



# Congressman Tim Bishop

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Vecchio is Bishop's Guest for State of the Union**

*Congressman Offers Reaction to President's Address*

Washington, DC— Congressman Tim Bishop invited Smithtown Town Supervisor Pat Vecchio to the Capitol as his guest for the State of the Union address. Each member of Congress is given one ticket to the gallery in the House chamber for the President's annual address.

“I have quickly formed a strong working relationship and personal friendship with Supervisor Vecchio,” Bishop said. “I am honored that he accepted my invitation and agreed to be my guest for the State of the Union.”

Bishop also offered a reaction to President Bush's remarks:

“While I am pleased that the President recognizes he must work in a more bipartisan manner, I hope that we are not disappointed later by another unfulfilled promise. This is not a time for political rhetoric; this is a time for action. If he chooses action, he will find a Democratic Congress that will work with him.

“I am particularly hopeful that the President is serious this time about energy independence. Last year, he said our nation is ‘addicted to oil,’ but then did nothing to cure that addiction. We must take concrete steps to make our nation more energy independent, which helps our economy, our environment and our national security.

“As a member of the House Education and Labor Committee, I will be involved in the upcoming reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind bill. While I support the principles of this legislation, and I am pleased that the President highlighted its importance, we must not continue to place unfunded mandates on our already overburdened school districts. I also want to take the concerns I have heard from educators and parents into account and make improvements.

“I remain extremely disappointed that the President is continuing to push his plan to escalate the war in Iraq by sending an additional 21,500 troops. The relative silence in the House chamber as he discussed his proposal demonstrated how isolated he has become in pursuit of a policy that has precious little support. The President continues to ignore the reality that the only solutions left in Iraq are political ones. This is not simply an insurgency that needs to be crushed. Iraq is in a state of a civil war and therefore needs a political solution. He is also continuing to ignore the will of the American people who are overwhelmingly opposed to this escalation.”

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