

Office of Congressman Charles W. Dent
Proudly Representing Pennsylvania's 15th District



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Congressman Dent hails signing of bill for tribunals to bring terrorists to justice

U.S. Rep. Charlie Dent (PA-15), a member of the House Homeland Security Committee, issued the following statement after the President's signing of S. 3930, the Military Commissions Act of 2006, which provides legal means to try international terrorist suspects:

"The creation of these tribunals reaffirms to the world our dual commitment to the rule of law and to bringing terrorists to justice.

"Through this legislation we have set up a system that accords due process for those charged with heinous acts of terrorism against Americans. Suspects are accorded basic legal rights such as the right to counsel, the right to an impartial judge, and the right to appeal. The prosecution needs to prove its case against them beyond a reasonable doubt, the standard that we have here in the United States.

"Now we can let the system run its course and subject these men, for the first time in their lives, to a reckoning before the bar of justice. For people like Khalid Sheik Muhammad, whom the 9/11 Commission describes as a principal architect of the September 11th attacks, this reckoning can come none too soon."

The bill passed the House and Senate in late September.

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