

National Puerto Rican Coalition Recognizes Congressman Steve Rothman for his Leadership in Helping Vieques, Puerto Rico

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 2, 2011

CONTACT: Aaron Keyak

office: (202) 225-5061

cell: (202) 905-6361

email: aaron.keyak@mail.house.gov

Washington, DC – On November 17, 2011, Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ) was recognized at the 2011 National Puerto Rican Coalition (NPRC) Leadership Luncheon for his strong commitment to the people of Vieques, Puerto Rico.

“The US government must address the serious and disabling health care problems suffered by the people of Vieques and my bill, the Vieques Recovery and Development Act, is the first step. These health issues were caused by more than 62 years of the US bombing that island with military ordnance, which, our own government has acknowledged, created a federal superfund site that contains dozens of extremely dangerous, toxic and harmful poisons,” said Congressman Rothman. “The injustice toward the people of Vieques, Puerto Rico must be corrected. The time for the US government to right this wrong is long overdue.”

The island of Vieques is a municipality of Puerto Rico, with 10,000 residents, located eight miles east of the main island. From 1941-2003, the Navy tested nearly every kind of munitions employed by the U.S. military, dropping millions of pounds of ordnance on Vieques.

Pictured below is Kathleen Black, a supporter of the National Puerto Rican Coalition (NPRC), presenting Congressman Rothman with the 2011 NPRC Leadership Award.

###