(*Hartford*) – Today **Congressman John B. Larson** presented Matthew "Mack" McDonald of Wethersfield with the Army Commendation Medal for his actions during his military service. A Specialist in the U.S. Army Reserve, 411th Civil Affairs Battalion, Matthew served in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from 2004 to 2012. During the presentation Congressman Larson also read Matthew a citation from the Secretary of the Army, John McHugh, signed by the Adjutant General of the Army, Jason T. Evans.

"Our brave soldiers deserve the recognition and support they earned fighting for our freedom," said Congressman Larson. "I am truly humbled by Matthew's actions and I am honored to present him with the Army Commendation Medal today. Matthew and his family deserve our deepest gratitude for their sacrifice."

In 2005 the Humvee Matthew was driving was attacked by a Vehicle Borne Improvised

Explosive Device (VBIED). After learning that the blast was from a suicide bomber, Matthew immediately began pulling security, despite suffering from cuts to his hand and ear and a concussion. As his team recovered weapons and sensitive items, Matthew was able to administer first aid to himself. For these and for other actions, Matthew was recommended for the Army Commendation Medal from his Immediate Supervisor, Sergeant Patrick Mason.

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