

one has it when they take the oath of office for the first time. It has to be earned.

Jack Murtha was no nonsense. Like President Truman, he didn't suffer fools. You knew where he stood, and if you were lucky, you had him in your corner. He was a fighter, for his country and for the people of Pennsylvania.

Jack Murtha was a leader. He loved our country. He loved the men and women of the Armed Forces, and especially the United States Marine Corps, of which he wore the uniform and served with great distinction.

He also loved the Congress, and understood its indispensable role as a co-equal branch of our federal government. Anyone watching the House floor could see his leadership in action, as he held court with other members in the back corner. A master legislator, he built relationships, mentored other members, and conducted the business that runs this institution and plays a big part in running this country.

With the passing of Jack Murtha, we have lost one of the giants of the House. I salute his dedicated service to our country—as a Marine, as a businessman and community leader, and as a Member of Congress.

Jack Murtha will be deeply missed. My condolences go to his wife Joyce, his children Donna, Pat, and John, and also to the people of Pennsylvania he cared about so much and represented so well.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, first, let me thank Congressman KANJORSKI for reserving this Special Order today to honor the life, legacy and service of our friend and colleague John Murtha.

Our Nation has lost a gifted lawmaker, a devoted public servant and a true patriot. In 1974, Jack became the first Vietnam War combat veteran elected to Congress. His spirit emboldened and his resolve hardened by his service on the battlefield, he became a tireless advocate for the people of Pennsylvania and all Americans.

We all know so well that he never lost his courage and his dedication to our Nation's security, our troops, or their families. Even after his election, he continued to serve in the Marine Corps Reserves until 1990 as a Colonel, receiving the Navy's Distinguished Service Medal.

From my first day here, Jack was always a mentor and a friend. When I was first appointed as a Cardinal on the Appropriations Committee, Jack was right there with sage advice and a helping hand. His no-nonsense exterior contained a fiery soul and fierce intelligence the equal of which this body has seldom known. Our Nation is surely better for his service to it and a grateful country grieves its loss.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Joyce, their children, and extended family during this time.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, Jack Murtha and I served together in this institution for over 30 years. We disagreed at times over policy and politics, but I am proud to say that Jack was my friend.

Throughout my time in Congress, I have never seen a more valiant defender of the men and women of our armed forces than Jack, nor a more steadfast advocate for our country's unequalled national defense.

Years ago, when I was convinced that we should push forward quickly with development

of the Predator UAV, Jack listened to my reasons and helped me push through the funding that has produced one of our most valuable weapons in the War on Terror.

When I became chairman of the defense appropriations subcommittee, I counted on Jack Murtha to be a partner rather than an adversary when the welfare of our military was on the line. When we urged that the F-22 program be reined in to ensure it was thoroughly tested, Jack was by my side and helped win the day and make that a better airplane.

Just weeks ago, Jack and I traveled together to Afghanistan. We were under tight timelines that were influenced by the situation on the ground. Although the travel was hard and the schedule was arduous, Jack maintained the energy and dedication of a man half his age. His unwavering purpose was to learn as much as he could, gain as much insight from our commanders as possible, and see for himself the challenges our country faces in that region.

He was a true patriot, and his passing is a cause for great sadness. This Congress will be a much lesser place without him.

My wife Arlene and I offer our most sincere condolences to his family, and also to his second family—his Congressional staff and the Members and staff of the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a dear friend and colleague, loving father and grandfather, and a true American patriot, Rep. John Murtha.

John served proudly when called to action in the Vietnam War, and his valor was recognized with the Bronze Star, and not one—but two Purple Heart awards.

In all, John spent an astounding 37 years of his life in active and reserve duty service in the Marine Corps.

In 1974, John heeded another call to duty, and began a life of public service here in the House of Representatives.

John served his constituents in Western Pennsylvania for an impressive 19 terms.

In Congress, he was respected for his political prowess—and his tireless passion to support America's men and women serving in uniform.

John Murtha was a man who measured our nation's strength not only military might, but also in the well-being of our people; and I am proud to have served with him in this body.

The thoughts and prayers of my wife Barbara and I go out to Joyce and all of John's family during this difficult time.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Congressman John Murtha, who passed away on February 8th, 2010. Representative Murtha was an exemplary leader and an American patriot.

Born into an Irish-American family, John left college in 1952 to join the Marine Corps. Here he would begin his course in leadership, becoming a Marine Corps drill instructor. His military career not only led him to receive a degree from the University of Pittsburgh, but also placed him on the front lines of service in the Vietnam War. During this time, he was awarded the Bronze Star with Valor device, two Purple Hearts, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry.

