## SENATOR HARRY KENNEDY

MISSOURI STATE SENATE — 1<sup>st</sup> DISTRICT

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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## Kennedy to Host at McMurphy's Grille

ST. LOUIS—State Sen. Harry Kennedy, D-St. Louis, and several other area legislators will be the "celebrity hosts" at McMurphy's Grille, located at 614 N. 11th, on Wednesday, December 28. Legislators will welcome and seat patrons of the local restaurant from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"This is a holiday tradition for me, and it's great to show support for such a valuable program," Kennedy said. "The restaurant gives those who are less fortunate an opportunity for positive, permanent change in their lives."

McMurphy's Grille has provided job training for the homeless and at-risk since 1990. The Celebrity Host Wednesday program has been a weekly tradition at the restaurant since 1994.

"It's a great chance for us to share in the holiday spirit by welcoming everyone in to sit down and have a nice meal together," Kennedy said. "We can draw some much-deserved attention to a unique organization that provides a wonderful public service."

In the wake of recent state cuts to medical and social programs, more people are relying on private organizations for assistance with job training and placement programs.

"I admire the staff of McMurphy's Grille—the task they have undertaken is difficult and costly," Kennedy said. "They have embraced the challenges and responsibilities of helping people who need it through difficult times."

McMurphy's Grille is run by St. Patrick's Center, a not-for-profit agency dedicated to serving the homeless in St. Louis, especially those with mental illness and drug/alcohol dependency. The restaurant is operated to train St. Patrick's Center's clients in skills they need to find gainful employment.