Shuster Works to Support our Military
National Defense Authorization Act Will Lay the Ground Work for Defense Funding

Washington, D.C. – Throughout today and into this evening, **Congressman Bill Shuster** will work with his colleagues on the House Armed Services Committee to review and mark-up the National Defense Authorization Act for FY2009. This important legislation authorizes the funding for the Department of Defense for this fiscal year.

"Without question, Congress' first responsibility is to provide for our national defense and support the men and women who defend our freedoms," Shuster said. "Today's committee mark-up is a reflection of how solemn the House takes this responsibility."

"The National Defense Authorization Act lays the ground work for the programs and funding necessary to keep our military trained, equipped, and ready to meet any challenge and defeat any enemy. This legislation meets those goals and I look forward to working with my colleagues on the committee to see that it is passed by the House."

Some of the highlights of this year's National Defense Authorization Act include:

- A mandated 3.9% pay raise for all members of the Armed Forces in 2008;

- An additional $800 million for National Guard and Reserve equipment;

- An additional $70 billion in supplemental funding to support the Global War on Terrorism's operational costs, personnel expenses and procurement;

- Additional funding for force protection in support of our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, including $2.6 billion for state-of-the-art Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles; $947 million for Up-Armored HMMWV's; and $2.2 billion for Abrams tank, Bradley fighting vehicle, and Stryker vehicle upgrades;

- Increases end-strength of the Active Duty Army by 7,000 Army and the Active Duty Marine Corps by 5,000 to sustain our required missions.

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