

## May 26, 2006 Murtha announces appointments to nation's military academies

For Immediate Release

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Johnstown, PA - U.S. Rep. John Murtha today announced that 11 of his nominees to the nation's military academies have accepted appointments.

"Every year it's an honor for me to help outstanding young people enter the military academies because I know they're among the nation's best and brightest," Murtha said. "I'm proud of their willingness to serve America."

Those who have accepted appointments are:

### U.S. Air Force Academy

- o Frederick Diederich, son of Fred and Toni Diederich, Fayette City
- o Mark Douglass, son of Richard and Rosemarie Douglass, Vandergrift

### U.S. Naval Academy

- o Auden Healey, daughter of Lynn Healey of Indiana and William Healey of Washington, D.C.
- o Shannon Yingling, daughter of Kenneth and Susan Yingling, and Frank Rizzo, son of Anthony and Lynda Rizzo, all of Johnstown.
- o William Smith, son of Steven and Marlinda Smith, and Michael Kennedy, son of Michael and Mary Beth Kennedy, all of Indiana
- o Christopher Polhemus, son of Christopher and Kathy Polhemus, Carmichaels

### U.S. Military Academy

- o Bradley Mirkovich, son of David and Linda Mirkovich, Waynesburg
  
- o Joshua Szczur, son of Joseph and Lisa Szczur, Johnstown

U.S. Merchant Marine Academy

\* Justin Trybus, son of Raymond and Barbara Trybus, Cresson

Diederich is a graduate of Frazier High School in Perryopolis, where he was a member of the marching, pep, concert and jazz bands; the Academic League; and the Interact and Ski clubs. He also was on the baseball and football teams and was in the gifted program.

Douglass is a graduate of Air Academy High School at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado, where he was on the National Honor Society and the swimming team. He has a black belt in karate.

Healey is a graduate of Indiana Area High School, where she was a student council representative and a member of the National Honor Society and the Key Club. She also participated in the school musical, lettered in soccer and was on the track and field, winter track, and swim teams.

Two of the appointees, Yingling and Rizzo, are graduates of Bishop McCort High School.

Yingling was president of the junior class and Mu Alpha Theta. She also was on the student council, a class officer for the Rosary Club, and a member of the National Honor Society, the Liturgy Committee, Students Against Drunk Driving, and the Key, Pep and Yearbook clubs. She lettered in basketball, cross country, and track and field.

Rizzo was a member of the Key, Yearbook, Drama and Model United Nations clubs, and was on the math and reading teams. He also was an officer in SADD and was a member of the basketball, football, and track and field teams.

Smith and Kennedy both are graduates of Indiana Area High School.

Smith was a member of the Key Club and the baseball team. He lettered in golf. Kennedy was on the Key Club executive board and a member of the National Honor Society and the Student Government Association. He is a three-year letterman in hockey and was a Pennsylvania Interscholastic Hockey League all-star.

At Carmichaels Area High School, Polhemus was the yearbook photographer, president of the Ski Club and a member of the National Honor Society, the Strategic Planning Committee, and the marching and concert bands. He lettered in football and is an Eagle Scout.

Mirkovich was a member of the National Honor Society, the French Club and the marching, concert, African and salsa bands at Waynesburg Central High School. He lettered in cross country and track, and was on the basketball and soccer teams.

Szczur is a graduate of Richland High School, where he was a student council representative and a member of the Junior Class Executive Board and the French and Key clubs. He lettered in golf and baseball and was on the cross country and basketball teams.

Trybus was in the Chess Club and Voice for Life at Bishop Guilfoyle High School in Altoona. He lettered in football.