Medals, including a Purple Heart, were awarded to McGuigan's grandfather, a U.S. Army Ranger and D-Day veteran

Bohemia, NY – On Monday, Rep. Steve Israel (D-Huntington) presented replacement WWII medals to James McGuigan, grandson of WWII Army Ranger and D-Day veteran Francis McGuigan. The medals, including a purple heart, were displayed at James McGuigan's business and were stolen earlier this month. After learning of the theft, Rep. Israel worked to secure replacement medals for the McGuigan family.

"James McGuigan proudly honored his grandfather's service in WWII by displaying the medals he fought so hard to earn. It's reprehensible that anyone would take that away from James and his family," said Rep. Israel. "It's my privilege to be able to present James with replacement medals so we can continue to remember Francis McGuigan's dedication and sacrifice."

Following two reports service medals stolen from Long Islanders, Rep. Israel wrote to the Department of Defense Office of the Inspector General to ask for data on the number of stolen military medals and whether this is a growing problem.

Rep. Israel presented the following medals earned by Francis McGuigan:

- Purple Heart
- Bronze Star Medal
- Good Conduct Medal
- European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with one Silver Service Star
- World War II Victory Medal
- Combat Infantryman Badge 1st Award
- Honorable Service Lapel Button WWII
- Marksman Badge with Pistol Bar

Rep. Israel wrote to the National Personnel Records Center on behalf of James McGuigan to request the replacement medals and any available service records for Francis McGuigan.

Francis McGuigan served in the 112th Infantry as a heavy machine gunner. According to James McGuigan, he fought in both D-Day and the Battle of the Bulge. He served for more than 2 and a half years and left military service in September 1945.

Rep. Israel has long advocated on behalf of Long Island veterans, securing more than $4.9 million in overdue benefits and assisting veterans in securing service medals and personnel records.