



Capitol Update

Official Report for Southwestern Pennsylvanians from Congressman Tim Murphy

Navy Ops Center Latest Addition to Region's Military Presence

Southwestern Pennsylvania kicked off "Navy Week" in June with the grand opening of the new Navy Operational Support Center on the grounds of the 911th Airlift Wing in Moon Township.

"This puts us in a great position where the Navy and Air Force can actively train together," said Rep. Murphy, who explained how the branches of the service are moving toward greater integration. Murphy has been working to secure a future for the NOSC in Pittsburgh since early 2012.

The NOSC facility will be the home for 12 full-time enlisted personnel, two civilian staff, and 254 reservists. The mission of NOSC Pittsburgh is "to ensure mobilization readiness of Navy Reserve personnel through administrative support and the facilitation of training while providing a local Navy presence in the greater Pittsburgh region." The

facility includes office space, drilling facilities, and all necessary amenities for training Navy reservists. The new NOSC replaces an older facility in North Versailles that was falling apart due to mine subsidence.

The NOSC strengthens the region's commitment to national security by joining the 911th Airlift Wing, 171st Air Refueling Wing, and the 316th Sustainment Command all surrounding the Pittsburgh International Airport. A new commissary and post-exchange will open across the street from the 911th later this summer.

Currently, seven Navy Reserve personnel from the NOSC Pittsburgh are deployed in strategic locations across the globe including Afghanistan, Guantanamo Bay, and in the Horn of Africa. Since 2012, NOSC Pittsburgh has mobilized 28 sailors.

EPA War on Coal hits home in SWPA

Rep. Tim Murphy met with coal miners from Greene and Washington Counties recently to provide an update on his Committee's investigation into why the EPA won't estimate the number of jobs destroyed by new agency regulations.



More regulations from the Environmental Protection Agency put coal-fueled power plants on the "endangered species" list.

Requirements for power plants to "capture and store" carbon dioxide emissions are effectively blocking new coal plants from being built and shutting down existing plants, including the Hatfield Ferry and Mitchell power stations in Southwestern Pennsylvania, because the advanced technology is not available.

This latest requirement, acknowledged as being impossible to achieve, comes on the heels of another set of rules aimed squarely at shutting down the use of coal in manufacturing and

electricity generation by levying higher up front costs. Department of Energy officials testified before Oversight Subcommittee Chairman Tim Murphy that the new rules will raise electric rates between 40 and 70%.

The impact of these regulations hits home here in Southwestern PA, where hundreds upon hundreds of workers are employed directly at power plants, in mining, or as part of the coal supply chain.

Coal is the most abundant and affordable fuel available in the United States. With more than 250 billion tons of coal reserves, America has more coal energy than the Mid East has oil reserves. Pennsylvania is the fourth largest pro-

ducer of coal in the country, but tonnage has fallen ten percent in the last five years as onerous EPA regulations have made coal more expensive, even though the United States has the most stringent emission requirements of any developed nation.

Rep. Murphy, who chairs the Energy and Commerce Oversight Subcommittee passed an amendment onto the Energy Consumers Relief Act (H.R. 1582) to require the EPA to get congressional authorization before implementing the new rules, blocking it from taking effect until Congress officially debated and weighed in on the matter. The bill is awaiting Senate action.

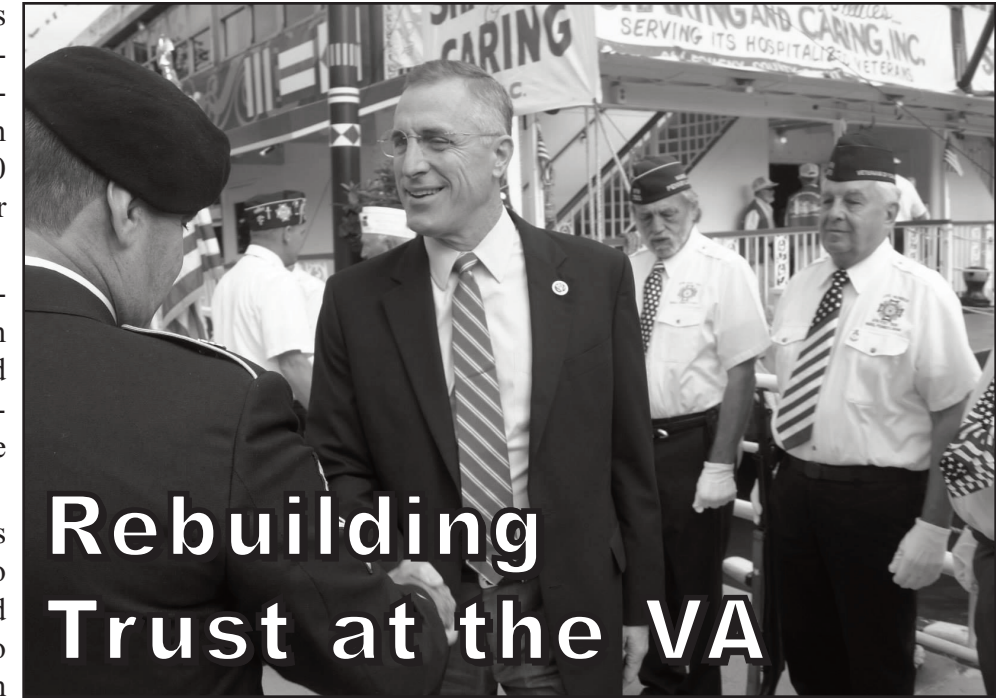
Find out more at Murphy.House.Gov.

