

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001a. letter	To Dr. Diana Zuckerman from veteran re: health (1 page)	06/11/95	b(6)
001b. letter	To J. Derrick from veteran re: health (2 pages)	06/11/95	b(6)
002. report	Medical records of veteran (13 pages)	05/05/95	b(6)
003a. letter	To Mr. & Mrs. Clinton from veteran (partial p. 4) (1 page)	n.d.	b(6)
003b. note	To The President from veteran re: consent (1 page)	n.d.	b(6)
004. report	Medical records of veteran (20 pages)	07/17/95	b(6)
005. form	Re: Hardship Cases (partial) (1 page)	n.d.	b(6)
006a. letter	To The First Lady from veteran re: health (2 pages)	03/20/95	b(6)
006b. memo	To V.A. Claims Office from C. Jackson M.D. re: veteran (partial) (1 page)	10/27/95	b(6)
007. report	Re: veteran with psychiatric problems (partial) (1 page)	n.d.	b(6)
008. letter	To Dr. Zuckerman from veteran and wife (partial) (1 page)	04/21/95	b(6)
009a. letter	To Ms. Zuckerem [sic] from veteran re: health (partial) (2 pages)	03/23/95	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Maggie Williams (Subject Files)
OA/Box Number: 12631

FOLDER TITLE:

Copies of Letters Referred [1]

2013-0359-S

ry1475

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
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C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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009b. form	Authorization for Release of Information (VA Form 21-4142) (partial) (1 page)	05/01/95	b(6)
010. note	Re: veteran's letter (partial) (1 page)	n.d.	b(6)
011a. fax	To Hillary Clinton (partial) (1 page)	02/23/95	b(6)
011b. letter	To Whom It May Concern from veteran's wife (partial p. 1) (1 page)	n.d.	b(6)

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December 1995
120

MRS. HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FIRST LADY
OLD EXECUTIVE BUILDING
THE WHITE HOUSE

WILLIAM R BARBER
633 S. GEARY ST.
MT. PLEASANT, PA 15666

DEAR FIRST LADY:

I HAVE BEEN READING IN THE MEDIA ABOUT THE CONCERN AND SUPPORT THAT YOU HAVE BEEN GIVING TO THE PERSIAN GULF VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES SUFFERING WITH HEALTH PROBLEMS. WE IN THE VETERAN COMMUNITY FEEL THIS IS VERY PATRIOTIC AND HIGHLY COMMENDABLE THAT YOU ARE HELPING TO ADDRESS THESE PROBLEMS.

MY REQUEST IS ALSO A PROBLEM OF HEALTH TO VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES. THE VETERAN COMMUNITY IS ASKING IF YOU MRS. HILARY RODMAN CLINTON WOULD BECOME INVOLVED WITH THE VIETNAM VETERAN. WE ARE STILL SUFFERING HEALTH PROBLEMS DUE TO EXPOSURE FROM AGENT ORANGE DECADES AFTER THE WAR.

1, JUNE 1995 A MARCH IN WASHINGTON D.C. WILL TAKE PLACE FOR AGENT ORANGE VICTIMS. WE WILL ASSEMBLE AT THE REFLECTING POOL FOR AN ADDRESS TO THE BODY AT 10:00 A.M. AND WE WILL ASSEMBLE AND WALK TO THE VIETNAM MEMORIAL AT 1:00 PM. A SHORT SERVICE WILL TAKE PLACE IN MEMORY OF OUR FALLEN BROTHERS AND SISTERS.

THE MARCH WAS STARTED AND COORDINATED BY FOUR VIETNAM VETERANS: BILL BARBER FROM PA, TOM JOYCE FROM VT, BOBBY DODD FROM TN, AND RODNEY TYLER FROM N.C. WE WILL MEET WITH SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE DAY PRIOR TO THE MARCH. THESE MEETINGS ARE TO HELP BRING ATTENTION TO OUR HEALTH PROBLEMS DUE TO AGENT ORANGE POISONING.

WE WOULD BE HONORED AND APPRECIATIVE IF YOU COULD PLEASE FIND A BRIEF AMOUNT OF TIME IN YOUR BUSY SCHEDULE TO MEET WITH US SOMETIME PRIOR TO THE MARCH. THE DATE OF THE MARCH IS 1, JUNE 1995. WE WILL ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON AROUND 3:00 PM ON 29, MAY 1995. I AM ENCLOSING A LETTER DRAFTED TO PRESIDENT CLINTON ALSO WITH EXPECTATIONS OF RECEIVING A MEETING. THANK YOU FOR ANY CONSIDERATION THAT YOU WILL GIVE US.

SINCERELY YOURS,

Bill Barber

BILL BARBER

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001a. letter	To Dr. Diana Zuckerman from veteran re: health (1 page)	06/11/95	b(6)
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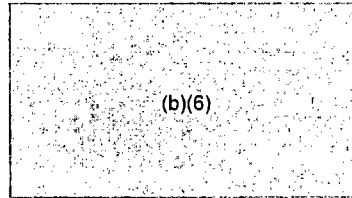
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11 June 1995

*Refer to
Advisory
Committee*



Doctor Diana Zuckerman
Office of the First Lady
Old Executive Office Building, Suite 100
Washington, DC 20500

[0012]

Dear Doctor Zuckerman:

In my 16 May 1995 letter, I wrote you concerning my medical problems associated with Gulf War Syndrome arising from Gulf War service while stationed in the Middle East. At that time, I forwarded a packet for review by the Presidential Advisory Committee investigating the Gulf War Syndrome.

