



# NGAUS

## Individual Awards Nomination Form

**Nomination Deadline:** May 15

Award Nominated to Receive:

Nominated By:

Name/Rank/Duty/Title/Organization or Unit of Assignment of Nominee:

Years in the National Guard:

Justification for Award:

Proposed Citation:

## INDIVIDUAL AWARD NOMINATION FORM

1. **Award Nominated to Receive:** Charles Dick Medal of Merit
2. **Name:** Congressman Ed Case
3. **Nominated By:** Lt Col Dana Fisher, HNGA President
4. **Years in the National Guard:** N/A
5. **Justification for the award:**

From his time as a Hawai'i State Representative through to his congressional service representing the State of Hawai'i in the U.S. House of Representatives, Congressman Ed Case has recognized the critical role of our citizen soldiers and airmen and continually championed the causes of the National Guard.

Congressman Case began his elected political career in 1985 by serving on the Mānoa Neighborhood Board (1985-89). From 1994 to 2002, he represented Mānoa in the Hawai'i State House of Representatives. While in the State House, he served on the Public Safety and Military Affairs Committee, with oversight over the Hawai'i National Guard. During that time, he took various efforts to strengthen the National Guard at the state level. For example, he helped ensure adequate state-level support for a wide range of programs and offices including the Hawai'i Army National Guard, the Hawai'i Air National Guard and the Hawai'i National Guard Youth Challenge Academy.

From 2003 through 2007, Congressman Case represented Hawaii's 2nd Congressional District and tirelessly helped the National Guard advance its critical national security mission. For example, he:

- Visited members of the Hawai'i National Guard in Iraq (2003 and 2005) and Afghanistan (2004) to gain a firsthand understanding of the challenges they faced when deployed in combat zones.
- Voted to extend access to the military's TRICARE health insurance program to all National Guard members.
- Voted to authorize subsidies to help pay health insurance costs for the families of National Guard members called to active duty in support of our nation.
- Cosponsored H.Con.Res. 335, which urged the Secretary of Defense to take immediate steps to ensure that National Guard members in combat zones were provided with the same equipment as the regular Armed Forces.
- Cosponsored H.R. 558, the Guard and Reserve Readiness and Retention Act.

- Cosponsored H.R. 1565, the National Guard and Reserve Bill of Rights.

Congressman Case has made advocating on behalf of the National Guard a core element of his national security agenda since returning to Congress in January 2019 to represent Hawaii's 1st Congressional District. For example:

- Through his assignment on the House Appropriations Committee, for Fiscal Year 2020 he helped secure a \$50 million increase for the National Guard Youth Challenge Program, an additional \$65 million for the National Guard Counter-Drug Program and an additional \$100 million for Army National Guard High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle modernization
- Congressman Case voted to pass the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 that put 12304b deployments in a category that allows National Guard members to reach retirement faster, allows dual-status technicians to qualify for TRICARE and directs the Department of Education to track the performance of children from Guard families.
- He cosponsored legislation (H.R. 613) to allow guardmembers to access TRICARE Reserve Select, which would provide members of the National Guard access to quality, low-cost health insurance.
- Congressman Case cosponsored legislation (H.R. 801) to provide employers with a tax credit aimed to offset costs accrued and hardships undertaken when employees that are members of the National Guard are activated. This legislation incentivizes employers to hire and retain guardmembers.
- He cosponsored H.R. 4183, the Identifying Barriers and Best Practices Study Act, which directs the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on disability and pension benefits provided to members of the National Guard by the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Congressman Case visited members of the Hawai'i National Guard deployed overseas in Kosovo and Egypt in 2019.
- He serves as a member of the National Guard and Reserve Components Caucus.

### **Proposed Citation:**

The Charles Dick Medal of Merit is awarded to Congressman Ed Case for his tireless efforts in support of the Hawai'i National Guard and the United States military. Over the course of over three decades in public service, Congressman Case has stood by the Guard in supporting wide-ranging initiatives that will continue to have direct and positive impacts for the soldiers and airmen of the National Guard for many years to come. The National Guard Association of the United States commends him for his unwavering commitment to the welfare of our citizen soldiers and airmen.

David Y. Ige  
GOVERNOR



Kenneth S. Hara  
MAJOR GENERAL  
ADJUTANT GENERAL

STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**  
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816-4495

May 29, 2020

Awards Committee  
National Guard Association of the  
United States  
One Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Committee Members:

It is with great pleasure that I endorse and forward the attached recommendation for award of the Charles Dick Medal of Merit to Hawaii's State Representative Edward Espenett Case. Rep Ed Case. His strong support of the National Guard and all the military services is most noteworthy.

His track record of commitment to the National Guard and to the State of Hawaii is commendable. His untiring efforts have resulted in enhanced quality of life benefits for Guard members and Reservists, improved services to veterans and the overall betterment of the Armed Forces of Hawaii.

Rep Ed Case is deserving of this honor. I strongly support his nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rusty Spray".

Rusty Spray  
Colonel (Ret)  
Hawaii National Guard Association  
Executive Director