As a nationwide report revealed 23 veterans died while on secret VA waiting lists, Congressmen Tim Murphy and Mike Doyle uncovered a similar list at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System (VAPHS) of almost 700 veterans, some of whom had been waiting for appointments since 2012.

The shocking discovery was part of an ongoing effort by House lawmakers to put an end to the bureaucratic malaise at the VA and enact new legislation to guarantee that veterans needing the best possible medical care are able to get it.

Rep. Murphy sponsored the Veterans Access to Care Act (H.R. 4810), requiring the VA to reimburse for non-VA medical care provided to any veteran who cannot get quick access to treatment or resides more than 40 miles from a VA facility. The legislation also requires an independent assessment of VA Healthcare System performance and bans all bonuses for VA employees. Soon after it was introduced, H.R. 4810 passed the House on an overwhelming margin.

Murphy is also urging the Administration to bring on board a new VA official that has executive-level experience administering and operating a large health center or medical network. He also called for establishing a program where VA facilities would partner with local medical centers of excellence. For example, a VA hospital could partner with another local hospital to avoid duplication, and review medical, sched-



At an event in Allegheny County with local veterans, Rep. Murphy discusses his ongoing efforts to improve medical care at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System and hold accountable those who've failed to do their jobs.

Rebuilding Trust at the VA

uling and administrative procedures. Finally, Murphy said the VA must end the practice of awarding large individual bonuses using metrics that invite 'cooking the books.'

Murphy's work to hold the VA accountable was highlighted recently on CNN by the network's chief Washington correspondent Jake Tapper, who broke the story on efforts by higher-ups at the VA to hide information about wait list times from Reps. Murphy and Doyle.

See Murphy.House.Gov to watch the video clip.

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Steel Caucus Chairman Tim Murphy explains to local steelworkers in Munhall how the Caucus is fighting to stop illegal dumping by South Korean manufacturers. Locally-made pipe is seen in the background.

With the backing of a whopping 155 Members of Congress, Steel Caucus Chairman Tim Murphy is leading a powerful bipartisan effort to force the White House to hold South Korea accountable for illegally dumping of oil and gas drilling pipe onto the American market.

Detailed in a letter sent to Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker, Chairman Murphy urged the Administration to reverse a February 2014 decision that permitted Korea to dump unfairly-traded “oil country tubular goods” (OCTG) in the US. The dumping has led to plant shut-downs, including the closure of the US Steel tubular plant in McKeesport.

The US market once stood as one of the few bright spots for the domestic steel industry. AS the Steel Caucus letter states, “the discovery and production of shale gas in the United States is a strategic benefit for both America’s economic and energy security. Yet as new domestic oil and natural gas resources fuel demand for steel products like OCTG, U.S. steel producers are being undercut by foreign competitors.”

Oil pipe accounts for approxi-

mately ten percent of domestic steel production and nearly 8,000 jobs. However, foreign OCTG has doubled since 2008. Steel pipe from Korea, which does not even have a domestic market for OCTG, has increased by 1,000% in the past four years.

The Steel Caucus began this battle against unfairly-traded imports of Korean steel in August 2013, when Murphy and the Caucus successfully pushed the International Trade Commission to open an investigation into Korean trade crimes. The Commerce Department is expected to rule this month on whether to stop the glut of Korean pipe and tube.

No Gas Tax Hike Necessary

The House of Representatives may soon vote on a bill to provide emergency funding to pay for ongoing federally-financed infrastructure projects. If the Trust Fund runs out of money in August as anticipated, construction projects like the I-70 reconstruction in Washington and Westmoreland Counties, the planned widening of route 50 in South Fayette, and the rehabilitation of the Squirrel Hill and Liberty Tunnels, may stop. Moreover, 700,000 people could be out of work nationally.

