

Castle: Veterans Deserve Our Thanks and Support for Service -- November 8, 2007

Washington, DC -- With Veterans Day quickly approaching, Delaware Congressman Mike Castle voted in favor of several pieces of key legislation in support of our veterans and recognizing their efforts for our country. Rep. Castle believes it is important to take care of those who were once and still are willing to stand on the frontlines to defend our nation.

"It is important to not only show our veterans the utmost respect and appreciate, but to also provide them with the best care possible. Through various pieces of legislation, the House is taking steps to help better the lives of our veterans across the country by commemorating their service, preserving veterans' history, and providing tax relief and other essential benefits to veterans and their family members. Additionally, we are ensuring that those who are currently serving on active duty are provided for by supporting critical funds for military pay raises and other essential programs. As we approach Veterans Day, there is no better way for Congress to honor our nation's heroes," Castle said.

The following bills
passed the House with the support of Rep. Castle:

- Support Veterans History Project Week (H. Res 770)

- In 2000, Congress created the National Veterans History Project to collect and preserve wartime stories of American veterans, particularly oral accounts; the first National Veterans History Project week was in 2005.

- Recognize Native American Veterans (H. Res 744)

- This bill recognizes the nearly 200,000 Native American veterans in the United States that have served in various U.S. conflicts, including World War I & II and the Vietnam War.

- Support
Basic Pay Hike for Military (H. Con. Res. 162)

- This resolution supports a basic pay increase for members of all components of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps by 3.5 %, effective Jan. 1, 2008.

- Furthermore, it calls for an increase in basic pay during the period of FY 2009 through FY 2012 by at least half of one percent more than the raise calculated under the Employment Cost Index (ECI); and provide a \$40 special survivor indemnity allowance for persons affected by required Survivor Benefit Plan annuity offsets for dependency and indemnity compensation.

- Heroes Earning Assistance & Relief Tax Act (H.R. 3997)

- This bill includes tax provisions and changes to the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program intended to assist military personnel and their families, veterans, volunteer firefighters and emergency medical services personnel, and volunteers in the Peace Corps and AmeriCorps Program.

- Purple Heart Family Equity Act (H.R. 1119)

- This bill revises the congressional charter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the United States of America, Incorporated, to authorize the order to extend associate membership to spouses - male or female - and siblings of recipients of the Purple Heart.

- Currently, the charter allows the order to extend associate membership only to parents and lineal descendants.

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