From: Independence Hall Foundation <getsmarty@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 1, 2017 10:07 AM
To: Haley, Nikki
Subject: Group Names 2016 Legislator of the Year

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December 31, 2016

Dear **Members** and **Friends**,

We trust that all of you are enjoying the **Christmas and Hanukkah** holiday season.

With 2017 fast approaching, we would like to share with you the Foundation's selection for **2016 Legislature of the Year**--**New Jersey Congressman Scott Garrett** (see press release below).

We hope to formally present Congressman Garrett with the award at an upcoming event.

In the meantime, **we wish all of you a happy, healthy, and blessed New Year!**

On behalf of the **Foundation Board**,
Don Adams

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For Immediate Release

Conservative Group Names Congressman Scott Garrett
2016 Legislator of the Year

Rep. Garrett honors three students during a Model Congress he hosted at Ridgewood High School, Bergen County, NJ, May 31, 2014.

Philadelphia, PA (December 30, 2016) -- The conservative Independence Hall Foundation has chosen Congressman Scott Garrett (NJ-5) as its 2016 Frederick Muhlenberg Legislator of the year.

The Award is named in honor of Pennsylvania Congressman Frederick Muhlenberg, the first Speaker of the US House of Representatives and is awarded annually to a legislator from the tri-state region.

Congressman Muhlenberg, born January 1, 1750 in Trappe, Montgomery County, PA, served in the Continental Congress and the Pennsylvania House of Representatives before representing the Keystone State's At-Large and 2nd Congressional Districts from 1789-1797. As House Speaker, Congressman Muhlenberg had the distinct honor of being the first signer of the Bill of Rights.

Previous Foundation Legislator of the Year award recipients are Congressman Mike Fitzpatrick (PA-8), 2015; Congressman Jim Gerlach (PA-6), 2014; and PA State Representative Steve Barrar, 2013.

"This year's recipient, Congressman Scott Garrett, a staunch defender of religious liberty and the Bill of Rights, was a natural choice for this award," said Foundation spokeswoman, Teri Adams.

"A consistent conservative over the years, outgoing Congressman Garrett, who represents a portion of Northern New Jersey, has a lifetime rating of 99.3 from the American Conservative Union.

"A founder of the House Constitution Caucus and the House Freedom Caucus, Congressman Garrett is also a member of the Republican Liberty Caucus," said Ms. Adams.

"While serving on the House Budget Committee, the Congressman fought for accuracy in government accounting by introducing the Budgetary and Accounting Transparency Act of 2014.

"Among a myriad of other concerns, the Congressman also fought against government earmarks and for the First Amendment Defense Act. In 2007, he sponsored legislation supporting United Nations Membership for the island of Taiwan."

Born in Englewood, NJ, Congressman Garrett spent most of his life in the Garden State--serving in the New Jersey State Assembly from 1992-2003. The Congressman received a BA in Political Science from Montclair State College and a JD from Rutgers School of Law, Camden.

He and his wife, Mary Ellen, have two adult daughters.

# # #

The Independence Hall Foundation, founded in 2013, is one of the largest conservative non-profit, grass roots organizations in the tri-state (DE, NJ, and PA) region. Its primary mission is to promote the principles and values enshrined in the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, and the Bill of Rights.

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