

WASHINGTON-Congressman Spencer Bachus presented Sergeant Alton Oglesby with the Military Order of the Purple Heart today. Sergeant Oglesby was awarded the Purple Heart when he was wounded in battle on October 19<sup>th</sup>, 1944 in Italy, but the medal was never presented to him. “Without men and women like Sergeant Oglesby, our country’s history would be vastly different. He was a very brave individual who fought for freedom, and deserves to be recognized as an American Hero”, Bachus said.

Congressman Bachus presented the Purple Heart and delivered special remarks as part of the unveiling of a monument to all Alabamians killed or wounded in combat. Each of the 50 states similarly unveiled monuments today and observed a moment of silence to honor all the brave men and women that have been wounded or given their lives in service of our country.

“Being a part of an event that honors the soldiers who have sacrificed so much for our country is a great honor”, Bachus said. “It took a great deal of courage and love of country to face a hail of enemy fire on Normandy Beach. Let us not forget the pain, suffering and starvation that young Americans faced in places like the Philippines, when for six days they endured the tragic Bataan Death March. We must honor the young people who were sent to strange far off lands like Korea, Vietnam, and Iraq who endured horrible conditions and fierce fighting so that we may live in a safer world.”

“The monument we have dedicated today and the Purple Heart that I have presented to Sergeant Oglesby represents the gratitude that we as Americans feel towards the approximately 1,090,200 Americans that have given their lives in service to their county and the many more who have been wounded”, Bachus said.