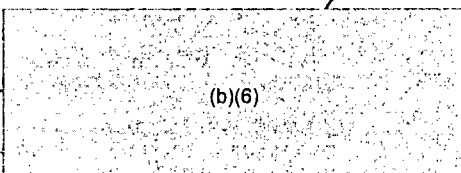
Since my last writing, I have been examined by my family physician and an independent infectious disease specialist concerning my medical problems. On 9 June 1995, I was positively diagnosed as having **"late stage" Lyme Disease**. I attach, for your information, a self-explanatory letter (with enclosures) forwarded to the Veterans Administration this date.

I would be pleased if this additional information would be included in the packet I forwarded to you on 16 May 1995. I believe the original packet, supplemented with this information, certainly documents some errors made by both the Army and the Veterans Administration, along the way, in diagnosing my medical problems. It could very well be that this information represents the "light at the end of the tunnel" that explains why so many other Gulf War veterans are having such a difficult time with getting a "concrete" diagnosis for their medical problems.

As always, I may be contacted at the address/ phone number listed above if additional information is required or the committee desires to speak with me.

Your kind assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



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001b. letter	To J. Derrick from veteran re: health (2 pages)	06/11/95	b(6)

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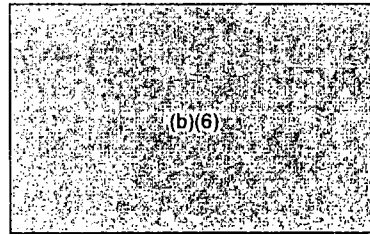
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11 June 1995



J. Derrick, Adjudication Officer
Department of Veterans Affairs (Regional Office)
P.O. Box 8079
Philadelphia, PA 19101

[0016]

Dear J. Derrick:

I am writing to provide supplemental information concerning my claim for benefits as a result of service-connected disability.

On 16 May 1995, I had a follow-up physical examination by Doctor George E. Way, family physician. At that time, he went over the lab results of tests (copies attached at Enclosures 1, 2 & 3). Findings of those tests included questionable Lyme Antibodies (tested .9), reactive Hepatitis A Antibodies, an extremely high Epstein-Barr panel (quantitative IGG and antibodies titer), slightly low Gamma-Glutamyltransferase (GGT), slightly high Glycohemoglobin (A1C) and problems with Cholesterol. These represent new medical findings not found by VA during a complete medical examination and blood/urine work-up at the VA Medical Center, Martinsburg in February-March 1995.

Following my examination and lab reports, Dr. Way referred me to Doctor Dino Delaportis, Infectious Disease Specialist for further consultation and diagnosis (copy of referral at Enclosure 4). On 24 May 1995, I had an initial consult with Dr. Delaportis regarding my reported symptoms akin to Gulf War Syndrome and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. Based on my extensive military travels overseas (including the Persian Gulf Region during the Gulf War), Dr. Delaportis ordered a Western Blot (for spirochete Borrelia burgdorferi, Bb), Lyme Antibodies and an O&P & Giardia (for parasitic diseases). A copy of the lab requisition is attached at Enclosure 5.

On 9 June 1995, Dr. Delaportis diagnosed me with **"Advanced Stage" LYME DISEASE**, based on the positive results of the Western Blot (Enclosure 6). Dr. Delaportis' also told me that "if anybody could be positively diagnosed with Lyme Disease, your test results certainly prove it!" My extensive medical research and suspicions as to what ails me undoubtedly paid off. It is evident that the United States Army retired me from the military with a pre-existing, extremely debilitating and life threatening infectious disease that is a result of military service. It is unfortunate that this infectious disease is now in the late stages and I will require continual medical attention, as a result, for the rest of my life. And, some of my medical symptoms may be permanent as well. It is also evident that the VA Medical Center, Martinsburg was not listening well to my reported

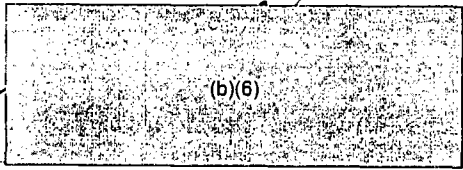
symptoms based on their findings and diagnosis. Based on documented military medical history, coupled with the symptoms I reported in both my claim for service-connected disability and to the VA Medical Center, Martinsburg, red flags should have went up with additional testing for infectious diseases to rule out or confirm other possibilities. I've read the VA medical reports/lab results and received several letters from Dr. Richmond, VA Medical Center...they didn't pursue testing by Western Blot or Giardia to rule out infectious diseases such as Bb and Rickettsial parasites. It is no wonder why there are so many ill veterans with unexplained medical problems walking around who cannot be provided a proper diagnosis.

Please note that Dr. Delaportis wanted to hospitalize me for an extended period for treatment by intravenous antibiotics (required treatment for late stage Lyme Disease). Unfortunately, I am unable to submit to an extended (3-6 month) hospitalization due to financial reasons. Therefore, I requested to try oral antibiotics (which has worked in a few late stage cases) until the government can decide what they can and **"will"** do for me. Senator's Mikulski (MD) and Rockefeller (WV) are intimately involved in my case. I have requested reinstatement on active duty for medical reasons due to a pre-existing, service-connected medical problem. In the interim, however, I would be pleased if VA would move forward on my case and decide what can be done both medically and financially to get me on the road to recovery. I believe that **late stage Lyme Disease** should fit within the criteria of service-connected disability related to Gulf War Syndrome.

As a final note, I have not received the results back on the O&P & Giardia (for parasitic diseases). Also, I have not had any further testing for other infectious diseases or parasites that I may have picked up during my service in Vietnam, Australia and/or the Persian Gulf (Middle East) region. Certainly, more medical tests may be called for, considering that I was exposed to many infectious areas overseas during my twenty-four plus years of military service.

