

September 11, 2006 Murtha statement on 5th anniversary of 9/11

For Immediate Release

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Washington D.C. - U.S. Rep. John Murtha released the following statement on the fifth anniversary of September 11, 2001.

"At the fifth year anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, it is now more important than ever to remember those we lost in the attacks and those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country. Right here in Southwestern Pennsylvania, the tragedy and heroism of that day were felt when Flight 93 crashed in rural Somerset County. The people on Flight 93 were courageous and heroic in giving their lives to bring down the airplane before it could reach its intended target in our Nation's capital. Hundreds if not thousands of additional lives would have been lost, and our government would have been disrupted if the attack had been carried out as planned."

Because this particular event occurred in Congressman Murtha's district, he has taken an active role in supporting our nation's ongoing efforts to make us safer from terrorism. Congressman Murtha has also been instrumental in obtaining funding and drafting legislation for the Flight 93 Memorial. A brief list of these efforts includes:

* 2001: Championed the "Counter-Terrorism and Defense Against Weapons of Mass Destruction" section of the Defense appropriation which increased the funding for national security programs aimed specifically at the terrorist threat from three percent to over 29 percent. The legislation also included \$1 million to provide security at the Flight 93 crash site over two years.

* 2002: Introduced legislation to designate the Flight 93 crash site as a National Memorial

* 2003: Obtained \$300,000 for the Flight 93 Memorial and worked with PBS Coals to encourage their donation of 29 acres around the crash site to permanently protect this hallowed ground.

* 2004: Obtained \$298,000 for the planning of the Flight 93 Memorial

* 2005: Obtained \$806,000 for the Flight 93 Memorial/National Park Service Construction and another \$250,000 for Security Costs for the Memorial site for Somerset County. Introduced legislation with Congressman Bill Shuster to commemorate the heroes of Flight 93 with a memorial in the U.S. Capitol. Furthermore, in 2005, the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee proposed to kill the funding for the Flight 93 Memorial. Congressman Murtha, however, convinced the committee to not only reinstate funding, but to provide \$12.5 million as the federal share for the project over several years with an equal match by other memorial fundraising.

* 2006: Obtained \$1 million for the Flight 93 Memorial Planning

