



Congressman Tim Bishop

FIRST DISTRICT -- NEW YORK

NEWS RELEASE

OCTOBER 20, 2005

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: BRIAN FARBER

PHONE: (202) 225-3826

BISHOP OFFERS LEGISLATION TO RENAME PATCHOGUE PO IN HONOR OF SLAIN PATCHOGUE WAR HERO

Congressman Honors Lt. Michael Murphy, Navy SEAL, Killed in Action

WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Tim Bishop announced legislation today to rename the Patchogue Post Office on East Main Street to honor Lt. Michael Murphy, a Patchogue-Medford High School graduate, who was killed in action in Afghanistan in June. Lt. Murphy was 29-years-old and engaged to be married when Taliban insurgents ambushed him and his SEAL team.

“Long Island has lost one of its greatest sons in the war against terrorism, but we must always honor and remember his sacrifice,” Bishop stated. “Renaming this federal building will serve as a memorial to Michael's sacrifice for this nation, and perhaps provide some small comfort to his family and friends that his presence will always be among them.”

Lt. Murphy's death was widely publicized in the media when his team of SEALs was ambushed in Afghanistan. During the week of June 27, reports spread across the United States of the heroic rescue effort that included the downing of an Army MH-47 Chinook helicopter as it attempted to rescue Lt. Murphy and his SEAL team. All those aboard the helicopter, and the four members of Michael's team, were killed.

Lt. Murphy was universally admired and loved. His parent, teachers, and commanding officer admired his intelligence, dedication and kindness. Murphy was a Penn State University graduate who chose to defer entrance into law school until his military tour of duty was completed. Michael was planning to marry Heather Duggan of Mt. Sinai in November. Michael and Heather were Penn State classmates.

Renaming a post office requires an official act of Congress and approval by the President of the United States. Furthermore, a member of Congress must gain the approval of all members of the respective state's congressional delegation to move the process forward. In this case, Bishop's legislation to rename the post office in memorial to Lt. Murphy was met with enthusiasm from the other 28 members of the New York State Congressional Delegation.

#