In 1974 John was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and had an extraordinary 36 year career, obtaining the distinction of Pennsylvania's longest serving Congressman

two days before he passed. A fiercely independent-minded public servant, John strived for bipartisan solutions to our nation's struggles. He had no fear of partisan attacks and as the Chairman of the House Appropriations Defense Subcommittee he courageously spoke out against the Iraq War. His fearless calls for the withdrawal of American forces in Iraq, in the face of strong partisan confrontations, earned him the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award.

I thank John for his service to our nation. I extend my deepest sympathies to John's wife Joyce, his children Donna Sue, John, and Patrick, and his grandchildren in this difficult time. John was a tremendous public servant who exemplified the spirit of America. He will be greatly missed.

IN MEMORY OF JACK MURTHA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. HALVORSON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FARR. I live in Carmel, California, and when the phone rang and I heard that Jack Murtha had died, I couldn't believe it. I broke into tears. I just couldn't believe it. It was like when I heard my father had died. And what I did at that moment was I did the same thing when my dad died. I sat down and I wrote a letter to Jack Murtha. Here it is:

“Dear Jack, I can't believe you're gone. Gone from the Pennsylvania Corner, from your chair where we would all come to see you. Each checking in during floor sessions on your opinion on military issues and Pennsylvania politics. And we talked about our issues, about base closure progress, about programs that were working and programs that had problems. Always thanking you for your help. Thanking you for your earmarks. I'll never forget what you did with your earmark for breast cancer research, for child care centers at military bases, for military education. More than anything else, you were concerned about the welfare of our troops and especially their families.

“Remember when you got me to go to Walter Reed Hospital and Bethesda Naval Hospital to visit the war wounded and how we worked to get golf carts for disabled soldiers by insisting that each of the 177 golf courses operated by the services have carts for the disabled?

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“You always asked me, ‘How is that university that we got at Fort Ord doing?’ I thanked you for the help in getting the \$65 million to get it started. Jack, Cal State University Monterey Bay is doing really well, with ever-growing enrollment and faculty. You can be proud of your role you played in converting swords to ploughshares.

“You got really excited when I showed you what I had done to bring all the military missions in Monterey

County together to form Team Monterey, showing the brochure indicating that over \$1 billion was spent in Monterey County for the DOD efforts there. You were going to see if this team effort could be done for your district and for the State of Pennsylvania.

“Jack, you were quite the Zeus. Everyone came to you, loved you, loved your good nature, your loyalty, your friendship, your laugh, and your wisdom. Remember how you would bet on how long the debate would take on the Defense appropriations bills? You always won. I was shocked that the biggest appropriations account in the Federal Government could be enacted with the shortest debate. You laughed and said, ‘All the problems were worked out in committee, we don’t need floor debate.’ At first I thought it was a fluke. But over the years, I learned you made it so.

“Jack, thanks for coming out to the Monterey Peninsula to visit the Naval Postgraduate School and the Defense Language Institute. You were a good listener, and always insisted no PowerPoints, no BS, just the problems. No one in Congress cuts to the issue faster than you.

“I remember your delight in hearing from an IED specialist just back from Iraq who asked you, ‘Why don’t we figure out what makes cultures set these things off in the first place?’ You loved that thinking. Thanks again for allowing me to ride back to D.C. on Mil Air. We brought Paul Stockton along and had a wonderful discussion on Iraq and how we might exit. By the way, Jack, Paul is now the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense and Americas’ Security Affairs. I know how much you respected his insight.

“Thanks, Jack, for always asking me for copies of photos I took, not of you, but of your staff. I remember the photo of John Hugya when he was your district director taken with President Clinton. You insisted I give it to you for him. Remember the time you hung up on a President when he called you? You had guts.

“I remember going to your district and being in a meeting with the area economic development folks. You were giving them the Washington update. It was cold and wet, but full of people. I admired how devoted they were to you. And I took pictures, which you wanted to pass on to them. Seeing the countryside and the poverty of the area made me realize how lucky I was to represent my district. You really helped people in need. That is why you are loved in your district and here on the floor of the House of Representatives.

“The House Chamber has a lot of famous fixtures and paintings, statues, reliefs, but you are going to stand out as one of our greats. You showed your profile in courage in taking a nationally profiled lead against the war in Iraq that you originally supported. And you were attacked by everyone except the military. They knew that you knew it couldn’t be sustained.

“When they attacked you with big campaign expenditures to defeat you,

your friends responded without even being asked. The word was out Jack was in trouble, and we responded.

