For Immediate Release: February 8, 2010

Contact: Emily Barocas/202-225-7295

LARSON STATEMENT ON PASSING OF CONGRESSMAN MURTHA

Washington, DC -- Congressman John B. Larson released the following statement on the passing for Congressman John Murtha *(PA-12)*.

"In John Murtha, America has lost a true hero and patriot and the United States Congress has lost a giant. Our hearts go out to his wife Joyce and his entire family. John Murtha was a true gentleman whose handshake and promise you could trust. I have been lucky during my years in Congress to count him as a close friend and mentor. He has provided me, and every member of the Congress, with guidance and strength throughout his service.

"Jack Murtha was the staunchest ally our military has ever had. He never backed down from a fight to make sure our brave men and women in uniform had the equipment they needed and a mission they could accomplish. He stood up for Pennsylvania and his district, never losing sight of where he came from.

"I am reminded at times like these of just how fleeting life can be - Jack Murtha made the most of his time. The country will miss him, this Congress will miss him and I will surely miss him."

###