

The Charles Dick Medal of Merit is given to legislators for support of the National Guard that has a lasting effect

Hauppauge, NY– On Monday, Major General Joseph J. Taluto, the Adjutant General for the State of New York, joined Rep. Steve Israel (D – Huntington) at a breakfast for Long Island veterans and presented Rep. Israel with the Charles Dick Medal of Merit. The Charles Dick Medal of Merit is given to legislators and governors for distinguished long-term support for the National Guard that has a lasting effect. Rep. Israel held the breakfast to discuss his recent trip to Afghanistan with Long Island veterans.

“I am honored to have received this award and to have been presented with it by a distinguished leader in our Armed Forces, Major General Joseph J. Taluto. Since I came to Congress, I’ve made it my mission to do everything I can to support our service members, military families and our veterans. Our National Guard troops are there for us both at home when disaster strikes and as we fight Al Qaeda abroad. I will continue to be their staunch advocate in Congress,” said Rep. Israel.

The Charles Dick Medal of Merit was established in 1988 and is designed to recognize the contributions to the National Guard by elected representatives to legislative bodies at the state and national levels.

The medal is named in honor of Major General Charles Dick, President of the National Guard Association of the United States from 1902 to 1909, a major general in the Ohio National Guard, a Congressman and later a Senator. Dick was responsible for the passage of the Dick Acts of 1903 and 1908 that established the foundation of the modern National Guard.

The award is given to legislators who have distinguished him/herself over an extended period of time in their support to the National Guard through service in a state or national elected legislative body. The support of the individual must be such that it has had a lasting effect on the future of the National Guard.

Rep. Israel just returned from a Congressional mission to Afghanistan, where he met with top military and Afghan leaders and with New York service members in Kabul and Kandahar. Rep. Israel serves on the House Appropriations Committee and the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs. He is considered a leader on military issues and professional military education. He previously served on the House Armed Services Committee.