

January 5, 2009 - Murtha Announces Fire Grant for Blue Knob Volunteer Fire Department

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Congressman John P. Murtha announced today that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has released a \$27,111 Assistance to Firefighters Grant to Blue Knob Volunteer Fire Department in Portage.

"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 organizations to enhance first responders' ability to protect the health and safety of the public and that of first-responder personnel.

Cambria
County

Blue
Knob Volunteer Fire Department (Operations
and Safety) \$27,111

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