

**Dedication of the Veterans Cemetery of the Alleghenies, Cecil, Pennsylvania**  
Comments by Congressman Tim Murphy  
October 9, 2005

Today we gather to dedicate this new Veteran's Cemetery of the Alleghenies on these tranquil and beautiful hills. The time has come for us to finally gather here on these grounds. This moment so anticipated by so many for so much time.

Now comes the time of prayer and reflection for those whose time will no longer measured in days or years, but for whom time will be for eternity.

This is a final place of rest for the soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen. This is a place where peace will be eternal.

For those who in battle heard the thunderous boom of cannon, may the only thunder they hear now be the rumbling of distant storms.

For those who suffered through the drenching rains in the jungles of the Pacific and Vietnam, may the rains now green the grass beneath which they lie.

For those who endured the numbing cold at the Battle of the Bulge or Korea, may winters now bring a quiet blanket of gentle snow laid soft upon their graves.

And for those who faced the scorching sun in the desserts of Africa, or the blistering summer sands of the Mid East, may the sun bring warmth to them and all who visit this place to say a quiet prayer.

May this be a place of solitude where we all will remember and where we all will honor the sacrifices and courage of every veteran.

For that is our duty: to at times pray quietly while the breeze whispers through the leaves of nearby trees, and at other times to gather, like this, to honor more visibly all those who have fought for freedom.

To all our veterans now present—when that great day comes that you are called home, when angels lift you up to touch the face of God, He will reach out to greet you with a loving smile. He will thank you for keeping your faith in times of doubt, and he will thank you for keeping hope alive in all his children.

All of us who remain behind and follow you hence will forever remember: we owe our freedom to you.

With that remembrance, comes the eternal thanks of a grateful nation.

And with that also comes our prayers that God will bless you and your families forever as He continues to bless this great country. Thank you.