Some policy makers are suggesting an increase in the federal 18.4 cents per gallon gasoline tax. Rep. Tim Murphy said taxes are already too high, and unnecessary when a better solution exists. Murphy is the author of the Infrastructure Jobs and Energy Independence Act (H.R. 787), which would expedite safe expanded production of offshore energy resources and dedicate the new royalty revenues toward paying down the nation’s debt and rebuilding our crumbling roads, bridges, locks, and dams, which need \$2.2 trillion worth of repairs — all without raising taxes.

Trending Topics @ Murphy.House.Gov

Learn more about these issues online:

Strengthening Medicare: Murphy authored the Social Security and Medicare Protection Act to stop the Administration from spending your Trust Fund dollars on earmarks and new government programs.

GM Failures: Murphy’s committee exposes the failures behind why General Motors waited nearly ten years before issuing a recall of the defective Chevy Cobalt.

Surge of Minors at U.S.-Mexico Border: A wave of illegal migration unprecedented in size and scope is underway along the South-west US border. Thousands of women and children, mostly from Central America, are reaching ports of entry along the U.S.-Mexico border anticipating amnesty as a result of numerous White House initiatives, such as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), a reversal of previous mandatory deportation rules. As word spreads to foreign nations about lax immigration enforcement policies, many more are encouraged to come to the United States illegally, saying that back home they heard on TV or radio that they could get a permit to stay if they made it in. More than 10 times the numbers are surging across the border than in 2009. Congressman Murphy is calling for emergency legislation to immediately tighten border security, increase Border Patrol manpower and for the White House to aggressively reverse course on the failed policies encouraging mass migration.

House Acts to Address Soldier Suicide Crisis

“We have the best military in the world. We are strong, but our military and our country have a crisis on their hands.”

With those words, Rep. Tim Murphy kicked off debate in the House of Representatives on an amendment he authored to give both the authority and the funding so the Department of Defense (DoD) can immediately hire additional mental health professionals.

The amendment was approved unanimously and included in a DoD budget bill that passed the House on June 20th and is now awaiting Senate action.

On average, 22 military service members and veterans die each day by their own hands. One in five suicides nationally is a veteran even though veterans make up less than ten percent of the population.

“Service members, those in high-

tempo work, active duty, SOCOM [special operations command], and returning from Guard and Reserve duty, tell me they have a very difficult time accessing mental health care. We know early treatment can be effective but there are just too few providers,” said Murphy, who also serves as a clinical psychologist in the Navy Reserve treating returning service members with post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injuries.

“My amendment would provide a surge of providers at a time when it’s needed,” said Murphy.

House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ) expressed his sup-

port for the Murphy amendment and praised Dr. Murphy for his work on behalf of service members.

“I can say and I am sure my colleagues would agree your service in Congress has been enormously beneficial because you have been perhaps one of the strongest advocates on behalf of those with mental illness. And, certainly your service in the Navy Reserve as a psychologist is one of the reasons that when you

get up to talk, people listen. So we are accepting of your amendment and acknowledge here your very, very strong and well-reasoned advocacy,” said Frelinghuysen.

To watch debate on the amendment, go to Murphy.House.Gov.

30% of service members have considered taking their own life.

— Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America

Mental Health Crisis Act Advances

Congressman Tim Murphy’s Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act (H.R. 3717) is moving forward with strong backing from major newspaper editorial boards, physicians, patients and countless parents and caregivers of loved ones with serious mental illness.

State legislatures in Louisiana and Michigan have both unanimously approved resolutions urging the U.S. Congress to take “such actions as are necessary to pass the Helping Families in Mental Crisis Act.”

The Murphy legislation has nearly 90 bipartisan cosponsors and has been de-

scribed as the most comprehensive overhaul of the mental health system since the Kennedy Administration. The bill has been endorsed by the *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, and *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.

In the wake of news that perpetrators had stopped taking medication prior to committing deadly shootings at a Seattle university and near Santa Barbara, California, Rep. Murphy took to the House floor last month imploring his colleagues to take action on reforming the mental health system.

“We pretend like serious mental illness does not exist and therefore we don’t have policies to help families and patients in mental health crisis,” said

Murphy. “We cannot let these families down, lives are depending on it, we cannot wish this away, and denial is not a treatment. I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort.”

With a focus on delivering acute psychiatric care to the most challenging cases of serious mental illness, the bill — among its many features — expands access to inpatient and outpatient treatment and trains law enforcement to understand how and when to intervene if a person is in mental health crisis. The bill encourages states to adopt a “need for treatment” standard of commitment rather than the imminent danger standard, and breaks down convoluted legal barriers preventing family members from helping a loved one with a serious mental illness.

Do you have Medicare, Social Security, or VA casework? Rep. Murphy can help.

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