

Castle's 50-State Quarter Program Is Expanded to Include D.C. and U.S. Territories -- January 23, 2007

Washington D.C. -- Delaware Congressman Mike Castle, a Member of the Financial Services Committee and creator of the Fifty State Quarter program and the Presidential Dollar Coin program, today helped to expand the 50-state quarter program to include the District of Columbia and United States Territories. The bill has passed four times in the House of Representatives, but has not passed through the U.S. Senate.

The "District of Columbia and United States Territories Circulating Quarter Dollar Program Act" would create a one-year program following the end of the popular 50 State Quarter program that would produce circulating quarters that bear images honoring the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

"I am pleased today that we have brought this much-needed bill to the House floor. Not only do the District of Columbia and the territories deserve their own quarters, but Americans deserve to have the chance to learn about their history through the coins. To date, the 50-state quarter program has proved to be a great success - it has reinvigorated interest in coin collecting, proven as an invaluable education tool, and has contributed close to \$6 billion to the U.S. Treasury, through seigniorage and the sale of products for collectors. These savings reduce interest on the debt, something we should all support and I am confident these additional coins would only add to that success," Congressman Castle said on the House floor.

The state quarters have been the most popular coin program in the United State's Mint History, with an estimated 140 million Americans collecting the coins. Next month, in a program modeled after the state quarters, the U.S. Mint will begin issuing dollar coins bearing the images of the Presidents, with a changing design four times a year. Congressman Castle was the sponsor of the Presidential Dollar Coin legislation in the House that eventually was signed into law.

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