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THE WIGGINS
MESSENGER

Musgrave pays tribute to injured Colorado soldier

Congresswoman thanks Jason Murray for his service & courage

Washington, DC: Today, Representative Marilyn Musgrave honored Jason Murray of Sterling, a Lance Corporal in the U.S. Marines who was seriously injured while on patrol in Iraq. During a visit with Murray, Musgrave thanked him for his selfless service in the fight for freedom.

"In the clamor of the unrelenting focus that is being given to the political and economic impacts of this War on Terror, it is imperative that we take time to recognize local heroes such as Jason," said Musgrave. "He is recovering from devastating injuries, and doing so with great courage. I am proud to honor Jason and thank him for fighting for a safer, freer America and Iraq.

Lance Corporal Murray is a United States Marine from the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division. Jason has wanted to serve in the military since he was a boy. He graduated from Sterling High School in 2002 and enlisted in the Marines in the fall of that year. He became engaged to his high school sweetheart, Kelsi, in the fall of 2003 following boot camp.

Jason is currently recovering from injuries he received in Iraq on March 29, 2004. Jason was patrolling near Ar Rahmadi searching for improvised explosive devices. One of the devices detonated 3 feet in

front of Jason, killing the Marine in front of him and seriously injuring Jason. Because he received wounds while in combat, Lance Corporal Jason Murray was awarded the Purple Heart.

"We are so fortunate to live in this great country where freedom is something that we rarely have to think about and often take for granted," said Musgrave. "It is simply a way of life for us, and we are truly blessed to live in a country that honors citizens for their spirit, their ideas, their individuality, and their courage. We can maintain the blessings of our freedoms only because we have citizens like Jason who are willing to fight to defend them for us."

On June 21, 2004, Musgrave also honored Murray in a speech before the House of Representatives, detailing his life, love, and service.

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Marilyn Musgrave was elected to the United States House of Representatives in January 2003, and she represents Colorado's Fourth Congressional District. Musgrave is a member of the House Committees on Agriculture, Education and the Workforce, and Small Business. To learn more about Rep. Musgrave please visit her official website at <http://www.house.gov/musgrave>.