HARTFORD – This morning Congressman John Larson (CT-01) officially welcomed Manchester's Ryan Dion to his district office staff from the federal, Wounded Warrior Program.

Dion was injured in an IED explosion in Fallujah, Iraq in April of 2007. For his bravery he was awarded a Purple Heart.

"I'm very pleased to welcome a young man as talented, hard-working and friendly as Ryan to our team here in Hartford," Congressman Larson said. "Ryan's service to our country and his

bravery in the line of duty while serving in Iraq is an inspiration. I'm grateful to the Wounded Warrior Program for providing us with such a valuable new voice for the veterans' community."

The Wounded Warrior Program is a federal project that provides employment opportunities for veterans who want to work in the House of Representatives.

"It is a great honor to be working for Congressman John B. Larson," Dion said. "My job is Veteran's Coordinator and I love the fact that I can give back and still be able to help out the Veteran Community. As a Wounded Warrior I understand what our Veterans are going through and bring a lot of knowledge to the table to help them and their families obtain the information they need and get the benefits they deserve."

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Photo: Congressman Larson and Ryan Dion.