

Sen. Carper, Rep. Castle visit Smyrna to highlight legislation for veterans, homeowners (Smyrna/Clayton Sun-Times)

SMYRNA, Del.

Senator Tom Carper (D-Del.) and Representative Mike Castle (R-Del.) shined the spotlight on new housing legislation during a visit to the Smyrna Readiness Center on August 15.

Sen. Carper and Rep. Castle joined with members of the Delaware Army National Guard to highlight the American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Prevention Act of 2008, and how it will benefit members of the military, veterans and their families.

This legislation, which was signed by President Bush on July 30, aims to stem the tide of foreclosures, help the economy recover, and make homeownership an affordable dream in this country.

Several provisions of this legislation directly affect service members and veterans. The bill requires lenders to wait nine months instead of the previous three before starting foreclosure proceedings against a returning service member. The legislation allows Veterans Affairs to furnish improvements to the homes of service members who incur a disability in the line of duty. It also contains provisions to make financial counseling available to veterans and active service members.

"We certainly owe a lot to our Congressional Delegation for making this happen," said Kent County Levy Court Commissioner Dick Ennis, chairman for the Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs.

"I feel good about what we've done," said Sen. Carper. "It's always good to work with Congressman Castle and Senator Biden."

Although the focus was on the new legislation, Rep. Castle gave thanks back to members of the military.

"We're getting thanks, but the bottom line is what you do every day makes a tremendous difference," he said.