Your assistance and attention in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



(b)(6)

Enclosures:

1. Lab Results, Specimen R95325992, 5/13/95
2. Lab Results, Specimen R95442989, 5/18/95
3. Lab Results, Specimen R95430873, 5/20/95
4. Referral to Dr. Delaportis, 5/16/95
5. Clinical Lab Request, 5/24/95
6. Lab Results, Specimen R95519002, 6/06/95 (Positive Diagnosis, Lyme Disease)

Copy to: Mrs. Brandon, MD Veterans Commission, Hagerstown

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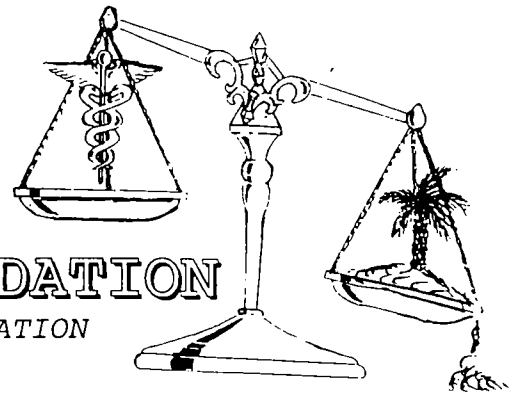
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DANA

to be forwarded to
the GW advisory
committee

DESERT STORM JUSTICE FOUNDATION

A NATIONAL NOT FOR PROFIT CORPORATION



POST OFFICE BOX 892014
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA 73189
TELEPHONE: 405/348-1722

March 22, 1995

Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton
Office of the First Lady
Old Executive Office, Room 100
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

I feel somewhat acquainted with you since I and other Veterans and Veteran's advocates have written to President Clinton and you have read those letters; you have been visiting ill Veterans, and now Dr. Gant has met with you and Dr. Zuckerman and delivered some of our information.

President Clinton's call for an independent research council was a very welcomed announcement at the March 10-12 National Unity Conference of Gulf War Veterans. Members of this group have visited with Dr. Zuckerman regarding this, and we all look forward to providing input and assistance to obtain swift results.

Mrs. Clinton, my son, Jason E. Whitcomb, is gravely ill and his health continues to deteriorate. He was hospitalized in Dallas after having a seizure and becoming comatose. We were attending the above referenced conference at which Jim Tuite and Steve Robertson participated and provided information. I'm sure you are familiar with these gentlemen.

The SPECT brain scan performed on Jason revealed neurotoxic exposure and significant brain damage. In high school Jason's IQ was 137, shortly after his medical discharge April 1992 it tested 126, last summer when he spent 5 1/2 weeks at the Houston VA Referral Center it was 112, last week after the Dallas episode it was 96. This is all the result of the exposures and medications received during his service in the Gulf War. He was a combat engineer with the 82nd Airborne and was, of course, in top condition and health. He has walked with a cane for over three years and now must use a wheelchair if needing to walk over 100 feet. *Jason is only 22 years old.*

Since returning home from the Dallas hospital with several prescriptions, the V.A. hospital here in Oklahoma City is unwilling to fill them - one being **oxygen**. Jason is 100% disabled, service connected, and V.A. is responsible for providing his health care. Additionally, Congress has passed a law stating that if a V.A. health facility is unable to diagnose and/or treat a Veteran, they must contract out that service to a non-V.A. facility. Jason has not received a definite diagnose for his joint disorders and very little treatment other than being sent to the mental health clinic and pills shoved at him.

Mrs. Hillary Clinton
March 22, 1995
Page Two

Mrs. Clinton, I desperately need help for my son. He does not have health insurance nor the funds to pay for non-V.A. health care. Dr. William Rea, internationally known cardiovascular surgeon and head of the Environmental Clinic of Dallas, has an extremely effective treatment program that has proven to be a life saver for several gravely ill Gulf War Veterans. Dr. Rea has visited with Major General Blanck and Secretary Jesse Brown on numerous occasions regarding his protocol, and has offered to train V.A. and military doctors in his treatment program. Dr. Rea has agreed to "carry" Jason's medical bills if he can pay for his housing costs while in Dallas for the six week treatment program. Dr. Rea says he will assist me in billing V.A.; however, Jason is afraid to incur thousands of dollars in medical expense and face the prospect of bankruptcy.

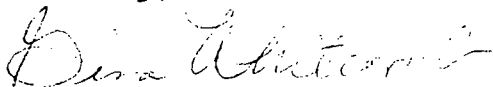
Meanwhile his health continues to deteriorate and he and his wife know they cannot even **consider** having children - even without the prospect of his worsening health and financial constraints. I'm referring to the huge number of incidents involving ill spouses, children, miscarriages, stillbirths, and horrible birth defects.

I visited today with Dr. Myra Shalivick (spelling?) of the North Hampton V.A. Medical Center in New Hampshire. I first knew of her when we were in Washington November 1993 and she gave testimony concerning toxic exposures and environmental illnesses. She has worked diligently to formulate a protocol and environmental unit, on her own time as she has not been given time during normal working hours at the hospital. She told me of an April 19 meeting to seek approval of the treatment plan. Mrs. Clinton, I hope you or Mr. Clinton are able to discover more about this meeting and ascertain that Dr. Shalivick is receiving fair consideration and funding.

Mrs. Clinton, I am writing to you also in behalf of all ill Gulf War Veterans and their families. I am the public affairs officer for the Desert Storm Justice Foundation, and we have over 2,200 members for all States, England and Germany. I have spoken personally with hundreds of ill Veterans and their family members and I can't begin to tell you the horror stories I hear and how it tears at your heart. The worst stories are about the babies followed by the dismay of not being believed by V.A. or the public. Jason is my "baby" and I intend to do everything I can with every fiber in my body to see that he receives proper medical treatment and heals as much as possible to return to the normal life of a young man with his whole life ahead of him.

I am enclosing a cassette tape of the song *Jason's Storm*, which was written about Jason. The song has had a tremendous effect on all Veterans, family members and the public. It is the second song on the cassette, and I think you will better understand the situation after listening to the words. I look forward to hearing something from your office. My card is enclosed.

