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PENCE HAILS GRANT FOR LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENT

Washington, Jan 29, 2004 - WASHINGTON, DC - U.S. Congressman Mike Pence today announced that the Hartsville and Community Volunteer Fire Department in Bartholomew County has been awarded $72,780 from the Department of Homeland Security under the fiscal year 2003 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program.

"As the Bush Administration works to strengthen our nation's first responders, I am pleased the assistance is being sent straight to the point of the need on the local level," said Pence. "The Hartsville and Community Volunteer Fire Department will benefit greatly from this assistance."

The 2003 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program seeks to support departments by providing them the tools and resources necessary to protect the health and safety of the public and their firefighting personnel. These awards will be used to increase the effectiveness of firefighting operations, fund firefighter health and safety programs, acquire new fire apparatus, enhance EMS programs, and conduct fire prevention and safety programs.

The grant awarded to will specifically be used for Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety.

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