

**Research!America Chair Emeritus**  
**The Honorable John Edward Porter Keynote Address**  
**Research!America's 2017 Advocacy Awards Dinner**  
**March 15, 2017**

Mike Castle was just elected the new chairman of Research!America. Mike was eight years the Governor of Delaware and prior to that, four years as Lieutenant Governor. He served 18 years as At Large Representatives from Delaware in the U.S. House of Representatives.

And in the U.S. House, he was ranking member on the Committee on Education and Labor. To tell you the type of Republican he is, he was a member of Republicans for Environmental Protection, Republicans for Choice, and President of the Republican Main Street Partnership.

Most importantly, he was co-chair of the Diabetes Caucus and the Biomedical Research Caucus. He won our Whitehead Award, together with Congresswoman Diana DeGette, for their work to expand stem cell research. That was a bill that George W. Bush vetoed unfortunately.

When he retired from Congress in 2011, he became a partner in the international law firm, JLA Piper, working both in Wilmington and here in Washington.

I have known Mike for over 20 years, and worked with him on various issues in the Congress. He is low-keyed, thoughtful and gets things done.

Now, I'm a member of the Silent Generation. The Silent Generation followed the Greatest Generation that saw us through the Great Depression and won World War II. Mike is also a member of the Silent Generation, but I choose to call it the Quiet Generation. A member of my staff when I was in Congress had a button made for me that said Quietly Effective and presented it to me. It would be perfect for Mike Castle. We will all love him being our chair.

I was flabbergasted when Mary told me recently that I had been chair for 12 years. I have loved every minute of it, working with Mary and our outstanding board members and staff. But 12 years is too long. I believe in serving my time and turning it over to new people.

That's why I retired from Congress at age 65 in 2011 and came to Hogan & Hartson at Paul Rogers insistence. He immediately wanted me to take over as chair of Research!America so he could step down. I told Paul he was doing a great job—as all of us know so well—and I resisted for four years. Finally, in 2005 he insisted and I agreed. It's been a terrific 12 years.

Mary has been a delight to work with and it has been a real education as I watched Research!America grow under her direction and innovative ideas. But now it's time to thank all of you for the honor and privilege of serving you and the health care community as chair of this wonderful organization.

Now for the future; despite the presidential election, I am optimistic. Tony Fauci who I'm sitting next to and presented the Legacy award to is not so optimistic. But support for medical and scientific research is bipartisan. It wasn't always that way. I believe that even if budgets and

allocations to the Labor H, the subcommittee that funds NIH, CDC and AHRQ, I believe that even if they're low, the majority party will put medical research at a high-priority, and perhaps it's the only one within that bill. So I'm very optimistic that they will take the money that's allocated to them and provide as well as they can for biomedical research and NIH and CDC.

According to the bylaws, I stay on the board and chair the Nominating Committee. I look forward to it and continuing to work with all of you to advance the cause of improving human health.

Thank you for listening to me.