Sincerely,



Gina Whitcomb
Public Affairs officer

MR. + MRS. Clinton,

1 OF 4

First off I would like to say that I think that yourself and your staff have done a great job since taking office.

Mr. Clinton, I come to you in hopes that you'll get this letter yourself and hope that you can help me on my V.A. Claim and maybe some advice on which steps I need to take now. Let me explain a little, I've had a claim in now for 21 months and I've done everything I know to do, and they rated me at 100% disabled but non-service connected.

I've been hospitalized several times and have lost my job of 8yrs. and now there wanting to medically retire me from the 2/142d FA Army National Guard with 17yrs. of service. The V.A. hospital in Little Rock has given me another type of wheelchair, put me in leg braces,

given me a cane and has me going to "preventive Amputation" for my legs. I don't understand how I'm getting all this if I'm not Service connected.

I have also filed for unemployably with the V.A. and have not had ~~any~~ any assistance on that matter either from the V.A. My claim is being handle in Nashville, ~~TN.~~ TN., They first told me that NO Records from any doctors stated that these things were related to Desert Storm, well, that's wrong to because it was stated atleast 21 times from several Doctor's. So I think they just didn't read them. I can't walk 60 ft. without stopping to rest.

MR. Cliton I'm writting you because I'm vary ill and not only do I suffer but my family has to suffer out

of this also. If I sound somewhat bitter it's because I am somewhat and they say it's because I have PTSD also.

MR. Clinton, I have climbed the chain of command but I haven't gotten anywhere doing that so I hope your door is open. This is the order that I've taken.

1. NATIONAL GUARD Unit
2. V. A. Hospital
3. D.A.U.
4. Congressman Hutchinson
5. I. G. Maj. Hall Little Rock
6. Sen. Bumpers
7. Sen. Pryor
8. MR. Jesse Brown - no response from his staff
9. Yourself MR. President

I come to you because I know of your deep concern for all people and I was so physically fit before the war, I was always in the top 3 in my Guard Unit on the fitness test and now I'm bound

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C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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40F4

to a wheel chair and I'm not related to Desert Storm well, I sure don't know how I'm suppose to understand that. Maybe you'll shine some light on that for me and my family.

I want from earning 30,000 a yr. to not even a copper penny the last yr. My family never worried about anything and now we all worry daily. Please help or give me a call at 501-632-4785 for your advice for I don't know where to go from here.

I hope when you're in Ark. Again I can be honored to shake your hand in person. You've done a great job. MAY God be with you MR. President and your lovely family. Thank you so much,

[0032]

(b)(6)

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
003b. note	To The President from veteran re: consent (1 page)	n.d.	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Maggie Williams (Subject Files)
OA/Box Number: 12631

FOLDER TITLE:

Copies of Letters Referred [1]

2013-0359-S
ry1475

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
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Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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MR. PRESIDENT,

*Referred to AG
Lemon*

I did not know if you needed my consent in helping me in my claim,
if so then:

I (b)(6) hereby give my consent to you the President
of the United States to handle my request.
ON THIS DATE 31 JULY 95.

[00.36]

(b)(6)

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
004. report	Medical records of veteran (20 pages)	07/17/95	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Maggie Williams (Subject Files)
OA/Box Number: 12631

FOLDER TITLE:

Copies of Letters Referred [1]

2013-0359-S
ry1475

RESTRICTION CODES

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Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
005. form	Re: Hardship Cases (partial) (1 page)	n.d.	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Maggie Williams (Subject Files)
OA/Box Number: 12631

FOLDER TITLE:

Copies of Letters Referred [1]

2013-0359-S

ry1475

RESTRICTION CODES

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Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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HARDSHIP CASES

WHITE HOUSE COMMENT LINE

VOLUNTEER NAME

M. Goldman

[005]

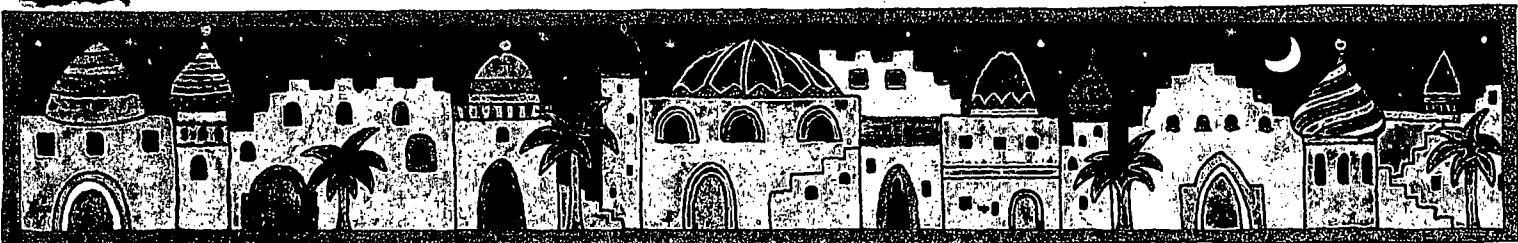
Name of Caller: (b)(6)		Address P.O. Box 1220A 8037 Silver City, New Mex. 88062	
Calling on behalf of whom: self			
Home Telephone: () _____		Work Telephone: () 1-800-915-5977 message.	
DOB: (b)(6)	SSN: (b)(6)	Date of call: 10-26-95	
Nature of problem: ☐ Social Security ☒ Veterans ☐ Housing ☐ Children ☐ Prisons ☐ Immigration ☐ Medicare ☐ Medicaid ☐ Seniors ☐ Military ☐ Unemployment ☐ IRS ☐ Utilities ☐ Federal Grants ☐ Consumer Affairs ☐ Social Services		Why is this urgent? <i>claim 23433961</i> He is living in the back of a pick up truck. 5 years ago he was diagnosed with post traumatic stress disorder. Claim adjudicated July 27, 1993. Awarded a non-service connected benefit. Appealed - Perfection of Appeals process - denied rights arbitrarily. What action would the caller want? - last adjudication Sept. 12 - submit and denied. Claim # 23433961 He just can barely exist on what he gets	

Please refer to the Agency Liaison Office:

Stephen Miller has asked the First Lady's office for assistance. He is a Gulf War veteran whose son was born approximately one year after the war with birth defects known as Goldenhar Syndrome -- the baby was born with one eye, one ear, and other serious defects. Goldenhar Syndrome is very rare, and is believed to be caused by chemical exposure.

