

PRESS RELEASE

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Murphy votes no on protecting veterans

NEWTOWN, PA – Last week Congressman Pat Murphy was given the opportunity to vote to include veteran and military status in hate crime legislation and he once again sided against the interests of the nation’s men and women in uniform.

“Once again the nation’s first Iraqi War veteran in Congress does not stand up for our veterans”, stated Murphy Watch spokesperson Paul Salvatore today.

Salvatore added “Pat Murphy missed a golden opportunity last week. He must not remember how our soldiers who came home from Vietnam were spat upon in the streets of our cities. This was a disgraceful time in our nation’s history and given how some in our government continue to tie veterans to extremists groups I cannot understand how Murphy would not vote to add military status to hate crimes legislation.”

On April 29th in House Roll Call Vote 222 Murphy voted no to recommit the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009 back to committee to add military status as protective status under hate crimes legislation. The motion to recommit had bipartisan support but failed in the House 185-241 even with 25 Democrats voting for the motion. Murphy voted no and offered no statement on his vote.

Bucks County attorney Donald Petrille stated “Murphy’s vote shows the fundamental problem with hate crimes legislation is that the government chooses what victims are. He voted for a bill that supposedly gives special protections to some citizens, but didn’t believe that veterans deserve the same protections. As a former Army JAG officer, I would think that he would be looking out for his fellow veterans’ interests.”

“Once again Murphy votes with Nancy Pelosi and the San Francisco-Berkeley crowd who are seemingly ambivalent to the interests of our veterans and often hostile towards them.”

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