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FRANK KRATOVIL ANNOUNCES CONGRESSIONAL BID

Governor O'Malley Joins Queen Anne's Prosecutor at Campaign Kickoff

STEVENSVILLE, Maryland (June 4, 2007) – With the Chesapeake Bay behind him and Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley by his side, Frank M. Kratovil, Jr., Queen Anne's County State's Attorney, announced his candidacy for the United States House of Representatives from Maryland's First Congressional District on Kent Island at noon today to a crowd of over 250 supporters gathered to cheer on their candidate.

Kratovil was also joined on stage by his wife, Kimberly, and their four sons, Frank (9), Jackson (8), Cole (5), and Nate (3).

"Our nation finds itself involved in a civil war in Iraq that we cannot get out of; illegal immigration in our country is out of control; our natural resources are being destroyed before our eyes; our citizens are paying outrageous prices at the gas pumps; and our national identity as the envy of the world is quickly eroding," Frank Kratovil told the crowd.

"I am here to tell you that if we are to solve these problems and others, we need true leadership in Washington that is focused on solving them and not on partisan gamesmanship," Kratovil said.

"I have enjoyed serving my community and the State and serving on the side of justice and ensuring criminals are held accountable for their acts and victims are provided some sense of justice and closure," Kratovil told the crowd. "While fighting to make our communities safer and improving the administration of justice in our State, however, I have become keenly aware of problems beyond my control and purview as State's Attorney and the lack of leadership and progress on these issues in Washington has frustrated me."

The two-term Eastern Shore prosecutor was introduced by Governor Martin O'Malley. O'Malley said he was excited to join Kratovil for the announcement, calling him "one of the rising stars among Maryland public servants."

"Frank has been an exceptional prosecutor, faithful to the canons of justice and dedicated to the idea that public safety must be the highest calling and top priority of government at every level," the Governor said. "He has put offenders behind bars, but he's also given hope and counsel to families and at-risk youth, so they can hopefully turn the corner toward productive, law-abiding lives."

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“Frank is a community leader who understands what this Bay means to our state – it is God’s gift to us, and the quality of our stewardship with help define our legacy in His eyes,” the Governor said. “Frank loves this Eastern Shore, and I know he will do everything in his power to preserve its breathtaking beauty for all our families, and for generations to follow.”

“Bottom line: we need Frank’s kind representing Maryland in the United States Congress,” Governor O’Malley urged Kratovil supporters. “New majorities on Capitol Hill have made a big difference in the direction of our country, but they need more pragmatic problem-solvers like Frank over there.”

Kratovil, 39, and his family reside in Stevensville on Kent Island where he is active as a youth sports coach and member of community boards, including Maryland Special Olympics, Mental Health Association of Maryland, and Mid-Shore Mental Health Systems, Inc.

He was first elected as Queen Anne’s County State’s Attorney in 2002, unseating a four-term incumbent. He was overwhelming re-elected in 2006. He has served as President of the Maryland State’s Attorneys’ Association and is a leading spokesman at the General Assembly for tougher penalties for violent offenders and anti-gang legislation to assist local law enforcement agencies. In July 2006, the Court of Appeals of Maryland appointed him to the Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure. Following the 2006 election, he served as co-chair of Governor O’Malley’s Public Safety Transition Work Group and co-chair of Attorney General Douglas F. Gansler’s Public Safety Transition Team.

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