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**Contact: Eva Malecki, AOC Communications Officer
(202) 228-1793**

**Tom Fontana, CVC Communications Director
(202) 593-1833**

**CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER WELCOMES FOUR-MILLIONTH
VISITOR**

WASHINGTON – Architect of the Capitol Stephen T. Ayers, AIA, LEED AP, announced today that on Wednesday, August 4, 2010, the Capitol Visitor Center welcomed its four-millionth visitor.

“When we opened the doors to the Capitol Visitor Center, I noted that visitors now have a respectful and dignified way to come to their Capitol Building, and I invited everyone to come and explore all that the Visitor Center and the U.S. Capitol have to offer,” said Ayers. “I’m thrilled that, as of this week, four million people took me up on my offer. We couldn’t be prouder to provide these millions of guests with the wonderful amenities and educational experiences in the Visitor Center on behalf of the Congress.”

At nearly 580,000 square feet, the Capitol Visitor Center is the largest addition to the U.S. Capitol in its 217-year history, and was designed to provide numerous educational opportunities and amenities to visitors. It opened to the public on December 2, 2008, and it features two large orientation theatres and an Exhibition Hall that houses rarely-seen documents and artifacts about the Congress and the Capitol Building.

To request a free tour of the U.S. Capitol, you may call your Representative’s or Senators’ office. Visit www.House.gov or www.Senate.gov to contact your elected official. Reservations also may be made by visiting www.visitthecapitol.gov. A limited number of same-day passes also are available at the Information Desks on the lower level of the Capitol Visitor Center.

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