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## **THE HONOURABLE JACK MURTA IS THIS YEAR'S CAFP DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT**

OTTAWA, May 26, 2016

The Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians (CAFP) has announced that the Honourable Jack Murta is this year's winner of its Distinguished Service Award. The award will be presented in Ottawa on Monday, May 30th, by the Speakers of the Senate and House of Commons, both of whom are Honorary Co-Chairpersons of CAFP, during a reception where the 41st Parliament commemorative plaques will also be unveiled

Since 2003 Jack Murta has co-ordinated the National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast which has been held in Ottawa for the past fifty consecutive years. These are gatherings of Members of Parliament, Senators, and Ambassadors along with Business and Community leaders from across Canada. At the heart of the National Prayer Breakfast is a smaller group of Parliamentarians from different political parties who meet each week while Parliament is in session. These gatherings of Members of Parliament provide those attending with the opportunity to deepen their faith and build relationships among Parliamentarians of different political backgrounds.

Mr. Murta also presently serves on the board of the Ottawa Mission. He is past President of the Mission and has also served as its Executive Director and Chaplin. Mr. Murta also sits on its sister organization, the Ottawa Mission Foundation.

Jack also leads and teaches meditation and contemplation. He presently leads two such groups in Ottawa. One at Saint Patrick's Basilica and the other at the Ottawa Mission. He is presently the National Coordinator for Christian Meditation in Canada.

In 2016 Jack was appointed to the role of President of the Korean War Veterans of Canada Foundation. KWVCF serves as a national focal point to support commemorative events and projects that honor and raise awareness among Canadians about Canada's contribution and participation in the Korean War and during the peace-keeping years after the Armistice.

Jack spent 18 years in Federal Politics, including 4 years in the first cabinet of the Progressive Conservative government of the Right Honourable Brian Mulroney.

Since 2005 Mr. Murta has lived in Ottawa with his wife Lyn. They have three grown children. He is an avid runner.

The CAFP Distinguished Service Award is a peer nominated recognition presented annually for exceptional contributions by a former parliamentarian. CAFP was created in 1987 and permanently established by an act of Parliament in 1996. It is a non-partisan association composed of former parliamentarians who served either in the Senate or the House of Commons. For more information please see [www.exparl.ca](http://www.exparl.ca) . Additional background information about the CAFP Distinguished Service Award is available at <http://www.exparl.ca/distinguished-service-award> .

Date: Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Time: 4:30 – 6:00 pm

Place: Reading Room (237-C), Centre Block

For more information, please contact:

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