

McCain formally announces for president

by UPI

ARLINGTON, Va. - U.S. Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., Wednesday formally announced in Arlington, Va., he is a candidate for president of the United States in 2008.

McCain, who has informally acknowledged for months that he is running for the Republican presidential nomination, said political differences will be "sharpened and exaggerated" during the campaign. However, he told supporters who gathered for his announcement he hoped to avoid what he called small-minded politics.

"We have common purposes and common challenges, and we live in momentous times," he said. "This election should be about big things, not small ones."

McCain conceded that the war in Iraq "has not gone well," and said the United States must do a better job of preparing for terrorist attacks or natural disasters.

He called for a re-evaluation of the U.S. military structure and mission, and said the United States must strengthen alliances and build support abroad.

"We must preserve our moral credibility, and remember that our security and the global progress of our ideals are inextricably linked," McCain said.

He said he would campaign for reform of Social Security, Medicare and the tax code.

Copyright © 2007, by United Press International. All Rights Reserved.

McCain formally announces for president by UPI