

PRESIDENT SIGNS CASTLE'S NATIONAL PARKS QUARTER PROGRAM INTO LAW-- December 23, 2008

Castle Urges Swift Establishment of a Delaware National Park

Washington, DC-- Today, President George W. Bush signed H.R. 6184, the America's Beautiful National Parks Quarter Dollar Coin Act of 2008, into law. This bill, which was introduced in May of 2008 by Delaware Congressman Mike Castle, establishes a program in which the reverse side of quarters will have designs emblematic of a national park or other national site in each State, the District of Columbia, and each territory of the United States, issued beginning in 2010.

"Since the launch of the successful 50 State Quarters Program 10 years ago, I have been thinking about a follow up program. I am encouraged that this program has the potential to be every bit as successful as its predecessor-both as an educational tool and as a collector's item," said Rep. Castle following today's Presidential actions. "However, this program is unique in that Delaware may be the last coin instead of the first, as we do not yet have a National Park. I am pleased that this bill quickly moved through the legislative process and look forward to working with the Delaware Delegation to establish a National Park in the great State of Delaware."

The program requires these coins to be issued at a rate of five new designs each year in the order in which the sites selected were established. The site selections will be made by the Treasury Secretary after consultation with the Interior secretary and the Governor of each state.

This announcement comes just weeks after the U.S. Mint deemed Rep. Castle's 50 State Quarter's Program the most successful coin initiative in American history, netting between \$ 2.7 and \$ 2.9 billion.

"This groundbreaking initiative has been the most successful coin program in the Nation's history," said United States Mint Director Ed Moy, in a press release praising the program's success. "The 50 State Quarters Program has educated a generation of Americans about the history and geography of the States. It has also generated tremendous state pride and encouraged citizens to consider which images should symbolize the region where they live."

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