

## Castle Sworn In To Record Eighth Term as Delaware's Lone Congressman -- January 4, 2007

Washington D.C. -- Delaware Congressman Mike Castle, in a ceremonial swearing-in in the U.S. Capitol, started his record eighth term as Delaware's lone Congressman in the U.S. House of Representatives. Standing by the side of newly elected House Speaker, Nancy Pelosi, he once again promised to serve his fellow Americans and Delawareans.

"I am honored to once again serve the people of Delaware in the U.S. House of Representatives. I am committed to working with a Congress that will hopefully govern on the issues that really matter to the people in our country, such as Iraq, ethics reform, the economy, healthcare and education. In fact, I will start the first two weeks of the 110th Congress by introducing two crucial pieces of legislation: my own lobbying and ethics reform bill which would immediately implement an outside Investigations Commission and my stem cell bill which ethically expands the current federal embryonic stem cell policy. The 110th Congress should be one of negotiation and bipartisanship and I look forward to working for Delawareans and Americans in a productive manner."

Congressman Castle also explained his goals for the 110th Congress, which are shown outlined below:

### Delaware

1. Chesapeake & Delaware Canal -- Castle will continue his push to create a recreational area along the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal so families throughout the Mid-Atlantic region will be drawn to Delaware for increased recreational opportunity.
2. Dover Air Force Base -- Castle will continue his work with Delaware's Congressional Delegation to ensure the Dover Air Force Base remains the premier air mobility command base in the nation. A particular focus will be paid to the C-17 bed down and the modernization and re-engineering of the C-5s and completing construction projects such as the air traffic control tower and the air freight terminal.
3. Amtrak Funding -- Congressman Castle will also continue to lead the fight in the House of Representatives to secure federal dollars for the stabilization of Amtrak and fight off efforts to cut funding and privatize the national passenger railroad.
4. Sewer and Wastewater Infrastructure -- Castle will partner with USDA Rural Development to secure funding for crucial grants to support clean water infrastructure projects.
5. Federally Qualified Community Health Centers -- Congressman Castle believes it is crucial to support Delaware's four community health centers by fighting to increase federal funding to address expansion plans to serve the uninsured and underinsured.
6. Port Security -- Making security a top priority at the Port of Wilmington and working for the continuation of the Transportation Worker Identification Credential program also remains a goal for Congressman Castle.
7. Electronic Health Records -- Castle will continue to partner with Delaware hospitals, physicians and labs to establish first state wide electronic health record system in nation.

## National

1. No Child Left Behind Reauthorization -- As a leader in authoring No Child Left Behind, Castle will play a key role in its reauthorization by working to ensure adequate funding; changing the growth model by which Adequate Yearly Progress is measured; and increasing flexibility. Not all children learn the same or at the same rate, and this law needs to reflect that basic premise.
  
2. Lobbying and Ethics Reform -- Will introduce a bill in the first week of Congress that would immediately implement an outside Investigations Commission, require the training and licensing of lobbyists and add requirements regarding family members, creating a much more comprehensive approach than the Democratic legislation.
  
3. Defense Contracting -- Castle will continue to target wasteful defense practices which are shortchanging the needs of the troops overseas. He hopes to build on the success he has had in reigning in wasteful bonuses which are awarded to defense contractors regardless of performance. Some top priorities will include targeting no-bid contracts and ensuring sunshine and transparency in all federal grants, contracts and awards.
  
4. Stem Cell Research -- Castle will continue his leadership on the issue of stem cell research, knowing that the first attempt with his legislation educated the American people and the U.S. Congress about the importance of this research. Castle will not be deterred in his quest to establish ethical federal oversight of embryonic stem cell research.
  
5. Passing a Realistic Budget Resolution That Funds Domestic Priorities -- There is no question that national defense remains a top priority; however Castle believes we must focus on funding key domestic priorities such as education and healthcare while supporting Pay Go for taxes and spending as well.
  
6. Rail and Port Security -- Castle believes Congress must ensure a comprehensive approach to homeland security, by addressing soft targets like rail and port security which are underfunded.
  
7. Environmentally Sound Energy Bill -- Castle will push legislation to reduce dependence on foreign oil and jumpstart research and development into alternative sources including solar and hydrogen, focusing on conservation and increased CAFE standards, so that cars will go further on a tank of gas.

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