



NEWS RELEASE

From Mayor Dean DePiero

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PARMA MAYOR PRESENTS KEY TO THE CITY TO PURPLE HEART RECIPIENT

(PARMA) – Parma Mayor Dean DePiero will present a key to the city to local resident Vance Noah at Monday night's meeting of Parma City Council.

Noah was belatedly awarded the Purple Heart this week for wounds he suffered during a 2006 suicide bomb attack in Iraq. The special commendation is given to members of the U.S. military who are injured or killed in battle.

"Vance Noah is a hero in every sense of the word," said Parma Mayor Dean DePiero. "Our city is proud of his dedication to serve the nation in the Iraq War, and we appreciate his passion and bravery to preserve our freedom."

Initially, Noah was told he was not eligible for a Purple Heart even though two of the five soldiers injured in the attack received the medal. Noah sustained injuries to both his ear drums and burns to his neck and wrists.

Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown's office intervened on behalf of the family in March of this year and helped Noah secure the award.

In all, 10 other squad members occupied Noah's Stryker Armored Vehicle when it was attacked in July of 2006.

Vance Noah served as a Sergeant in Iraq from August 2005 to November 2006. He says he was motivated to join the Army after September 11 and the World Trade Center collapse, which his brother survived.

The presentation will take place Monday at 7:00 p.m. at Parma City Hall.

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“This award is long overdue for Vance Noah,” said Brown, “He served our country with courage and distinction. I’m honored to be part of this special day.”

Vance was motivated to join the Army after September 11 and the World Trade Center collapse, which his brother survived. In July 2006, a suicide bomber drove into a Stryker Armored Vehicle he occupied with 10 other squad members. Five of the soldiers were injured and two of them received Purple Heart awards within one month.

Although Noah sustained injuries to both his ear drums and burns to his neck and wrists, he was initially told he would not be eligible for the Purple Heart Award. Brown’s office intervened in March 2008 and helped Noah secure the award.

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