

September 19, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

I am submitting this letter to nominate Daniel Hayes Jr. for the 2017 Walk of Honor Warrior Award. Not only is Dan Hayes the Executive Director for the Danbury War Memorial, he is also the Director of Veterans Affairs for the City of Danbury. Dan has a lot of responsibility between the two jobs, but he handles them in the most professional manner.

Dan served as a Specialist in the US Army during Operation Desert Storm. He was awarded the Bronze Star for Meritorious Achievement on March 15, 1991. As a team leader for a Civil Affairs Support Team for the 3rd Armored Division, Mr. Hayes demonstrated a superior knowledge in civil affair problems and tactical and technical proficiency, which ensured the smooth operation of the team.

During a patrol one day, Specialist Hayes' team were having trouble with site and location of the enemy as well as their our own convoy due to oil fire smoke, gusty sand storms, and much confusion.

While maneuvering behind enemy lines to affect an ambush while fierce Republican Guard soldiers were concentrated on Marines engaging them from the south, Specialist Hayes' unit faced friendly fire from their own Apache Helicopters, while at the same time learning that there were dismounted enemy infantry all around their position.

His orders were to leave their vehicles and prepare fox holes to get below the bullets flight path since any firing by them was blind due to the visibility problems and total chaos. As his team began to dig in, they realized in 120-degree heat, full Army fatigues covered by 80 pounds of full protective outfits and flack jackets, that they may not make it in time.

So at his own peril, Specialist Hayes removed all his own protective gear down to his T-shirt, and began digging foxholes one at a time for each of his five colleagues while they covered him with protective fire, digging his own last.

Congresswoman Elizabeth Esty stated that, "Dan put his own life on the line to try to ensure that some or all of the soldiers in his unit would not die out there."

After returning to the states, Dan's acts of heroism did not stop. Dan was given a civilian award by the City of Danbury for rescuing a woman from a burning vehicle that was involved in a motor vehicle accident. While other rescuers had left the vehicle fearing for their own safety, Mr. Hayes remained inside the vehicle with the occupant although the flames were spreading rapidly. My. Hayes was eventually able to free the occupant from her seatbelt and pull her to safety.

Please consider Daniel Hayes Jr. for the 2017 Walk of Honor Warrior Award.

Respectfully Yours,

Chick Volpe