By Ginni Thomas

Retired Lt. Col. Allen West spent more than 20 years in the Army, including several tours in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Gulf, before deciding to enter politics. West was one of 32 black Republicans to run for federal office last fall, and one of two who made it into the House.

In November, West handily beat incumbent Ron Klein in a South Florida district that includes West Palm Beach and Boca Raton. His eloquence, unyielding conservatism and habit of speaking from principle quickly made him a hero to conservatives. In February, West gave the keynote address at the Conservative Political Action Conference in Washington.

TheDC's Ginni Thomas recently visited Rep. West in his office:

On what surprises him most about working in Washington, D.C.
"I've never seen people that are so comfortable with lying in my life."

Click Here for In Depth Video Interview with Congressman West