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**Press Contact:** Brenda Madden Kimberlin, (314) 496-1799

## **Ed Martin to Take On Washington, Announces Campaign for Congress**

***Ed Martin: "I hear you. I stand with you. Together, we can fight for those things that we know are worth fighting for."***

(ST. LOUIS, MO) Sept. 30, 2009 – After nearly three months and dozens of visits with citizens in homes, coffee shops, church basements, and small businesses, **Ed Martin tonight announced that he is running for Congress to serve Missouri's 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District**, whose citizens live in south St. Louis, parts of west and south St. Louis County, and all of Jefferson and Ste. Genevieve counties.

Martin declared his candidacy **Wednesday night** to a cheering crowd outside McArthur's Bakery in south St. Louis, where supporters gathered for a rally hosted by owners Dave and Randy McArthur. The district is currently represented by Congressman Russ Carnahan (D), who is expected to seek a fourth term in November, 2010.

"I have heard the people of this district and know that we feel ignored and discounted by the powers-that-be in Washington, D.C.," Martin told the crowd. "Now it's time for us to stand shoulder to shoulder and take on Washington -- and make clear to them this simple fact from here in the heartland: some things are worth fighting for."

Immediately before tonight's announcement, Martin spent the afternoon knocking on doors and visiting with voters in Jefferson County. After tonight's announcement, Ed Martin will begin a three day roll-out of his campaign throughout the district. On Thursday (Oct. 1), he'll spend the day in St. Louis City and County. On Friday (Oct. 2), he'll talk to voters in Jefferson County, and on Saturday (Oct. 3), Martin will visit Ste. Genevieve County.

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In each part of the district, Martin will meet with religious, business and school leaders, as well as voters, to discuss how we can take on Washington, D.C.

“The Third Congressional District is a great district – with a diversity of families, businesses, schools, and histories” said Ed Martin. “I plan to visit every corner of this district to talk with voters who know that Washington, D.C. and the district’s current congressman do not care to visit or understand what these Missourians are going through and what they care about.”

Martin formed an exploratory committee in July after people from across the district encouraged him to run against Carnahan. Dave McArthur was one of the first to ask Ed to run after Carnahan voted for the controversial “Cap-and-Trade” national energy tax, which McArthur has publicly stated would force his and other Missouri businesses to shut down. After trying and failing to get in touch with Carnahan to discuss the bill this summer, McArthur posted a message on his store’s electronic marquee stating, “Russ Carnahan voted to close us and other small businesses.” The sign has received national attention.

“We need someone who will stand up and fight for us in Washington, and not just follow blindly behind Speaker Nancy Pelosi and the national Democrats,” said McArthur. “Ed Martin has a lifelong record of standing up for what’s right - from his work on SaveAB.com, to his time at the Election board and other grassroots efforts. We need Ed in Congress and I’m doing everything I can to gather support – from fellow business owners, colleagues, friends and family – for Ed.”

Martin’s meetings in the 3<sup>rd</sup> District over the past few months, billed as “Ask Ed Anything” gatherings, have given Martin a clear view of what voters want and don’t want from Washington, D.C. “When Washington and its representatives voted to tax energy, to bailout Chrysler and then allow jobs to move to Mexico, and to host embarrassing and incomplete Town Hall Meetings about health care this summer, citizens in this district knew they were not being heard by their elected leaders in Washington, D.C.,” said Martin. “We deserve better than this – we deserve to have our voices heard and to stand up and fight for good jobs, better schools, sensible and affordable health care solutions, and a government that lives within its financial means.”

Ed Martin has served in both the private and public sector. From 2006 to 2008, he served the state of Missouri as chief of staff to former Governor Matt Blunt. Prior to that, he served three years as chairman of the St. Louis Board of Election Commissioners.

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As chief of staff, Martin was instrumental in helping to pass a major tax cut for seniors, increasing and expanding education funding, and decreasing the size of government. Martin also headed the leadership team that designed and implemented the Missouri Accountability Portal, an Internet search engine that tracks state government spending in order to increase transparency and better identify and eliminate government waste and abuse. -

In 2007, Ed was appointed to the Missouri State Parks Advisory Board, of which he remains an active member. In 2008, he founded **SaveAB.com** and led an 85,000 citizen-strong, grassroots effort to stop the sale of Anheuser-Busch to a foreign corporation. Ed focused this effort on the real prospect – that has sadly come to pass – of American jobs being cut and slashed by the new owners racing to pay off their debt from the purchase.

Randy McArthur, CEO and President of McArthur's Bakery, will serve as the campaign's treasurer. Randy, an active community leader and job creator, was recently appointed to serve on the Missouri Community Service Commission by Governor Jay Nixon.

For more information about Ed's background and the campaign, visit **EdMartinforCongress.com**.

**Paid for by Ed Martin for Congress  
Randy McArthur, Treasurer**