Stephen Miller is a nurse. He is mild-mannered and knowledgeable, and he has testified before Congress about his son's condition, and has been interviewed by several magazines and newspapers. He had to be discharged from the military in order to help care for his son.

The Air Force is handling the claims. Three pages of documentation is attached.



28 April 95.

DR. ZUCKERMAN.

I'm NOT SURE if you remember me, my NAME is STEPHEN MILLER
OUR SON is CEDRICK MILLER, LAST YEAR you were kind Enough
TO HEAR OUR STORY AT THE Aug 94 HEARINGS.
I WAS recently discharged FROM THE ARMY, I ASKED FOR A
discharge, WITH EVERYTHING going on in OUR LIVES, IT WAS MY FAMILY
OR THE MILITARY.

I AM WRITING TO ASK IF THERE HAVE BEEN ANY DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS ISSUE.
I WAS recently TOLD DOD TESTED THE DRUGS ON ANIMALS AND THEY DIED OR
HAD DEFORMED OFFSPRING.

I'm SORRY IF I'm STILL UPSET BUT YESTERDAY I SAW CEDRICK'S 3-D CAT SCAN
AND THE DR'S SAY EVEN THOUGH HE IS CUTE NOW HIS FACE WILL DISTORT
NOW SINCE HE IS DEVELOPING IN AGE. WE HAVE 3 MORE SURGERIES UPCOMING
WHICH WILL MAKE 13 IN THREE YEARS, PLUS THE ONE NEEDED AS HE DEVELOPES, IN AGE.
WE HAVE A CLAIM FILED WITH DOD, BUT IT WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE
AIR FORCE CLAIMS OFFICE, FROM THE ARMY, AND WE HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING YET
NEITHER HAS ANY OF THE OTHER FAMILIES, WE FOUND EIGHT POSSIBLY NINE C
CEDRICK'S CONDITION (GOLDEN HARE) 2 WEEKS AGO CEDRICK WAS FINALLY SEEN
FOR GULF WAR EVAL. THIS LASTED LESS THAN 1 HR.
WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY HELP YOU COULD PROVIDE. THANK YOU.

STEPHEN MILLER.
KPM

210-646-8446

10830 EDGECREST DR.

SAN ANTONIO TEXAS.

78217.



Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
006a. letter	To The First Lady from veteran re: health (2 pages)	03/20/95	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Maggie Williams (Subject Files)
OA/Box Number: 12631

FOLDER TITLE:

Copies of Letters Referred [1]

2013-0359-S

ry1475

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

copy

(b)(6)

VA CLAIM # (b)(6)

[0062]

March 20, 1995

Dear The First Lady:

My name is (b)(6), Social Security Number (b)(6). During my time in the Persian Gulf, between December 1990 to April 1991, I was with the 24th Naval Construction Battalion at Camp 13. Since the scud attack on January 20, 1991, my health has been going down hill. A few months after I got home I had a physical for my work. I work for the Columbus Fire Department. That's when I found out I couldn't pass the breathing test. Three years before I went to Desert Storm I passed the Physical every year with no trouble.

I have been dealing with the VA Hospital in Tuskegee, Alabama since November 1992. All they did was take blood and run test. There has been no medical treatment, and they have not found the cause of my illness. At first they would say nothing was wrong with me, it was all in my head. The VA Medical Center in Tuskegee sent the Department of Veterans Affairs a list of my symptoms.

Enclosed you will find a copy of that Diagnosis. Nobody wanted to hear this diagnosis and wouldn't accept it. Dr. Jackson's diagnosis was: PERSIAN GULF SYNDROME AND CHEMICAL-BIOLOGICAL WARFARE EXPOSURE. Dr. Jackson also told me later on that I had EMPHYSEMA, but he wouldn't put that in writing.

I did every test they wanted me to do hoping they would find out what was wrong with me. When they came up with the Pilot Program at the VA Hospital in Birmingham Alabama, I was sent there to have more test run. I started the program March, 2 1994. They ran all kinds of test. When I talked to Dr. Roswell who was in charge of the program, he said that my blood test were ok.

Myself and Nick Roberts, another Persian Gulf Vet, went to another Doctor in North Carolina, and had more test. Enclosed you will find Dr. Wilson's findings. Dr. Wilson told me none of my blood test were normal. It was either above normal or below normal. Dr. Wilson stated in his findings that the assessment for me was suffering from Immune Dysfunction, Fatigue, Headaches, and Memory Loss. The results were consistent in part with effects of a Chemical Exposure on these symptoms.

I'm still working for the Columbus Fire Department. They put me in an office job, because I'm not able to do my normal job of fighting fires. Because of my illness I cannot put in for a promotion, and that means a loss of money.

PAGE 2

I got in contact with a Dr. Albert K. Langley, Jr., with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. He sent me the information I ask him for, about the long and short term effects of exposure to various burning Hydracarbon Compounds.

When the time came and I was called on to fight in the Persian Gulf War, I went. Now, I feel that it's time for my Country to help me with some compensation. Unless the VA System can find a cure for mine and the other Gulf War Vets, I don't think the compensation should be for just two or three years, unless that's how long the VA thinks we have left on this earth!!

