

## Personal Story of John P. Murtha

John Patrick Murtha was born June 17, 1932 in New Martinsville, West Virginia. His family moved to Mount Pleasant, Pennsylvania, where he delivered newspapers and worked in a gas station before graduating from Ramsay High School in 1950.

He left college in 1952 out of a sense of duty to his country and joined the U.S. Marine Corp. After leaving active duty and joining the reserves, he ran a small business in Johnstown while starting a family and attending the University of Pittsburgh on the GI bill. He graduated from Pitt in 1962 with a degree in economics and did graduate work in economics and political science at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He volunteered to serve in Vietnam from 1966-1967 where he received the Bronze Star with Combat "V", two Purple Hearts and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry.

He served in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives from 1969 to 1974. He was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1974, the first Vietnam War combat Veteran elected to Congress.

He is the author of "From Vietnam to 9/11: On the Front Lines of National Security," the story of his involvement with international affairs and the lessons he learned from those experiences.

He and his wife Joyce celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 10, 2005. The Murthas reside in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, where they raised their three children - Donna and twins John and Patrick. They have three grandchildren - Jack, Anne and Clayton.