

*Jan. 24, 2012*

*Washington, D.C.* – Congressman Jerry McNerney (CA-11) will welcome veteran Sergeant Shaun Rieley to be his guest at the State of the Union address. Sergeant Rieley is an Iraq War Veteran who now serves as Assistant Director of the Legislative Affairs Department at the American Legion.

“I was pleased that Sergeant Rieley accepted my invitation. It is a small thing that I can do for one of the brave men and women who have sacrificed to protect our country,” said Rep. McNerney.

“Sergeant Rieley is a remarkable young man. Like my son Michael, he felt compelled to enlist in the wake of the attacks on 9/11. His spirit and courage exhibit the strength of character of our service men and women,” said Rep. McNerney.

Background on Sergeant Shaun Rieley:

After graduating from high school in the small southern-Delaware town of Millsboro in 1999, he enrolled in the University of Delaware and studied political science. After the outbreak of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, he decided to join the Maryland Army National Guard as an infantryman. Rieley attended basic training in 2004 at Ft. Benning, Georgia, and returned to Delaware to finish his degree.

After graduating in May of 2005, he received word that he would be deploying early the next year for a year-long tour of duty. After this tour, he returned home, only to get word of his deployment to Iraq as a part of the surge. After a 3 month train-up at Ft. Dix, N.J. he deployed to Baghdad, Iraq. He served in Iraq from September of 2007 through March of 2008.

Upon his return, Rieley decided to pursue a Master of Arts in Teaching, which he completed in December of 2010. He applied to a second graduate program at St. John’s College in

Annapolis, where he is currently working towards his Master of Arts in Liberal Arts, emphasis Philosophy and Classics. He is currently employed by the American Legion, where he works as the Assistant Director of the Legislative Affairs Department.