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Washington D.C. - Congressman John P. Murtha was honored today with the Hats off Award by the Building and Construction Trades Department of the AFL-CIO.

"This award is presented to extraordinary people who stand up for the workman," said Edward Sullivan, President of the Building and Construction Trades Department AFL-CIO.

The Building and Construction Trades Department established the Hats Off Award in 2002 to honor individuals who have made a significant and positive difference for union trades men and women and for the construction industry.

Several years ago Murtha helped establish the highly successful Helmets to Hardhats national program that connects local veterans with good paying jobs in the construction industry.

"I'm honored to receive this prestigious award from a group that has been the backbone of our communities, and has been actively involved in making a difference in the lives of working families," stated Murtha while addressing the group's legislative conference in Washington, D.C.

The award portrays a building trades worker tipping his hard hat to the recipient.