Now is the time for "OUR COUNTRY" to come to the aid of the "DESERT STORM VETS", don't wait until we are all gone.

WE ALL NEED YOUR HELP!!!

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

ENCLOSURES:

- 1) Diagnosis from Dr. Charles Jackson/ VA Hospital
- 2) Letter from Department of Veterans Affairs
- 3) Copy of my Pulmonary Test from VA Hospital in Tuskegee
- 4) A letter with a Diagnosis from Dr. John Wilson in North Carolina
- 5) Copy of some test run in the Pilot Program in Birmingham Alabama
- 6) A letter from Dr. Albert K. Langley, Jr. of the EPD of Georgia
- 7) Diagnosis and test from two of my Private Doctors

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
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006b. memo	To V.A. Claims Office from C. Jackson M.D. re: veteran (partial) (1 page)	10/27/95	b(6)
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COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Maggie Williams (Subject Files)
OA/Box Number: 12631

FOLDER TITLE:

Copies of Letters Referred [1]

2013-0359-S

ry1475

RESTRICTION CODES

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Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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Department of
Veterans Affairs

Memorandum

Date 10-27-93

VA CLAIM #

(b)(6)

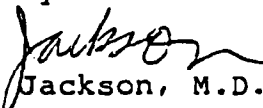
From: c. Jackson, M.D.
Environmental Physician, V.A. Tuskegee, Ala.
Subj: Disability Claim-Persian Gulf

To: V.A. Claims office

[0066]

Mr. (b)(6), ss# (b)(6) has been followed by the V.A. Hospital in Tuskegee since his return from the Persian Gulf. He is a member of He has experienced shortness of breath, excessive fatigue, diarrhea(intermittent), night sweats, memory problems and joint pains since the Gulf War. He was a member of the Construction Battalion 24 which was stationed at Al Jubayl in the Gulf . We have given him the diagnosis of Persian Gulf Syndrome and Chemical-Biological warfare exposure. He had none of these symptoms prior to the Gulf.

If we can be of further service, please notify.


C. Jackson, M.D.

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Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
007. report	Re: veteran with psychiatric problems (partial) (1 page)	n.d.	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Maggie Williams (Subject Files)
OA/Box Number: 12631

FOLDER TITLE:

Copies of Letters Referred [1]

2013-0359-S
ry1475

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Tape from

(b)(6)

[007]

Has been treated by VA for psychiatric problems since 1974. He's had thorazine, haldol, lithium, xanax, etc (anti-psychotic drugs and manic depression drugs). Feels the medications have not helped him.

Wasn't sure whether to fill out the questionnaire, because he doesn't think VA cares about anyone.

He had planned to cut off part of his finger. He had told VA "mental hygiene" clinic that he was going to do this. I then cut it off, 25 miles away from a community facility, and then went there rather than go 30 miles further to VA. I made sure that it wasn't possible to re-attach the finger, but the wound needed to be closed. But they couldn't get authorization to treat it, so they wanted to send him to the VA. He had waited 24 hrs, and couldn't drive, so needed to take an ambulance.

I'm an ex-Marine sargent, by the government's choice, not mine. Has been diagnosed as schizophrenic, so what he says is disregarded.

VA employees like to persecute veterans.

He goes through the questions individually.

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
008. letter	To Dr. Zuckerman from veteran and wife (partial) (1 page)	04/21/95	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Maggie Williams (Subject Files)
OA/Box Number: 12631

FOLDER TITLE:

Copies of Letters Referred [1]

2013-0359-S

ry1475

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PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

TO: DR. DIANA ZUCKERMAN
THE OFFICE OF THE FIRST LADY

APRIL 21 '95

FROM: (b)(6)

REF: (b)(6)

SS#: (b)(6)

[008]

DEAR DR. ZUCKERMAN,

I AM WRITING TO YOU ON THE BEHALF OF MY HUSBAND, (b)(6),
(b)(6), REGARDING HIS MILITARY MEDICAL DISCHARGE. I TALKED
WITH YOU ON THE PHONE, REGARDING THIS MATTER, I HAVE SENT
STATEMENTS TO THE SENATORS AMONG OTHER PERSONS.
ENCLOSED YOU WILL FIND THESE STATEMENTS, PLEASE HELP US ???
THE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD HERE IN COLUMBIA SC. ARE GIVING US A
HARD TIME, IT SEEMS THAT THEY HAVE LOST HIS MEDICAL RECORDS.
AND OF COURSE WE DID NOT EVER RECEIVE A COPY OF THEM.
THEY ARE INSISTING THAT HE HAS GOT TO GO THROUGH ALL TESTING
AGAIN, MY HUSBAND REFUSES TO DO SO, WE HAVE DONE ALL THAT
WE WERE SUPPOSED TO DO. AND WHAT ABOUT THE PUBLIC LAW
(100-397) 1994 FURTHER RESEARCH AND STUDIES MUST BE UNDER
UNDER TAKEN AND PERSIAN GULF VETERANS GIVEN BENEFIT OF
DOUBT AND PROVIDED COMPENSATION.
DR. ZUCKERMAN WE HOPE AND PRAY THAT YOU WILL HELP US WITH
THIS PROBLEM. I DID CONTACT TWO SENATORS OFFICES AND SO FAR
WE HAVE NOT GOTTEN ANY HELP.
WE DO NOT WISH TO GO TO THE MEDIA WITH THIS PROBLEM, BUT IF
ITS THE ONLY WAY TO GET HELP, THEN WE WILL DO WHAT WE MUST.
DR. ZUCKERMAN, YOU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN SO KIND TO ME WHEN WE
WOULD TALK, I HAVE THE UPPERMOST RESPECT FOR YOU, AND I
ALWAYS WILL. IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO HELP US WITH THIS, COULD
YOU PLEASE TURN IT OVER TO SOMEONE THAT WILL ?

