WASHINGTON, D.C. - Today, Congressman Rob Wittman released the following statement following the passing of former Virginia House of Delegates Speaker, John Warren Cooke:

"This weekend, I and many others around the Commonwealth were saddened to hear of the passing of former Speaker of the House of Delegates, John Warren Cooke. Speaker Cooke served in the House of Delegates, representing much of the Middle Peninsula from 1942-79 and was its Speaker from 1968 until his retirement. His dedication and service touched countless citizens of the Commonwealth not only through his work in the General Assembly, but also as publisher of the Gloucester-Mathews Gazette-Journal. Our thoughts and prayers are with Speaker Cooke's family as we all mourn his passing."

Congressman Rob Wittman represents the First District of Virginia. He was elected to his first full term in November 2008 and serves on the Natural Resources Committee and the Armed Services Committee where he is the Ranking Member of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee.