Contact: Matt Lloyd

# PENCE RECOGNIZES HEROICS OF LOCAL LEADERS DURING FLOOD

**Washington, Jul 10, 2003** - WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congressman Mike Pence took to the House floor today to recognize the heroics of local leaders during the flood in northeast Indiana:

“Mr. Speaker, as the American people saw on national television this morning, the Indiana flood of ’03 moved forward at a heartbreaking, record-setting pace.

“The St. Mary’s River in Decatur, Indiana, crested last night at nearly 28 feet, an all-time historic high for that river and the Wabash River as well.

“But, because of the work of local heroes like Decatur Mayor Fred Isch, Fire Chief David Brinneman, State Master Sergeant Roger Popplewell, and National Guard Unit Leader Sergeant Mike Heister, thousands of volunteers filled more than 176,000 sandbags in Decatur, Indiana alone.

“And when the St. Mary’s River crested, it did not break the levy. There are so many to be commended, but I remember two in particular – Decatur police officer Mark Cook, who organized the sandbag filling at the Wal-Mart parking lot and even thirteen-year old Melanie Vergary who went out and worked and stuffed bags.

“The chaplain said today that ‘unless the Lord watches over the city’ and surely, Mr. Speaker, we would ask the Lord to watch over this city and all the cities in Indiana affected by the flood of ’03 and all those who labored to protect them.”

###