THANK YOU .

(b)(6)

ADDRESS:

(b)(6)

OFFICE OF THE FIRST LADY

phone 202-456-6266
fax 202-456-6244

TO

Elisa

FROM

Dana

FAY #

6-9180

PHONE #

OF PAGES (including cover)

COMMENTS

Letter from BWV of GA to FRC



Gulf War Veterans of Georgia

April 10, 1995

Paul Sullivan
President

Brian S. Atkinson
Vice President

Dan Gardner
Treasurer

Susan L. Atkinson
Secretary

Board of Directors

Yancy Brown

Reuben J. Mestas

Ron Murray

James Rogers

Andy Wysor

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
Old Executive Office Building
Room 100
Washington, DC 20500

Attn: Dr. Diana Zuckerman
Special Assistant

Dear First Lady:

Last month, more than 30 Gulf War veterans organizations met in Irving, Texas to unite in our efforts toward the common goal of adequate medical care for those suffering from Gulf War Syndrome.

During the three day event, organizers met for many long hours to draft a National Unity Conference Statement for presentation to the President, the Congress, the media, the public, and the veterans of the Gulf War.

As a spokesperson for the National Unity Conference, I was asked to send you our statement. We hope you will take the time to read this so you may fully understand our goals, the history of the illnesses, and our concerns regarding President Bill Clinton's Gulf War Advisory Committee.

We deeply appreciate your personal involvement in this issue, and we look forward to working with you so we may all learn the truth about the illnesses affecting as many as 63,000 American veterans of the Gulf War.

**National Unity Conference
Gulf War Veterans and Families
Irving, Texas, March 12, 1995**

Conference Statement

Those of us here today represent service members and veterans from 30 Gulf War veterans organizations from all across America. We represent Desert Storm veterans from America, Canada, England, and Germany. We also represent civilians who served in Southwest Asia and the families of veterans and civilians who are ill with Gulf War Syndrome.

April 10, 1995, Unity Statement, Page Two.

Immediate, Comprehensive Medical Treatment

The Unity Conference believes our number one goal is the immediate implementation of comprehensive medical treatment for everyone suffering from Gulf War Syndrome, including veterans, civilians, and their families.

Those gathered here today demand that Jesse Brown, the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and William Perry, the Secretary of Defense (DoD), immediately:

1) Stop widespread VA and DoD failures to provide adequate medical treatment.

2) Institute a protocol for testing and treating us based on proof of our exposures to various toxins and pathogens, including chemical and biological warfare agents, investigational drugs, radiation, pollutants, and indigenous diseases; this includes a comprehensive epidemiological study, which has yet to be done by the government.

3) Stop improper VA claims denials and improper DoD discharges.

4) Brief each of their health care providers regarding the priority treatment for veterans of the Gulf War and the new regulations regarding medical discharges and medical claims.

5) Release all documents and reports related to chemical and biological warfare incidents, the use and side-effects of investigational drugs, and exposures to radiation, pollutants, toxins, and indigenous diseases.

History of Gulf War Syndrome

The illnesses known collectively as Gulf War Syndrome represent a dramatic health crisis affecting tens of thousands of people. In 1991, many soldiers reported they were exposed to pesticides, radiation, carbon monoxide poisoning, oil well fire smoke, experimental pills and vaccines, chemical and biological warfare agents, and other toxins. The first ill veterans reported symptoms ranging from joint pain and fatigue to rashes and memory loss.

In 1995, four years after Operation Desert Storm, the number has grown from a few hundred to as many as 63,000. According to the VA, there are approximately 48,000 veterans enrolled on the VA Gulf Registry. According to the DoD, there are an additional 15,000 veterans enrolled on the DoD Gulf Registry.

April 10, 1995, Unity Statement, Page Three

According to the law firm Donn & Co., which is representing ill veterans, there are 750 ill veterans in the United Kingdom. The Toronto Star reported on March 24, 1995 that there may be as many as 450 ill veterans in Canada. There are additional media reports of ill veterans in Germany, France, Kuwait, and the Czech Republic. This brings the known, U.S. Government reported total of illnesses to more than 64,000 veterans. There is no separate count for civilians, family members, or children affected by Gulf War Syndrome.

The illnesses have now increased in severity, and soldiers are now dying from unusual cancers, respiratory illnesses, immune diseases, and other serious medical problems. Spouses, children, and other family members of veterans are becoming ill as well. Since the methods of transmission of the illnesses are unknown, we strongly caution veterans of the Gulf War to avoid donating blood, blood products, or organs. We ask the public and other veterans to step forward and fill the void created by this reduction in regular donors.

Presidential Gulf War Advisory Committee

The National Unity Conference supports the concept and goals of a Presidential Advisory Committee as outlined by President Bill Clinton. According the White House, the panel will be empowered to investigate Gulf War Syndrome as well as chemical and biological warfare agent exposures. We state our concerns regarding the panel.

None of the prior panels reviewing Gulf War Syndrome had independent panelists or veterans of the Gulf War as members. Therefore, the committee should have two members who served during the Gulf War; one should be a scientist or physician, and the other should be an ill veteran or a family member of the ill veteran.

None of the prior panels reviewing this matter were independent. Therefore, the Presidential Advisory Committee should have a professional staff and budget so that there are adequate resources to perform an investigation and so that a final report of the investigation can be published and distributed.

None of the previous reviews of the illnesses had access to classified information and data from other Coalition nations involved in the Gulf War. Therefore, the panel should be granted the unrestricted access to all classified and unclassified information about this issue, especially information related to radiation, chemical and biological exposures, and experimental drugs. The VA, DoD, and the Department of Health and Human Services should be compelled to release all relevant documents and other information regarding this issue. The Committee should receive the cooperation of the Department of State so that other Coalition nations are prompted to cooperate with the investigation.

