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Marion Center Volunteer Fire Association Receives Critical Fire Grant

Washington, D.C. – **Congressman Bill Shuster** is pleased to announce that the Marion Center Volunteer Fire Association of Indiana County has been awarded a \$99,209 grant through the Department of Homeland Security’s Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant Program.

The fire company will use the grant; the Association’s first since 2008, to purchase its first thermal imaging camera, 24 new sets of turn-out gear and equipment necessary to keep the protective clothing clean and free of contamination. These are all critical improvements that could not have happened without receiving this grant.

“I congratulate the firefighters of the Marion Center V.F.A. for their successful grant application,” said Congressman Shuster. “This critical equipment could not have been purchased through fundraising alone and it points to the importance of the fire grant program.”

“Of particular note is the Association’s purchase of a thermal imaging camera,” Shuster added. “This is an important addition to the fire fighter’s arsenal, enabling first responders to see through smoke and darkness to find people trapped in buildings by their heat signatures. This new equipment will save lives and cut response times.”

“The time that would have been used to raise such funds can now be used toward training to further our capabilities. Our public should be proud to know that we are constantly on the lookout for new technology and tools to inevitably save lives,” said Assistant Chief Galen Moore.

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFGP) awards one-year grants directly to fire departments and rescue personnel to support the nation's first responders and the services they deliver. The Department of Homeland Security’s Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness (SLGCP) administers the program, in cooperation with the U.S. Fire Administration.

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