

members, but the political tide and the constituency of this body.

Having said that, and having my opportunity to do what I wanted to do initially, and that is to make certain that this body and this country would know that at no time has it ever entered my mind to enrich myself or to do violence to the honesty that is expected of all of us in this House. I think that has been proven, and that has been what I have been asking for, and that's why I have admitted to mistakes, and was prepared to do what I have done.

I understand that this is a new criteria and a breakthrough in order to teach somebody a higher lesson than those that in the past have done far more harm to the reputation of this body than I.

But I just would just want all of you to know that in my heart, I truly feel good. It is not just all of the commitments that I made to God in 1950. A lot of it has to do with the fact that I know in my heart that I'm not going to be judged by this Congress, but I'm going to be judged by my life, my activities, my contributions to society, and I just apologize for the awkward position that some of you are in.

But at the end of the day, as I started off saying, compared to where I've been, I haven't had a bad day since. Thank you.

Much To Be Done To Ease the Pain of the American People

On Dec. 3, Congressman Rangel issued a second statement:

Now that the Ethics proceedings have passed, I will put the pain behind me as well. I will focus on lessening the pain of the American people during these challenging times in our country.

There is so much to be done to help those who are struggling to put food on their tables, and to restore their self-esteem and dignity. I will continue to work even harder to create new jobs, improve our children's education, and provide better healthcare for all.

We must bring back our troops from currently being in harm's way, and make sure they and their families have the resources they need at home. It's not just the right thing, but the best thing for America.

I am honored to represent my constituents in the Upper Manhattan district. I am honored to serve the American people. I look forward to moving our great nation forward and making America strong again.

Rep. Charles Rangel

'I Am Going To Be Judged by My Life'

Here are Rep. Charles B. Rangel's brief remarks to a press conference Dec. 2, following the House of Representatives vote to censure him.

...[W]e do know that we are a political body, and even though it is painful to accept this vote, I am fully aware that this vote reflects perhaps the thinking not just of the