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**Seals Commemorates 5 Year Anniversary of “Mission Accomplished”**  
*While Kirk has Stood with President Bush, Seals Pledges to Stand For Accountability*

DEERFIELD—Today, Democratic Congressional Candidate Dan Seals marked the 5 year anniversary of “Mission Accomplished.” While Mark Kirk has consistently sided with the Bush administration—from helping to craft the language to go to war, to rubberstamping the administration’s failed agenda in Iraq every step of the way—Seals pledged to fight to change course in Iraq and bring our troops home.

“Five years after President Bush declared ‘Mission Accomplished’ in Iraq, thousands of lives have been lost, hundreds of billions of dollars have been spent, and our military readiness has been weakened,” Seals said. “While our troops have accomplished everything we have asked of them and more, the Bush administration has failed to accomplish their most basic goals—reducing the threat of global terrorism and making our country safer. Five years after ‘Mission Accomplished,’ there is no end in sight. We need to change course in Iraq.”

While Seals has been outspoken in his support for a timetable for withdrawal, Kirk has voted 8 times in the last year alone against withdrawing our troops from Iraq, rubberstamped nearly \$600 billion in funding for the war, and failed to demand the accountability from the Bush administration that the residents of the 10<sup>th</sup> district deserve. As the Chicago Tribune reported in May 2007, when Kirk visited the White House to discuss the war with President Bush, he used the forum to discuss the war’s negative effect on his re-election chances, rather than asking the tough questions of the President.

“When President Bush has needed an ally on the war in Iraq, Mark Kirk has been right by his side,” Seals said. “It’s time we elect leaders with the courage and independence to stand up for what is right and demand accountability for the American people. In Congress, I will fight to bring the change in course we need on the war in Iraq.”

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