

For Immediate Release

April 6th, 2009

**CONGRESSMAN LARSON PRESENTS LOCAL WWII VETERAN WITH MILITARY  
MEDALS**

**Hartford, CT**-Today, U.S. Congressman John B. Larson presented World War II veteran and Windsor Locks resident Elmer E. Jones, 85 with military medals to honor his service to our country. Mr. Jones was the recipient of eight medals including the Presidential Unit Citation for extraordinary heroism and the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal w/ 3 Bronze service stars.

Congressman Larson was joined by Steve Wawruck, First Selectman of Windsor Locks. Mr. Jones was accompanied by his wife of nearly sixty years Lillian, and three of his children, Claudia Condon, Priscilla Serafin, and Robert Jones.

“It is an honor to present Mr. Jones with these medals. Medals he earned through brave and exceptional service during the Second World War. Mr. Jones served in one of the most famous military divisions during World War II”, said Larson. “Elmer Jones and his fellow veterans of the “Greatest Generation” defended the principles of our nation, freedom and liberty for all and it is a great pleasure to help honor that service.”

Mr. Jones served as a Private First Class in the United States Army from 1943-1946 with the 88<sup>th</sup> Reconnaissance Squadron, nicknamed “The Thundering Herd”, of the 8<sup>th</sup> Armored Division. The Division entered Germany in late February 1945 and participated in an attack near Reinberg and Wessel that prevented Nazi troops from crossing the Rhine River. Mr. Jones and the Division later liberated a Nazi Death Camp Halberstadt-Wieberge, a sub camp of the Buchenwald concentration camp. To honor that feat, a flag representing Mr. Jones’ division is proudly displayed at the U.S. Holocaust Museum.

Mr. Jones' wife, Lillian Jones, contacted Congressman Larson's Hartford District Office for assistance in replacing Mr. Jones' military medals. Congressman Larson wrote a letter to the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008, requesting replacement of four medals. After receiving Larson's letter and reviewing Mr. Jones' military history, the NPRC concluded, that in addition to replacing Mr. Jones' four military medals, he was due four additional medals for his service.

"There is no greater fulfillment than to assist our veterans in receiving the military medals they rightfully deserve for their service to our country."

Mr. Jones was presented with the following medals:

Good Conduct Medal

Presidential Unit Citation

American Campaign Medal

European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal w/ 3 bronze service stars

World War II Victory Medal

Army of Occupation Medal w/ Germany clasp

Honorable Service Lapel Button WWII

Marksman Badge w/ Carbine Bar

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Military medals earned by Mr. Elmer Jones of East Windsor, CT



Congressman Larson with Elmer and Lillian Jones of East Windsor, CT