



# STEVE LaTOURETTE

MEMBER OF CONGRESS  
14<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT, OHIO

2371 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
JUNE 30, 2011

CONTACT: DEBORAH SETLIFF  
440-289-9259

## **After 43 year wait, Hudson Viet Nam Veteran gets Purple Heart**

U.S. Rep. Steven C. LaTourette (R-Bainbridge Township) today presented a Purple Heart and several other medals to Retired Army Sgt. David Hack, 71, of Hudson in a special ceremony at Hudson City Hall.

Sgt. Hack was critically wounded on September 13, 1968, in Viet Nam and never received his military medals. LaTourette was able to secure the medals from the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, MO.

LaTourette said Hack, then 28 and in the First Infantry Division, was wounded when a carrier he was traveling in was ambushed by the North Vietnamese Army. He was shot several times and also suffered shrapnel and bayonet wounds. Found alive in the jungle of Viet Nam on September 13, 1968, he was stabilized and then airlifted to Japan for medical treatment. He then boarded a medical hospital plane with other wounded warriors and headed to Ft. Bragg in North Carolina.

LaTourette said the medical plane carrying Sgt. Hack had to refuel at Andrews Air Force Base near Washington, DC, and a Colonel boarded the plane to greet the wounded and ask if any of the veterans had questions or concerns. Sgt. Hack raised his arm and explained that his family was near Fort Knox in Kentucky, and wondered if he could be treated at the Army hospital there, as his family lived nearby.

The Colonel listened to the request, consoled him and replied: "We're going to take care of you because you've taken care of us."

Sgt. Hack spent about a year in the hospital at Fort Knox and had five operations to repair damage done to back, face and leg. After leaving the hospital, he became an Army recruiter in Akron at the height of the Viet Nam war, and was honorably discharged in 1973.

"Why am I here today to award medals to Sgt. Hack more than four decades after being airlifted out of Viet Nam? Because in all that time Sgt. Hack never slowed down and never gave a thought to getting his own medals," LaTourette said. "Today, we can properly honor this great American and true patriot."

LaTourette presented the following medals to Sgt. Hack, telling the retired Army hero once again: "We're going to take care of you because you've taken care of us."

Sgt Hack was presented with a Purple Star, Good Conduct Medal (third award), National Defense Service Medal, Viet Nam Service Medal with three bronze service stars, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Ribbon w/Device (1960), Expert Badge with Rifle Bar and an Army Recruiter ID Badge.

Sgt. Hack served nine years in the Army and also did a four-year stint in the Coast Guard starting at age 17. He later served as a police officer in Hudson, and was Police Chief in Sebring, near Youngstown. He currently is CEO of US Wings in Hudson, which provides "Made in the USA" bomber jackets to all branches of the military.