

**WASHINGTON, DC** –“ Congressman Joe Courtney is pleased to welcome Sergeant Helman Roman as the Connecticut lawmaker’s invited guest to the President’s State of the Union Address on Wednesday evening. Sergeant Roman and his family reside in Manchester, Connecticut, but Roman has been undergoing rehabilitation at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC since his military vehicle was impacted by an improvised explosive device (IED) in Afghanistan in September.

Roman volunteered to serve in Iraq from 2006 to 2007 and was deployed to Afghanistan in April 2009. Sergeant Roman was injured on September 11, 2009 by an IED attack.

“Sergeant Roman is an American hero who deserves our many thanks for answering the call of duty,” stated Courtney. “Although he continues to undergo a difficult rehabilitation, Sergeant Roman’s courage and strength are admirable and a lesson for all to follow. It is my honor to be joined by Sergeant Roman and his family for this special tradition.”

Roman and his wife, Johanna, and two children, Louis and Angelica, will join Congressman Courtney for dinner in the U.S. Capitol prior to the President’s address. Following dinner, Sergeant Roman will join Congressman Courtney in the U.S. House of Representatives Chamber for the address. Members of Congress are allotted one guest ticket to the State of the Union.

“I feel very honored to receive this invitation to the State of Union. For the past six years I've been proudly serving my country,” stated Roman. “I want to say thank you to all our soldiers for their service and dedication and to Water Reed staff for taking care of me and all wounded warriors. I'm working very hard in my therapy for a fast recovery, be able to go back home in Connecticut to be with my family and able again to enjoy our four seasons.”

Friends and family of Sergeant Roman notified Congressman Courtney of the Army soldier’s presence in Washington, DC.