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For Immediate Release

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Greensburg, PA - Congressman John Murtha was honored with the Deputy Sheriffs' Association of Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Award on Saturday, Sept. 9 at the Thomas J. McGinley Annual dinner.

The congressman was chosen to receive this award because of his dedication to law enforcement programs and personnel throughout the state and around the country.

Among other things, Murtha has done the following for law enforcement:

- * Supported the COPS (Community Oriented Police Services) grant program on a federal level
- * Has championed homeland security initiatives to support regional priorities
- * Introduced legislation for standardized training for law-enforcement personnel
- * Obtained \$5 million in special funding for counties in the 12th District for priorities such as command centers, communications systems that enable various emergency responders to communicate directly and other equipment
- * Obtained \$1.5 million in special funding for sheriff's offices and police departments in the 12th District for small grants for equipment and training.
- * Co-sponsored HR 218 - the right for retired police officers to carry a firearm across state lines

The Deputy Sheriffs' Association of PA serves and protects the courts and citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by promoting professionalism through training with honor, integrity and conviction. The organization has been pursuing parity with other law enforcement agencies through legislation and camaraderie since 1975.