

Eric Schmitt 15th Senate District Capitol Building, Room 334 Jefferson City, MO 65101

For Immediate Release: July 16, 2010

Contact: (573) 751-2853

Senator Eric Schmitt 'Stands with Stan'

Members of Legislature Sign on to Letter Supporting Stan Musial for Presidential Medal of Freedom

JEFFERSON CITY – Senator Eric Schmitt, R-Glendale, today sent a letter encouraging President Barack Obama to award Stan Musial, former Cardinals player and community activist, with the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Ninety-seven legislators from both sides of the aisle from the House and Senate signed on to the letter in support.

The Presidential Medal of Freedom is America's highest civilian honor. The medal is awarded to Americans who make "an especially meritorious contribution to the security or national interests of the United States or to world peace or to cultural or other significant public or private endeavors." Other historical baseball players including Joe DiMaggio and Ted Williams have been awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

In the letter, Sen. Schmitt and his colleagues request that Stan Musial be recognized for his accomplishments in both the athletic and civic realms. Musial contributed his time, money, and name to charitable and community causes throughout the St. Louis area, the state, and the nation. He is a naval veteran of World War II, served as chairman of President Lyndon Johnson's Presidents' Council on Physical Fitness, and served as an unofficial emissary to Poland.

"For all that Stan has done for baseball, for our community, and for the nation, my fellow legislators and I think that receiving this recognition would only be appropriate," said Sen. Schmitt. "Stan Musial is a national treasure, and we want to make sure that his efforts on and off the field are publically and nationally appreciated."