



Mike McIntyre: Called to Serve

CENTER FOR CHRISTIAN STATESMANSHIP

In 1973, Mike McIntyre was a rising high school senior. Today, he serves his fifth term in Congress. The path to government leadership didn't happen by accident. Looking back, McIntyre, the Center's 2006 Distinguished Christian Statesman, recognizes it was all part of a divine plan—a calling to serve.

McIntyre's first exposure to Washington, D.C., was memorable. It was while attending a student leadership seminar that he had the chance to visit his own congressman and watch John Dean testify at "The Watergate Hearings." He said it was "a day I'll never forget."

"After that experience in June of 1973, I came home and told my family and friends that I wanted to study political science and be involved in politics," McIntyre recalled.

He returned to Capitol Hill the next summer for a congressional internship and then studied political science at the University of North Carolina.

"I was the only political science major I knew of in the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship at the University of North Carolina," McIntyre said. When his friends asked him why he would ever want to go into politics, he gave them the same answer he gave 22 years later, when he ran for the U.S. Congress: "If all of the people with the right motives stay out of government, who is left to run it?"

Decision to Run

During Easter week of 1995 he was praying and talking with his family about whether or not to enter the race for the U.S. Congress. When they returned

ANSWERING THE CALL.

"His call to serve as a Christian statesman is not a new phenomenon. The path to public service is a long one, and it is often a journey of discovery. It is a journey that begins with a personal conviction that one is called to serve. It is a journey that leads to a public office, where one can put that conviction into action. It is a journey that is often a journey of faith, as one must believe that one is called to serve, even when the odds are against one. It is a journey that is often a journey of sacrifice, as one must be willing to give up other things in order to serve. It is a journey that is often a journey of hope, as one must believe that one's service will make a difference. It is a journey that is often a journey of love, as one must love the people one is called to serve. It is a journey that is often a journey of courage, as one must be willing to stand up for one's beliefs, even when it is unpopular. It is a journey that is often a journey of perseverance, as one must be willing to keep going, even when the road is long and the challenges are great. It is a journey that is often a journey of humility, as one must be willing to listen to others and to learn from them. It is a journey that is often a journey of integrity, as one must be willing to do the right thing, even when it is difficult. It is a journey that is often a journey of faithfulness, as one must be willing to stay true to one's convictions, even when the pressure is on. It is a journey that is often a journey of service, as one must be willing to put the needs of others before one's own. It is a journey that is often a journey of love, as one must be willing to love the people one is called to serve. It is a journey that is often a journey of hope, as one must believe that one's service will make a difference. It is a journey that is often a journey of courage, as one must be willing to stand up for one's beliefs, even when it is unpopular. It is a journey that is often a journey of perseverance, as one must be willing to keep going, even when the road is long and the challenges are great. It is a journey that is often a journey of humility, as one must be willing to listen to others and to learn from them. It is a journey that is often a journey of integrity, as one must be willing to do the right thing, even when it is difficult. It is a journey that is often a journey of faithfulness, as one must be willing to stay true to one's convictions, even when the pressure is on. It is a journey that is often a journey of service, as one must be willing to put the needs of others before one's own. It is a journey that is often a journey of love, as one must be willing to love the people one is called to serve.



TELLING CAPITOL HILL: The Center for Christian Statesmanship announced the Distinguished Christian Statesman award to Mike McIntyre in Roll Call, a Capitol Hill newspaper read by lawmakers.

from a beach excursion, they discovered in their mailbox a videotape announcing a new Washington, D.C., ministry founded by Dr. Kennedy.

"My wife and I had been long-time admirers and supporters of Dr. Kennedy and Coral Ridge Ministries," said McIntyre. "When we got this package and opened it, we thought this, indeed, is a confirmation of our decision to run for Congress, to know that there would be a ministry on Capitol Hill, of all places, called the Center for Christian Statesmanship."

Shortly afterwards, he stood in front of television news cameras in Lumberton, North Carolina, making the official announcement to run.

Pray. Prepare. Pursue.

When he speaks with young men and women about answering God's call on their lives, McIntyre offers three steps to prepare them for politics or any worthy calling: "Pray. Everything we do has to be undergirded with prayer. Instead of the last resort, prayer should always be the first resort. Prepare. Preparation involves education. Find out what the

issues are. Know where to focus your time, talents, and treasure. Pursue. When that opportunity comes, it's time to answer the call, be faithful to it, and leave the success up to God."

McIntyre considers it a "providential happening" that his announcement to run for Congress in 1995 coincided with the opening of the D. James Kennedy Center

for Christian Statesmanship in Washington. "I have been so inspired and encouraged by the work of the Center, and I am grateful for their decade of service on Capitol Hill," he said. ♦

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—Mike McIntyre