



### Mike McIntyre

Congressman Mike McIntyre had several goals when he entered the U.S. House of Representatives in 1997, and looking back over his previous four terms, he is pleased with what he has accomplished.

His goals were: to provide opportunity and hope to citizens, families and communities across southeastern North Carolina; to improve the quality of life in his district; to ensure that citizens are receiving their fair share of taxpayer dollars; to always have the agenda of the people who sent him to Washington first before any other concerns; and to serve on the House Committee on Agriculture and House Armed Services Committee.

He currently serves on both committees and said by far the greatest legislative accomplishment has been the tobacco buyout. McIntyre introduced the first comprehensive bill, which was refined several times, and the final version was the Jenkins–McIntyre Bill. “It has tremendous economic ramifications for something I was told would never happen,” he said. The buyout will pump an estimated \$4 billion into the economy.

Another important battle against the odds was to preserve the state’s beaches and to raise money to maintain the dredging of the Intracoastal Waterway. “I’ve had to fight for every penny for every pebble of sand and we have been able to get the money we needed,” he said.

He has also helped the over 77,000 veterans living in the

Seventh District, which encompasses Bladen, Brunswick, Cumberland, Columbus, Duplin, New Hanover, Pender, Robeson, and Sampson counties. The district is near Pope Air Force Base and includes part of Fort Bragg, three Coast Guard stations, and in 2004 had the highest number of National Guardsmen deployed to Iraq, he said.

“I was told twice that we could get no additional help for health clinics to serve those who have served us, but we were able to expand the Fayetteville VA Medical Center and got money for a clinic in Wilmington.” He also helped obtain money for health clinics in Brunswick and Robeson counties.

Now the top issues facing the committees are the Farm Bill reauthorization and implementing the Na-



Congressman McIntyre speaks with Marines from Camp Lejune at Ramadi in Iraq.

## Legislative Profile

tional Defense Authorization Bill, which over the last decade of McIntyre's tenure has brought over \$1 billion to North Carolina military bases for construction, quality of life, training facilities, barracks, medical facilities, and other items. He is also working to increase education, health, and retirement benefits for the military and continue training Iraqi security forces so as to lessen the American role in Iraq.

He has won numerous awards for his efforts, but he is most grateful for being the first recipient of the International Public Policy Award for his work on economic development, job development and worker training. Another award near to his heart is the Senior Citizens League MVP Award. He was the only member of Congress chosen for that award in 2004. "We've got a number of senior citizens moving here and we want to do right by those who have invested their livelihood and lifetime making America what it is today."

McIntyre, a Morehead Scholar at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, graduated Phi Beta Kappa as a political science major in 1978 and

received his Juris Doctorate in 1981. He has been very active in the Parent-Teacher Association, Rotary Club, Boy Scouts, and other community and civic organizations as well as his church. He lives in Lumberton with his wife, Dee Strickland McIntyre, whom he met when he was opening a bank account at Southern National Bank. They have two sons, Joshua and Stephen, and a new daughter-in-law, Caroline!

McIntyre's mother, Thelma, retired as manager of the downtown Lumberton branch of United Carolina Bank and one of McIntyre's first jobs was as a courier for First Union. His father, Doug, a retired optometrist, was a former city councilman.

A former Sunday School teacher and still active as a lay speaker, McIntyre often quotes his favorite Old Testament verse from Proverbs 19:18: "Where there is no vision, the people perish."

McIntyre concludes, "We must always keep a positive vision so that people can have hope for better opportunity and a better future for their families, themselves, and their communities." ☞