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Mayor's Office • 100 East Michigan Blvd. • Michigan City, IN 46360 • (219) 873-1400 • Fax: (219) 873-1515  
www.emichigancity.com

## **For Immediate Release**

**Date:** November 10, 2008  
**Phone:** (219) 873-1400  
**Fax:** (219) 873-1515  
**Contact:** Cindi Gonzalez-Walus

## **Mayor Oberlie Awards Homeland Patriot Medal to U.S. Army Sergeant Ian Nelson**

Michigan City, IN – Mayor Chuck Oberlie is pleased to announce the awarding of a Homeland Patriot Medal to U.S. Army Sergeant Ian Nelson. The award will be given to Sgt. Nelson at the Veterans Day Ceremony to be held on Tuesday, November 11, 2008, at 10:30 a.m. at Skwiat Post 451.

Sergeant Nelson is a 2001 graduate of Michigan City High School and he joined the Army after the September 11<sup>th</sup> terrorist attacks. Nelson completed Infantry School and Airborne School in 2002 and shortly thereafter was assigned to the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division. As a member of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne, Nelson served two tours of duty in Afghanistan.

In 2004, Nelson completed training as part of a professional leadership development course and earned a promotion to Sergeant, with an assignment to the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division where he served a 15 month tour of duty in the Babel Province of Iraq.

Throughout his distinguished duty, Sergeant Nelson has earned the following awards: Combat Infantry Badge; Airborne Wings; 3 Army Achievement Medals; 2 Army Commendation Medals; 2 Good Conduct Medals; 4 Overseas Ribbons; Afghanistan Campaign Medal; Iraqi Campaign Medal; National Defense Ribbon; Army Service Ribbon; Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Service Medals; Thailand Jump Wings; and Expert Marksmanship Badge.

Sergeant Nelson presently serves with the 863<sup>rd</sup> Engineering Battalion in Darien, Illinois, and is training to become a Technical Engineer.