Congressman Jeff Fortenberry and Nebraska Military Leadership present SSG Donald Wedberg (with his wife Dorothy) the Bronze Star Medal he earned for service in the U.S. Army during World War II.

With the fiscal crisis in government, the volatility in the Middle East, and the uncertainty in economic matters, perhaps now it is all the more important to remember the Americans who stared down fascism, beat back economic malaise, and gave America its standing as exceptional in the history of the world.

The "Greatest Generation" refers to those Americans who served their country both at home and abroad during World War II. The name describes the selflessness, sacrifice, hard work, and patriotism that united our country, helped us win the war, and built America into a world superpower in the years following.

I was pleased to welcome members of the "Greatest Generation" to my Lincoln office recently. Mr. Donald Wedberg and Mrs. Dorothy Wedberg of Lincoln were on their honeymoon 69 years ago when Donald was called to fight in Europe. There he served in the 119th Infantry of the U.S. Army, earning a Combat Infantry Badge during action in Normandy, Northern France, and Central Europe.

Today, at age 93, he had never received the Bronze Star Medal - one of the Military's highest honors - he'd been awarded for meritorious service. It was a distinct privilege, as his federal

Representative, to recover this medal on his behalf and present to him. Joined by Brigadier General Daryl Bohac and Adjutant General Judd Lyons of the Nebraska National Guard, we conducted an official presentation ceremony at the congressional office.

Staff Sergeant Wedberg, dressed in uniform, received the medal he had earned so many years ago with humility and grace. Friends and family members, some who traveled from Texas, smiled with pride, took photos, and perused the scrapbook of photos, letters, and news articles Dorothy kept during the years of her husband's service.

After the war, Staff Sergeant Wedberg, who was born and raised on a farm near Ceresco, returned home to Nebraska where he and Dorothy raised three daughters. The Wedbergs are model representatives of the "Greatest Generation," a very special group of Americans who continue to teach us much about the profound meaning of spirit, sacrifice, and responsibility in the great history of our nation.