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Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! I hope you had an enjoyable and relaxing holiday season. This week in Washington, D.C., I was sworn in to serve my third term in the U.S. House of Representatives. Joined by my wife, Linda, and five children, I took an oath to serve my constituents with honesty and integrity. I will continue to work in a bipartisan fashion to move America forward, while maintaining my firm commitment to conservative values and principles.



Congressman McCaul is sworn in by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to serve his third term in the U.S. House of Representatives. McCaul is pictured with his wife, Linda, and their five children: Jewell on the far left, Caroline on the far right, and triplets Avery, Michael and Lauren center.

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Photo Courtesy of Rick McKay, Cox Newspapers (featured in Dallas Morning News)



Photo Courtesy of Rick McKay, Cox Newspapers (featured in Austin American-Statesman)

Rebuilding the Economy

My number one priority for the 111th Congress is the economy. I look forward to seeing the details of President-elect Obama's economic

recovery plan and reaching across the aisle to create incentives for people to invest their money in the markets and minimize government intervention. I will also continue to oppose wasteful government spending and corporate bailouts.

Especially during difficult economic times, Congress must lead by example. That is why I sponsored the Stop the Congressional Pay Raise Act, filed this week. The bill would stop members of Congress from receiving an automatic \$4,700 pay raise in 2010. It would be irresponsible and an insult to the American people for us to give ourselves a raise at a time when so many are losing their jobs.

Guarding taxpayer dollars against waste, fraud and abuse; further securing our borders, protecting our homeland and continuing efforts to achieve America's energy independence are also among my top priorities.

["McCaul Sworn in For Third Term; Files Bill to Stop Congressional Pay Raise"](#)

Katy News and Messenger

No "Monuments to Me"

I will continue to fight the wasteful spending of taxpayer dollars in the upcoming Congress. This week I filed the "No Monument to Me" bill, which would end the practice of using taxpayers' money to fund projects named after members of Congress. I successfully passed similar legislation into law last year and this latest bill would expand and extend the ban and make it permanent.

The bill I authored last year prohibits the practice for all government spending through March 2009, and applies to Veterans Affairs and military construction projects for the rest of FY'09. My latest bill would apply the ban to all government spending from this point forward.

Perhaps the most controversial example of such spending is Rep. Charles Rangel's (D-NY) earmark for \$1.9 million to help jump-start the "Charles B. Rangel Center for Public Service" at the City College of New York, dubbed the "Monument to Me". It is thought that projects in Congress bearing a sitting Member's name are more likely to receive government funding regardless of their legitimacy.

This legislation was well received by congressional watchdog groups that fight against wasteful spending in Washington and has been endorsed by National Taxpayers Union and Americans for Prosperity.

Support for Israel

I am deeply saddened by the loss of life on both sides of this conflict and I join people around the world praying that a negotiated settlement will lead to a lasting peace in the region. But I unequivocally support Israel's right to defend itself as long as Hamas or any other terrorist group threatens its existence.

That is why today I co-sponsored and voted for House Resolution 34, which expresses vigorous support and unwavering commitment to the welfare, security, and survival of the State of Israel. It recognizes Israel's

right to act in self defense, calls on Hamas to end the rocket and mortar attacks, encourages a sustainable ceasefire and reiterates strong support for a “just and sustainable resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Let us all pray for peace, health and prosperity in the year ahead.

With best regards,



Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress

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