

August 16, 2006 Murtha Honored with Outstanding Service Award

For Immediate Release

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Johnstown, PA - Congressman John P. Murtha will be presented with the Outstanding Service Award by the Stonycreek-Conemaugh River Improvement Project and Westsylvania Heritage Corporation on August 19, 2006 at the Johnstown Riverfest for his support and contributions to the conservation of natural and cultural resources in the 12th Congressional District.

Stonycreek-Conemaugh River Improvement Project and Westsylvania Heritage Corporation wanted to thank the Congressman for his support of their efforts in his district. Because Congressman Murtha championed the cause of environmental initiatives in the 12th Congressional District, these organizations were able to implement projects that cleaned up and reinvigorated the Stonycreek River, which had been polluted by years of abandoned mine drainage. The Johnstown Riverfest is a celebration of that work and a reminder that there is still more work to be done.

Projects Congressman Murtha has supported include: the Oven Run and other mine-drainage treatment projects that were instrumental in improving the water quality and returning fish and other aquatic life to previously dead sections of the Stonycreek River; Natural Biodiversity, which seeks to control invasive and destructive plants; environmental education efforts at St. Vincent College; rails-to-trails projects such as the Ghost Town Trail and Path of the Flood Trail, which provide outdoor recreation and preserve green space that helps to protect streams; Kiski Basin Initiatives that have improved the environment in the broader watershed that includes Johnstown; and historic and cultural preservation projects, such as the Johnstown Heritage Discovery Center, Johnstown Flood National Memorial and Staple Bend Tunnel.

The Johnstown Riverfest is a celebration of our rivers' revival and a day of fun for the whole family with music, activities, and educational information about our waterways. For more information, contact David Sewak or Monica Shedlock at (814) 532-5049.

Believing that great places to live are great places to visit, the Westsylvania Heritage Corporation focuses communities on heritage conservation strategies for the sustainable use of their natural and cultural resources. Offices are located at 105 Zee Plaza, Hollidaysburg, Pa. and 430 Main St., Johnstown, Pa.

For general information about the Westsylvania Heritage Corporation, visit the Web site at www.westsylvania.com .