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For Immediate Release

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Greensburg, PA - Congressman John Murtha today visited a Greensburg-based company that was the first in the nation to develop a home-based, real-time cardiac surveillance system. The system saves lives and lowers healthcare costs, while bringing cardiac care to the rural areas of Westmoreland County and around the country.

"It's reassuring to know that we have a state-of-the-art cardiac facility available to citizens in our rural communities," Murtha said. "Cardiac Telecom has a proven history of providing real-time monitoring and applying technology that saves lives. We're fortunate to have this level of expertise in the 12th District."

Cardiac Telecom currently employs 54 people in Greensburg and is poised for additional growth, according to Lee Ehrlichman, president and CEO of the company.

In 2003, Murtha interceded with the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on the company's behalf when CMS moved to reduce significantly the reimbursement for cardiac care services, which would have impacted the company's viability.

"We are privileged to have the technology and proficiency that supports the healthcare initiatives sponsored by Congressman Murtha," Ehrlichman said. "This technology allows lower cost treatment alternatives while maintaining high levels of care and bringing this level of care to rural communities across America. We have been especially effective in helping the pediatric cardiac patient population with this technology."

Cardiac Telecom has acquired the assets of a Florida company and consolidated all of its cardiac monitoring functions at its Greensburg facility. A five-fold increase in revenues has made the company more profitable and practical, Ehrlichman said.