“Jack, you shouldn’t have died. It is a real shock, not only to you, your friends, and this institution, but to your beloved family. You and Joyce had such a special partnership.

“I loved accompanying you both on the Appropriations Committee CODEL to California’s National Parks, the joy you got in seeing how a former army base in San Francisco could be turned into the Golden Gate National Park, and even Alcatraz is now a tourist site. You loved being a tourist in San Francisco and Joyce was so appreciative of NANCY PELOSI’s hospitality long before she sought leadership roles.

“While the Democratic Caucus was visiting Nemacolin Resort in your state you encouraged me to visit the two Frank Lloyd Wright homes there. Joyce led the tour. She was a model host and a good friend to all. I can’t imagine her life without you, nor yours without her. This has to be as hard for your children as it was for me in losing my mom at an early age. Time heals—unfortunately it is going to take a long time.

“Congress will miss you as a great member and, more importantly, as a caring, sensitive friend. We will try to fill in, but the credibility will be lacking and the outcome less successful.

“Just know you made a difference, a big difference—out here on the Central Coast of California—you helped launch a new university, upgrade the Naval Postgraduate School, and provided the programs that let our students learn foreign languages faster and better.

“You were the Captain of our ship, and Oh Captain, you will be sorely missed!”

I’d like to include the letters from the Naval Postgraduate School and the Defense Manpower Data Center in Monterey in sympathy.

NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL,
Monterey, CA.

Congressman Murtha was a true servant to the public, a throwback with few peers matching his length of service to the U.S. House of Representatives. Service to his nation was perhaps a constant throughout his life—not only is he one of our nation’s longest serving representatives, he was also a retired Marine Corps colonel, joining the service in 1952 during the Korean War out of a deep sense of obligation to his country.

Congressman Murtha also served as Chairman of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee—and was the ranking Democrat on the committee for nearly two decades—which put him in a position to impact so many communities far beyond Pennsylvania’s 12th District.

That impact was felt here at the Naval Postgraduates School, where he was a friend to NPS. He believed in the value of graduate education for military officers and was consistently and particularly supportive of NPS over the years. Congressman Murtha recognized the value of the NPS MISSION in supporting our military forces and NPS unique contributions to national security.

LEONARD A. FERRARI,
Executive Vice President & Provost.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, HUMAN
RESOURCES ACTIVITY, DEFENSE
MANPOWER DATA CENTER,

Seaside, CA.

Chairman Murtha was a great American and a steadfast friend of the members of the Armed Forces and their families. He exemplified the best of our Nation’s values and was the iconic example of a patriot. As a

decorated veteran he identified closely with Service members and his tireless efforts to see that they were adequately compensated, well-trained, well-led and provided with the best equipment were legendary. As a direct result of his four decades of leadership in the Congress our ability to support and defend our Nation remains unsurpassed. His unwavering support for Defense organizations in the Monterey area was of enormous value to the Nation.

Every American owes him a great, great debt.

IN MEMORY OF JACK MURTHA

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues to sing the praises of a great man, Jack Murtha. Many of us had the honor of calling him colleague in this Chamber, and some of us here had the privilege of calling him friend. And when he was your friend, you had a true friend.

Last week, many of us traveled to Johnstown, Pennsylvania, to see Jack put to rest. It was wonderful to hear the stories of the thousands of people who showed up to pay their last respects to him in Johnstown, the people he knew so well, cared about so much, fought for in this Chamber. His family was gathered and surrounded by their loved ones and people. The former President of the United States, Bill Clinton, was there, the Secretary of Defense was there, the chairman of the National Security Council was there, representatives of the President’s cabinet, and planeloads of his colleagues who came from Washington or drove from home.

At that time we laughed and we cried, and we tried to understand why this had happened. Jack’s wife Joyce, who is very strong, said to me, “Jack would have wanted it this way. He went out at the top of his game.” Joyce is very strong. We went there to console, and we came back consoled by Jack’s strong family.

I told them in my remarks about Jack holding court in the Pennsylvania Corner in this Chamber. There isn’t another corner that I know of that has its own name and its own presiding officer. But Jack held court there, and Members from across the country and across the aisle came to visit him, to ask his blessing on their endeavors, and to just be encouraged, and sometimes supported by him. The cluster around him were Pennsylvanians and others, but he was never alone. He was a magnet, a personal magnet. People were drawn to him. He had this wonderful smile and cheerful, twinkling eyes.

To see him operate in the Appropriations Committee, many of us served there, was to see a master at work. But really to understand his character, it was more important to see him with our troops, whether it was just off the