

(WASHINGTON) ----- Congressman Allen West (FL-22) released this statement today congratulating the Army's most recent Medal of Honor recipient, who will be inducted into the Pentagon Hall of Heroes today:

"My congratulations to Army Ranger Sergeant First Class Leroy Petry for his gallant and heroic actions, above the call of duty in Afghanistan. In a defining moment, Sgt. 1st Class Petry jumped to protect his fellow Ranger comrades, grabbed an enemy grenade and tossed it back with his own hand. It was during these moments, that the grenade exploded, resulting in Sgt. 1st Class Petry's tragic loss of his hand. In the end, Sgt. 1st Class Petry's courageous and selfless actions and sacrifice saved the lives of his fellow Ranger comrades.

As a 22- year Army Veteran myself, with experience commanding a battalion on the battlefield, I understand the significance of his actions and the true heroism this young man displayed. I am pleased to learn Sgt. 1st Class Petry has not only been awarded the Medal of Honor but will be inducted into the Pentagon Hall of Heroes today.

At a time when it seems our country is in despair, it is rewarding to know there are still heroes- 'giants'- who walk amongst us. I want to offer my congratulations to Ranger Petry and give him the highest accolade, Rangers Lead the Way!"

###