

CASTLE, HOUSE HONOR CIVIL RIGHTS CHAMPION HARRIET ROSS TUBMAN -- APRIL 2, 2008

Washington, DC -- Delaware Congressman Michael Castle (R-DE) and the U.S. House of Representatives voted to establish a National Day of Remembrance for Harriet Ross Tubman. The legislation, H. Con. Res. 310, recognizes and remembers Tubman for her dedication as a civil rights advocate who is remembered by most people for liberating hundreds of slaves through the Underground Railroads System, which runs up and down the east coast and has various sites located throughout Delaware.

Earlier in this Congress, Rep. Castle worked to pass legislation that ensured the continuation of the Network to Freedom program, which is the only national program dedicated to the preservation, interpretation, and dissemination of Underground Railroad history. The Network to Freedom encompasses over 250 programs, sites, and partners in over 27 states and the District of Columbia, nine of which are located in Delaware.

"Harriet Ross Tubman has been and always will be remembered as a true heroine," Rep. Castle said. "One of the nine official Network to Freedom sites in Delaware is the Tubman-Garrett Riverfront Park & the Market Street Bridge. This site has been developed as a major focal point for the interpretation of the Underground Railroad in the City of Wilmington, marking the historic area and bridge that Harriett Tubman crossed at Market Street helping hundreds of slaves to freedom.

"While she is commonly remembered for her Underground Railroad Work, she was also a champion of women's suffrage and spent her entire life dedicated to fighting for human rights and social justice."

March 10, 1990, was designated as Harriet Ross Tubman Day by Delaware, Georgia, Maryland, New York, and Texas. These states already host annual celebrations that honor the life of Harriet Tubman.

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