Contact: Matt Lloyd

# PENCE COMMENDS RICE FOR 9-11 TESTIMONY

**Washington, Apr 8, 2004** - Washington, D.C.— U.S. Congressman Mike Pence commended National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice's testimony before the 9-11 Commission today:

"Dr. Rice showed remarkable poise and courage during her testimony before the 9-11 Commission today.

"As she pointed out in her testimony, the terrorist threat to the United States emerged long before September 11th. She also stated, for more than 20 years, the terrorist threat mounted, and America's response across several administrations of both parties was insufficient," said Pence.

"However, as Dr. Rice testified, President Bush's very first national security policy directive was to develop a policy to eliminate al-Qaida. By following through on this directive and implementing other initiatives, President Bush is providing strong leadership for the nation during the war on terror."

###