christmas

Two agencies are trying to make the holidays a bit brighter by accepting toys that will be distributed to needy children.

The U.S. Marines have been joined by the Bloomfield Township Police Department in the Marine's annual Toys for Tots collection.

New, unwrapped toys are being sought. There is a collection box in the lobby of the police station,

which is open 24 hours a day, on Telegraph just south of Long Lake Road.

Collections will be accepted through Dec. 21. The Marines will distribute the toys to kids throughout the Detroit area.

The Society of St. Vincent De Paul has set its sights on collecting 4,000 toys. The local collection site is the Manassas Retreat House on North Woodward and

Quarton in Bloomfield Hills.

"These gifts bring special joy to children who might otherwise be missed during this wonderful and celebrated season, the season which honors the greatest gift given in history," the society said.

Donations will be taken up until Christmas. Items can be toys, games or books and can be new or used but must be complete and in good condition.

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