

Castle Helps Debut Presidential Dollar Coin With Director of U.S. Mint -- February 14, 2007

Washington D.C. -- Delaware Congressman Mike Castle, author of the law creating the Presidential Dollar coin program and a senior member of the House Financial Services Committee, today helped U.S. Mint Director, Edmund Moy, debut the new George Washington \$1 coin the day before the Presidential dollar coins go into nationwide circulation. In a photo-op outside Castle's office, they unveiled the new coin to the media for the first time. It is estimated the newly redesigned \$1 coin may save the federal government at least \$5 billion.

"Today is an exciting day for the U.S. Mint and the federal government as the long-awaited Presidential dollar coin program is set to begin and the American people can finally witness the significant financial and education benefits of this worthwhile initiative. Much like the 50-state quarter program, which I also wrote and sponsored, this program will generate billions of dollars in savings for the federal government. In fact, the 50-state quarter program alone has saved the government \$6 billion to date and it is estimated the newly redesigned \$1 coin may save at least \$5 billion. I am not sure of any other federal government program which does this!"

"Additionally, these new coins will serve as history lessons for countless students across the country who are excited about the prospect of collecting and using these coins. I have witnessed this excitement during my visits to schools throughout Delaware and am encouraged by the interest in the history of our Presidents," Castle said.

The George Washington \$1 Coin will be released starting Thursday, February 15, just ahead of Presidents Day and is the first design in a series of coins that will honor each of the country's former Presidents. Four new designs featuring American Presidents will be introduced each year in the order of their service, with John Adams, Thomas Jefferson and James Madison to be released later in 2007. A stunning depiction of the Statue of Liberty will be on the other side of the coin and for the first time since the 1930s, coin inscriptions such as "E Pluribus Unum" and "In God We Trust" will be prominently inscribed on the edge of the coins.

The billions of dollars are saved through a process called seigniorage, where the U.S. government earns money on each coin that is produced and enters the public arena through a financial institution or the purchase of a collector's sets from the U.S. Mint. For example, it will cost the U.S. Mint approximately 21 cents, depending on the cost of materials, to make each dollar piece. This means that the government will make 79 cents from each dollar that enters circulation. As the public seeks to collect these new dollar coins, and therefore pulls them out of circulation, more coins will need to be generated to meet the demand - creating the pattern of demand and revenue for the government. Money will also be generated by the sale of the First Spouse gold bullion coins.

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