Rep. Peter Welch issued the statement below following the announcement of the death of Master Sergeant Shawn Stocker.

"In the long and honorable tradition of the Vermont National Guard, Master Sergeant Shawn Stocker demonstrated a tireless devotion to his state and country. He gave his life in that tradition while helping fellow Vermonters devastated by Tropical Storm Irene. I know I join all Vermonters in expressing gratitude for his service and heartfelt condolences to his loving family. As a state, we are humbled by his selfless service to our neighbors in their time of need."