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## **WIDENER ANNOUNCES LOCAL FALLEN HEROES HONORED**

*LIEUTENANT COLONEL MARIO D. CARAZO AND SPECIALIST JESSE A. SNOW AWARDED  
OHIO MILITARY MEDAL OF DISTINCTION*

COLUMBUS—State Senator Chris Widener (R- Springfield) today announced that two local fallen veterans were awarded the Ohio Military Medal of Distinction. Marine Lieutenant Colonel Mario D. Carazo of Springfield and Army Specialist Jesse A. Snow of Fairborn were among the thirty-five fallen veterans honored at today's Joint Convention of the Ohio General Assembly.

“Today I encourage all Ohioans to remember the sacrifice borne by our military men and women,” Widener said, “It is humbling to reflect on the courage and commitment of **Lieutenant Colonel Carazo**, Specialist Snow, and all of the fallen heroes we honored today with the Ohio Military Medal of Distinction. These patriots and their families deserve our constant respect, gratitude and prayers for their selfless service in defense of our nation.”

Established in 2009 with the passage of Senate Bill 248, the Ohio Military Medal of Distinction is awarded to Ohioans who have fallen while serving our country. Members of both the Ohio Senate and the Ohio House of Representatives gathered today to posthumously honor the thirty-five Ohioans who lost their lives in the line of duty over the past two years.

Lieutenant Colonel Carazo's Cobra helicopter was shot down while he was flying a combat mission in Afghanistan on July 22, 2010. Lt. Col. Carazo, who was on his seventh deployment, was providing air cover for an infantry battalion.

Specialist Jesse Snow was killed during an insurgent attack on his platoon's command post in Iraq on November 14, 2010. Spc. Snow has been posthumously awarded the Silver Star for his courageous and selfless actions that day that saved the lives of three fellow brothers in arms and solely denied the enemy the ability to capture any American soldiers in the battle.

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*Senator Chris Widener serves the people of the 10<sup>th</sup> Senate District, which includes Clark, Greene and Madison counties. He is chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, and a member of the Senate Ways & Means & Economic Development, Government Oversight & Reform, and Rules & Reference committees.*