

### **Washington, DC** - Congressman Pence's New Years message to Hoosiers:

If 2008 proved anything, it proved that Hoosiers are a resilient and resourceful people.

The good people of East Central Indiana endured storms, floods, historic gas prices, and financial crises. Yet through it all, maintained the dignity and civility that America has come to expect from the Hoosier State. We celebrated as new jobs came to our communities and vowed to do more to help those who have been hit hardest by tough times. We stood with pride as Hoosier soldiers were deployed to wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and cheered as they returned after serving with honor and distinction. We cried and mourned with the parents and loved ones of those soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country and reminded ourselves that a life given for the sake of freedom is never a life given in vain. It is because of these brave Hoosier patriots that freedom is winning in Iraq and our homeland has been kept secure from another vicious terrorist attack.

2008 was a year of transition, as Americans participated in an epic Presidential election which culminated in the historic election of Senator Barack Obama, soon to be sworn-in as our nation's first African-American President. I was deeply humbled by my fellow Hoosiers voting to send me back to Washington for a fifth term.

2008 with all of its triumphs and tribulations reminded us that while we have much to be thankful for, we also have much left to do. As we enter the new year, America is in two wars, our financial markets have a long road to recovery, and we are set to welcome a new Administration to the White House. It is my solemn vow, in spite of the coming changes, that I will continue to be a principled voice on behalf of all Hoosiers - fighting for limited government, fiscal restraint, and traditional values. This year, as in the preceding eight, I will consider it the greatest honor of my life to serve the people of East Central Indiana. As we find ourselves in a new year, facing the unknown, it is my hope and prayer that no matter where this year takes us, we will find that America is still the land of the free, and the home of the brave.

Happy New Year.