

December 10, 2008 - Murtha Announces Washington/Westmoreland Fire Department Grants

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Congressman John P. Murtha announced today that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has released Assistance to Firefighters Grants to local volunteer fire departments.

"Nearly 75 percent of our nation's 35,000 local fire agencies are volunteer," commented Murtha. "Their jobs are made more difficult by shrinking budgets that don't have the flexibility for funding equipment, training or new vehicles. These grants help our firefighters and EMS organizations respond safely and efficiently, so that they can do a better job protecting our communities."

These competitive grants are provided to fire departments and nonaffiliated EMS. Since 2004, Assistance to Firefighters Grants has provided a total of almost \$2.75 billion to first-responder organizations to purchase response equipment, personal protective equipment, and vehicles. These grants help first responders' ability to protect the health and safety of the public and that of first-responder personnel.

Washington County

Valley Inn Volunteer Fire Department and Safety)	\$6,228	(Operations
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Westmoreland County

Latrobe Volunteer Fire Department Company and Safety)	\$38,000	(Operations
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New Florence Volunteer Fire Company and Safety)	\$76,000	(Operations
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Sewickley Township Volunteer Fire Company and Safety)	\$37,763	(Operations
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