

American Heart Association Honors Congressman Castle with Their Public Service Award -- April 24, 2007

Washington D.C. - Delaware Congressman Mike Castle, a leader in the House of Representatives on medical research issues and a member of the Congressional Heart and Stroke Coalition, today received the American Heart Association's Public Service Award for his support and leadership on many legislative initiatives aimed at reducing death and disability from heart disease, stroke and other cardiovascular diseases -- the No. 1 killer of Americans. Rep. Castle, the only Member of the House of Representatives to receive this award, was presented with this award by fellow Delawareans who were in Washington for the American Heart Association's annual Congressional Heart and Stroke Lobby Day.

"Representative Castle is a long-time champion in the fight against heart disease and stroke, and we are pleased to recognize his support and leadership," said Raymond Gibbons, M.D., president of the American Heart Association. "Combating cardiovascular disease must be a multi-pronged approach and we thank Representative Castle for his efforts in funding cardiovascular disease research and prevention and supporting tobacco control measures."

Last year, Castle was instrumental in securing a \$600 million increase from the 2006 level for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). As a result, NIH will be able to award an additional 500 research grants in many areas, including heart disease and diabetes. Castle is also a cosponsor of the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act, legislation giving the Food and Drug Administration regulatory authority over tobacco products and the STOP Stroke Act, a bill aimed at improving stroke care.

The Congressional Heart and Stroke Coalition works to raise Congressional awareness of the seriousness of cardiovascular diseases and acts as a resource center on heart and stroke issues. Castle also chairs the Biomedical Research Caucus and serves on the Congressional Prevention and Tobacco coalitions.

Congressman Castle is shown in the attached pictures receiving his award from: (left to right)

- Jonathan Kirch, Advocacy Director, DE, Mr. Tom Langley, Bear, Cardiac Survivor
- Dr. Ronald Sarg, COL USAF (Ret), Dover, Cardiac Survivor
- Ms. Brie Schorah, Wilmington, Volunteer
- Mr. Neil Meltzer, American Heart Association Advocacy Coordinating Committee

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