

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Amash Presents Purple Heart Medal

Third District veteran receives honor for wartime service

Grand Rapids, Mich. – Rep. Justin Amash presented the Purple Heart Medal to Daniel James Vander Molen at a ceremony held at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum on Thursday, May 28.

Retired Specialist Vander Molen is an Army veteran of the Vietnam War. He sustained injuries on Easter Sunday, March 30, 1970. Because the multiple shrapnel wounds to his back were treated on site and Specialist Vander Molen courageously returned to his duties as the platoon leader's radio telephone operator, his injuries were never noted in his military records. After considering the eyewitness accounts, including those of his company commander, the platoon medic, and several of his platoon members, the United States Army approved Specialist Vander Molen's Purple Heart in April 2015.

The Purple Heart Medal is awarded in the name of the president of the United States. First issued under the administration of George Washington, this prestigious award signifies that, as the result of hostile actions, the recipient was wounded or killed while actively serving our country in the United States Armed Forces.

Pictures from the ceremony are included with this release.

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