

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**January 14, 2008**

**Contact: Chad Horner**

**814.952.5449**

### **Walker Announces for Congress**

Derek Walker [R] today announced his candidacy for the United States House of Representatives to represent the residents of Pennsylvania's 5th Congressional District.

"I believe that I have the background and a unique perspective as a result of having been born and raised in Bigler, a small mining village in Clearfield County, and having operated a successful business as well as serving on the boards of a number of community and economic development organizations," said Walker. "I understand the challenges facing the people of this region and with hard work I believe that I can improve our future economic prosperity," said Walker.

Walker added, "With the combination of great universities, an industrious population and abundant natural resources, I believe this region has an incredible future with the ability to attract good, family-sustaining jobs."

"The key, however, is having strong leadership at both the local and national levels who can work together with a shared vision for the future," concluded Walker.

Walker graduated from Clearfield Area High School with high honors and earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics from Bucknell University and a Masters in Business Administration from Penn State University.

In 1997 he founded Walker Financial Services which specializes in financial and retirement planning. "I chose that area of business because I wanted to be able to help people plan for financial security in their retirement. As a result of my experiences and interaction with customers, I see what happens to senior citizens living on fixed incomes during periods of high energy inflation," Walker observed.

Walker has been active in a number of civic organizations and currently serves as Vice Chairman of the Moshannon Valley Economic Development Partnership. Walker is a member of the Board of WPSU-TV, the regional Public Broadcasting Station, and also serves on the Board of the Bucktail Council, Boy Scouts of America where he is a Woodbadge Instructor. At the age of 14 Walker earned his Eagle Scout Award, Boy Scouts highest honor.

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In addition, Walker organizes an annual golf tournament to raise money to build a field house at the Clearfield High School Sports Complex. He's a member of the B.P.O.E., the Pennsylvania Society, and the Golden Bison Alumni Association. He serves as Treasurer of the Clearfield Bison Education Foundation and is Vice President of the Clearfield Chapter of the Second Mile and is a former member of the Second Mile State Board of Directors.

Walker is a life long member of the Clearfield Presbyterian Church where he has served both as a deacon and a trustee.

As a result of being educated in the public schools in the area, Walker has a keen interest in education. "I felt I received a wonderful education in the Clearfield Area School System, but students of the future are going to need different skills and access to new information if they're going to be successful in the 21st Century economy," Walker said.

"Over the past ten years I've taught mathematics at both the high school and college levels so I understand the challenges facing both the students and the educators," Walker commented. "As a nation, we simply can't afford to let our educational system slip in any way."

In commenting on the most important issues facing the 5th District, Walker said he feels Congressman Peterson has the priorities correct. "I will work vigorously to oppose the tolling of I-80, make sure people in rural areas have access to high quality affordable health care and that Congress passes an energy bill which recognizes the importance of producing domestic natural gas and oil, ethanol and biodiesel, wind and solar power, clean coal technology and nuclear energy as keys to energy independence for this county."

"I believe I can make a difference by representing our region in the U.S. Congress and I remain very optimistic about the future. With the right leadership and coordination of efforts, North Central Pennsylvania could see a real economic renaissance," commented Walker.

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