

CASTLE URGES DELAWAREANS TO AVOID INAUGURATION TICKET SCAMS -- November 10, 2008

Tickets are Not For Sale; Public Viewing on National
Mall is Best Option

Washington, D.C. -- Not even a week after the Election, hundreds of calls have been pouring into Congressional offices, including Congressman Michael N. Castle's (R-DE) requesting inauguration tickets for President-elect Barack Obama's swearing-in ceremony. At the present time, the Joint Congressional Committee on Inauguration Ceremonies has printed approximately 250,000 tickets for the ceremony on January 20, 2009, at the west front of the U.S. Capitol. Tickets for the ceremony are free and will be given to Members of Congress as well as the President-elect's presidential inaugural committee. Members of Congress will receive a limited number of tickets in January, and Rep. Castle will distribute them on a first-come, first-serve basis. Rep. Castle's office has already received far more requests than can be matched with allotted tickets. Therefore, he is encouraging Delawareans wishing to attend the inauguration to simply attend the non-ticketed viewing areas along the parade route and on the National Mall.

It is important to note that tickets advertised or being sold on the Internet for the ceremony are not valid. There have been reports of high-priced scams on multiple websites, and it should be noted that to sell these tickets is illegal. For those who are unable to receive free tickets, there will likely be distant viewing areas along the Washington Mall, where the public can see the ceremony via a large video screen.

The theme for this year's ceremony will be "A New Birth of Freedom," based on Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address in celebration of his 200th birthday. Details for the inaugural parade will be coordinated once President-elect Barack Obama has established the presidential committee.

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