Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Ben Ray Luján of New Mexico's Third District spoke on the House floor this morning to honor Sergeant Leroy Petry of Santa Fe, who will be awarded the Medal of Honor later today at the White House. Below are his remarks as prepared.

"Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the bravery and valor of Sergeant First Class Leroy Petry of Santa Fe, who will be awarded the Medal of Honor today by President Obama.

"As the second living, active duty Medal of Honor recipient for actions in Iraq or Afghanistan, Sergeant Petry's heroism and sacrifice in the face of extreme danger went above and beyond the call of duty.

"As an Army Ranger serving in Afghanistan, Sergeant Petry acted without regard for his own personal safety, thinking only of his fellow soldiers when he threw a grenade away from his squad. His selfless actions cost him his right hand, yet saved the lives of his brothers in arms.

"New Mexico has a long tradition of serving our country during times of war. In World War II, Navajo Code Talkers contributed to victory for the Allied forces. Seventy-one sons and daughters of New Mexico have made the ultimate sacrifice in service during the Afghanistan and Iraq wars. And now, with his courageous actions in the face of great danger, Sergeant Petry takes his place among his fellow New Mexicans as a true American hero."

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