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BLOG BRIEFING ROOM

Murtha to become longest serving Pa. House member

February 3, 2010

By Jordy Yager

The Chairman of the House Appropriations Defense subcommittee Rep. John Murtha (D-Penn.) on Saturday is set to become the longest serving Pennsylvanian in the House.

Murtha, who is still in intensive care at a Virginia hospital, has been in office for 36 years. The 77-year old lawmaker suffered complications after he underwent laparoscopic surgery to remove his gallbladder last week, according to spokesman Matt Mazonkey, who added that he is in stable condition.

Murtha was elected on February 5, 1974, after defeating his opponent Harry M. Fox (R) by 242 votes in a special election.

On Saturday Murtha will have served 13,150 days in the House, according to the Office of the House Historian. His tenure will break the record of former-Rep. Joseph McDade (R-Penn.).

Murtha has served on the House Appropriations Committee since he was appointed in 1975. He became Chairman of its Subcommittee on Defense Chairman for the 101st Congress in 1989.