Military families deserve this time-honored tradition to continue

Washington, D.C.— Today, Congressman Steve Israel (D-Huntington) sent a letter to Director of the National Guard Bureau Office of Legislative Liaison Brigadier General Wilton Gorske asking that funding be restored for the Military Funeral Honors Program.

Rep. Israel said, "While it's inevitable that budgets will be cut during this time of fiscal austerity, providing military families with the time-honored tradition of hearing 'Taps' at the funeral of a loved one who served is not where these cuts should be made. I'm calling on the National Guard to restore funding so that live buglers can continue to honor those who have sacrificed so much for our country."

Next fiscal year, federal funding for the National Guard's Military Funeral Honors Program will be cut by 25 percent. Rep. Israel's letter recognizes that cuts are necessary in this time of fiscal austerity, but calls on Brigadier General Gorske to find other places to cut from rather than forcing New York State to put an end to this 150 year old tradition.