



**East Hampshire
Conservatives**

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NEWS RELEASE

David Cameron marks Michael Mates' retirement from Parliament

8 February 2010

Release time: immediate

The Leader of the Conservative Party and Leader of the Opposition, David Cameron MP, today attended an event on Friday 5 February 2010 to mark the retirement of Michael Mates as the MP for East Hampshire.

Speaking at the Tithe Barn, near Petersfield, David Cameron said:

“Michael Mates’ record can be summed up in two words: public service. Thirty-six years in Parliament following immediately on 20 years in the Army is a tremendous record. He will be much missed”.

Michael Mates replied:

“It is an honour and a privilege to represent this beautiful constituency in the House of Commons but when you reach the stage where the Leader of the Party is younger than most of your children, it is time to retire!

“I am looking forward to new challenges wherever they may arise but I shall miss the chance I have had over the years to influence policy and events, and to help people in their daily lives rather more than the cut and thrust of debate in the chamber.

“Politics and politicians are not very popular at the moment but I have no doubt that, given the chance, David – ably supported by Damian Hinds – will help to shape a new politics in this country to take Britain out of recession and bring together our sometimes divided and unhappy society.

“There is a lot to do, but I have every confidence that they will do their best – as I have done mine – for the people of this country and our constituency”.

Damian Hinds said:

“This has been such a wonderful occasion, with David Cameron’s visit a fitting way to mark Michael’s retirement and to celebrate his service to the people of East Hampshire over 36

years. Michael is a great role model for anyone seeking to enter politics, in his tireless dedication to working on behalf of constituents”.

ENDS

Notes to editors:

- 1 The event at the Tith Barn, Ditcham near Petersfield, was attended by 300 people from all over Hampshire.
- 2 For media inquiries please call Damian Hinds