

Castle Recognizes National Adoption Day -- November 16, 2007

Washington,
DC -- Delaware

Congressman Mike Castle joins in with national lawmakers and the President in raising awareness about the importance of adoption by participating in National Adoption Day. In October, the White House issued a statement proclaiming November as National Adoption Month and recognizing tomorrow, November 17th, as "National Adoption Day."

"Since 1987, the number of children in foster care has nearly doubled, and the average time a child remains in foster care has lengthened to nearly three years. Each year, approximately 24,000 children in foster care will age out of the system without ever being placed with a permanent family. This is a problem that must be publicly addressed," said Castle.

The goals
of "National Adoption Day" include:

- Finalize adoptions from foster care in all 50 states;
- Celebrate and honor all families who adopt;
- Raise awareness about the 114,000 children in foster care waiting for adoption;
- Encourage others to adopt children from foster care; and
- Build collaboration among local adoption agencies, courts, and advocacy organizations.

Rep. Castle has been an advocate of adoption for years. Through "A Voice for Adoption," a national adoption agency, Rep. Castle was partnered with the Carlisle Johnson family of Delaware for their "Family Portrait Project" in an effort to support National Adoption Month. The Carlisle Johnson family began their adoption journeys many years ago by connecting with a statewide organization of adoptive families in Delaware. This family's picture and inspirational adoption story will be displayed in Rep. Castle's office throughout the month in honor of National Adoption Month.

In support of international adoptions, Rep. Castle has also joined House colleagues in calling on Guatemalan President Berger and the leadership of UNICEF to support an interim plan that would prevent the suspension of inter-country adoptions from Guatemala.

"I believe the Hague Treaty will ultimately serve as the foundation for a system of international adoption that is both transparent

and efficient; however, I support an interim solution to ensure that orphaned children in Guatemala do not remain outside the care of a family for many years," said Castle.

To learn more about National Adoption Day visit www.nationaladoptionday.com. To learn more about adoption in Delaware call The Adoptive Families with Info and Support at (302) 239-6232.

###