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For Immediate Release

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Champion, PA - The local United Mine Workers Association (UMWA) and the AFL-CIO will honor U.S. Rep. John P. Murtha with the 2nd Annual Johnny Popp Labor Achievement Award tonight at Seven Springs Resort.

The first annual award was presented to Johnny Popp himself in 2005 for his outstanding dedication to the labor movement. Recipients are chosen by their lifetime commitment to the labor movement personified by people like Johnny Popp.

"Johnny Popp embodied all that is good about organized labor. He lived by the principle: An injury to one is an injury to all," said Clemmy Allen, Special Coordinator to UMWA President Cecil E. Roberts.

UMWA International Vice-President Ed Yankovich stated, "I can't think of anyone more deserving to receive the Johnny Popp award, than our Congressman, Jack Murtha. He has made it a priority to ensure working men and women have a voice in Washington, DC."

Over the years, Murtha has worked hard to support the coal industry and the UMWA. As a senior member of the appropriations committee, he played a key role in the passage of the 1992 Coal Act to secure health benefits to miners and their families and has continued to use his position to ensure the Combined Benefit Fund remains solvent. He has secured millions for miners' job training for the UMWA Career Centers.

He has secured funding for clean coal technology programs to help keep Pennsylvania coal competitive. He has funded research on coal-based jet fuel to help make coal a key alternative energy solution for our military. He's also fought to keep mine safety standards from being weakened, such as when he actively fought the current administration's attempts to weaken dust regulations.

Murtha has always fought for workers. He insists on strict adherence to prevailing wage (Davis-Bacon) rules so building and trades unions can compete on construction projects. He's also funded many major projects that employ our building and trades unions, including the reconstruction of the locks and dams on the region's rivers.

In addition, he fights for laws to protect our workers, including workplace right-to-know, job-safety and ergonomics standards. To further protect workers from health

threats on the job, he helped to create the National Environmental Education and Training Center at IUP to train workers involved with hazardous materials.

Murtha supports a higher minimum wage and works to protect the benefits our workers earn. He opposed the North American Free Trade Agreement, similar agreements, and tax laws that encourage companies to move production out of the United States. He fights for strong fair trade laws that prevent subsidized foreign imports from damaging our domestic manufacturing industry, particularly steel.

"In the past several years, Congress and the administration have done far too little to protect our workers and stop the flow of good-paying jobs overseas," Murtha said. "Labor has always led the fight to protect our jobs and our workers, and that's why I'm so proud to receive the Johnny Popp Award."