

Hon. John P. Murtha  
U. S. House of Representatives  
Inducted 2008

U.S. Representative John P. Murtha dedicated his life to serving his country both in the military and in the halls of Congress. He had a long and distinguished 37-year career in the U.S. Marine Corps, retiring from the Marine Corps Reserve as a colonel in 1990. He was the first Vietnam War combat Veteran elected to Congress. He was re-elected to serve the people of the 12th Congressional District from 1974 to 2010. Congressman Murtha was highly respected for his first-hand knowledge of military and national security issues. He was a trusted adviser to presidents of both parties and is one of the most effective advocates for our national defense. Congressman Murtha worked hard to bring thousands of family-sustaining jobs to Western Pennsylvania.

Congressman Murtha has traveled around the world leading Congressional and Presidential fact-finding missions, meeting with foreign leaders, monitoring international elections and representing the United States Congress abroad.

Congressman Murtha's countless honors include the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award, the National Breast Cancer Coalition Leadership Award, and Pennsylvania's two highest peacetime honors, the Distinguished Service Medal and the Meritorious Service Medal.

Murtha joined the Marine Corps in 1952. He became a drill instructor at Parris Island and was selected for Officer Candidate School at Quantico, VA. He was later assigned to the Second Marine Division, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Murtha remained in the Marine Forces Reserve and ran a small business. Murtha left the Marines in 1955. He remained in the Reserves after his discharge from active duty until he volunteered for service in the Vietnam War, serving from 1966 to 1967, serving as a battalion staff officer receiving The Bronze Star with "V" device, The Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster, and The Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry. He retired from the Marine Corps Reserve as a Colonel in 1990, receiving the Navy Distinguished Service Medal.