



Congressman Tim Bishop

FIRST DISTRICT -- NEW YORK

NEWS RELEASE

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PATCHOGUE POST OFFICE ONE STEP CLOSER TO BEARING FALLEN HERO'S NAME

Bishop's Bill Receives House Approval to Honor Afghanistan War Hero, Lt. Michael P. Murphy

WASHINGTON, DC - Congressman Tim Bishop announced today that the House of Representatives unanimously passed his bill yesterday afternoon to rename the U.S. Post Office on 170 East Main Street in Patchogue, New York, as the Lieutenant Michael P. Murphy Post Office.

Lt. Murphy, a 29-year-old Patchogue native and U.S. Navy SEAL, was killed in action in Afghanistan on June 28, 2005. While carrying out counter-terrorism operations in the mountains of Afghanistan's eastern Kubar province, Lt. Murphy's unit was ambushed by Taliban rebels. Two helicopters were inserted on a mission to rescue Lt. Murphy's unit, but one helicopter was later shot down by a rocket-propelled grenade.

The three SEALs on the ground and all 16 servicemen aboard the helicopter lost their lives on the single most deadly attack against the U.S. military up to that point in Operation Enduring Freedom. According to the Naval Special Warfare Command, the attack was also the highest loss of SEALs in its 43-year history.

Lt. Murphy was posthumously awarded the Silver Star and Purple Heart. He was a graduate of Penn State University, had been accepted to attend law school following his service, and was engaged to be married in November 2005.

"On behalf of the families of the 1st Congressional District, I am proud to have introduced the bill to honor Lt. Murphy's sacrifice," Bishop stated after passage of the bill. "Renaming this post office is a fitting and permanent tribute to his memory and one small way we can thank his family and community for his sacrifice to our nation."

House rules require each member of a state's delegation to cosponsor a bill naming a post office before it is eligible for consideration by the Government Reform Committee, which passed H.R. 4101 and sent it to the full House last November. Following today's action, the bill was referred to a Senate committee for further review.

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