

## CASTLE HAILS MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT RATE BOOST FOR VETERANS -- JANUARY 31, 2008

WASHINGTON, DC &ndash; Congressman Michael N. Castle (R-DE) today praised an announcement by the Department of Veterans Affairs that it would more than double the mileage reimbursement for veterans traveling to obtain medical care. The department said it would raise the mileage allowance to 28.5 cents per mile for veterans traveling to VA facilities, from the current 11 cents per mile. The change will take effect Friday.

Rep. Castle supported the fiscal 2008 omnibus spending bill, which set-aside \$125 million for the mileage reimbursement increase. The Congressman has also worked alongside the Wilmington VA Medical Center to expand health care services for veterans by securing new community-based outpatient clinics in Kent and Sussex counties.

"Our nation's veterans have sacrificed a great deal through their service to our country, and it is our duty to ensure they have access to quality health care. Incredibly, the old VA reimbursement rate had been stagnant at 11 cents per mile since 1977, when gas cost around 60 cents! Congress provided funding for a rate increase, and today I am proud that the VA has boosted this critical payment, which will make it easier for veterans to access the care they have earned," said Rep. Castle.

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