April 10, 1995, Unity Statement, Page Four.

None of the prior panels had the ability to make policy recommendations. Therefore, the Gulf War panel should be provided with the additional authority to issue suggested policy changes regarding Gulf War Syndrome and the declassification of related documents.

Gulf War veteran organizations participating in the preparation of this Unity Conference consensus statement were:

California Association of Persian Gulf Veterans
Desert Storm Justice Foundation
Desert Storm Veterans Coalition
Gulf War Veterans of Arkansas
Gulf War Veterans of Georgia
Gulf War Veterans of Massachusetts
Northwest Veterans for Peace
Operation Desert Shield/Storm Association
Persian Gulf Veterans of America
Persian Gulf Veterans of Colorado
Swords to Plowshares

Once again, we thank you for your interest and involvement in this issue, and we hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Sullivan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paul Sullivan
President
Gulf War Veterans of Georgia

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
009a. letter	To Ms. Zuckerem [sic] from veteran re: health (partial) (2 pages)	03/23/95	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Maggie Williams (Subject Files)
OA/Box Number: 12631

FOLDER TITLE:

Copies of Letters Referred [1]

2013-0359-S

ry1475

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

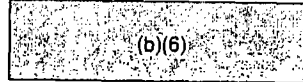
PO Box 92
Maple Springs, NY 14756
March 23, 1995

Hillary Clinton, First Lady
Att. Diana Zuckerem
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, DC 20402

Re. Self:

SS#:

Claim#: C24767857



[009a]

Dear Ms. Zuckerem:

I understand your committee is studying the Veteran's Administration and Veteran's Administration Hospitals ability and efficiency in providing services and benefits to veterans. I would like to present my case to your committee as an example of the difficulty many vets have in getting the recognition they deserve from the U.S. Government. I was a Combat Army Medic in Vietnam being dropped into "Hot LZ's" and flying the wounded in choppers back to the "Mash Unit." The past 12 years I have been trying to get the VA to recognize my service to my country in Vietnam.

My original claim was made in 1983 through the Chautauqua County Veterans Service Office in Jamestown, NY, John Fisher service officer. The VA denied any claim and would not send a copy of my records to the "Service Office" they said, "because of the medical records needing the interpretation of a physician." I sent a new request and release of information so the records would be released to my family physician, Dr. Charles Sinatra. Now the VA replied, "We can not forward your records, because they have been lost." I gave up at this point in my life. I received about 1 year of individual and group therapy at the "Vietnam Vet Drop In Center" on 2nd. St. in Jamestown for PTSD and just kept on working at my job.

In 1993 I reactivated my claim because of the deterioration of my physical health had made it impossible to work. These health problem started while I was in Vietnam. My claim was for "PTSD" but the VA rejected my claim for "Agent Orange." This type of confusion has been standard procedure

over the years. In spite of the rejection, my claim has been in front of the "Veterans Administration Buffalo Regional Office Review Board" since Jan. 17, 1995.

I am considered by the VA as "100% disabled with home bound status." This is a non-service connected status. I am receiving excellent medical care from the VA Hospitals in Buffalo, Erie and Pittsburg including my medications. I had to fight and be very persistent to get this high quality of medical care. If I had given up as in 1983, I would probably be dead by now from either the Pituitary Brain Tumor, the diabetes, gangrene in my legs, or my heart problems.

I have made a formal request for the Buffalo Regional VA Office to forward to your committee my complete C-file for your review. This letter gives a brief introduction to my case. If I can be of help to your committee please contact me.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

cc: Amo Houghton, US House
Tom Zmary, Dir. VA Buffalo

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
009b. form	Authorization for Release of Information (VA Form 21-4142) (partial) (1 page)	05/01/95	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Maggie Williams (Subject Files)
OA/Box Number: 12631

FOLDER TITLE:

Copies of Letters Referred [1]

2013-0359-S

ry1475

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
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C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

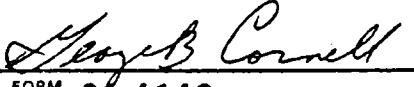
PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
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- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

[0096]

 Department of Veterans Affairs		AUTHORIZATION FOR RELEASE OF INFORMATION	
1. LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE NAME OF VETERAN (Type or print)		2. FILE NUMBER	
(b)(6)		C24 767 857	
3. NAME AND ADDRESS OF HOSPITAL OR PHYSICIAN		3. DATE OF BIRTH	
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS REGIONAL OFFICE THADDEUS J OULSKI FEDERAL BUILDING 111 WEST HURON ST BUFFALO N.Y. 14202		(b)(6)	
		4. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER	
		(b)(6)	
		6. DATES OF TREATMENT	
		1966-1995	
MEDICAL, PERSONNEL RECORDS, C-FILE I, the undersigned, hereby authorize the hospital or physician shown in Item 5 to disclose and release to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) any information that may have been obtained in connection with physical examination or treatment, with the understanding that VA will use this information in determining my eligibility to veterans benefits I have claimed. The responses which are submitted may be disclosed as permitted by law outside VA. I understand I may revoke this authorization at any time except to the extent action has already been taken in reliance thereon: This request is valid for ninety (90) days from the date in Item 7B unless sooner revoked by me in writing.			
7A. SIGNATURE OF VETERAN OR LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE		7B. DATE	
(b)(6)		5-1-95	
8A. SIGNATURE OF WITNESS (Required)		8B. DATE	
 U.S.O.		5-1-95	

 VA FORM
 MAR 1992 **21-4142**

 SUPERSEDES VA FORM 21-4142, AUG 1989,
 WHICH WILL NOT BE USED.

* U.S. Government Printing Office 1992-313-106/53437

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
010. note	Re: veteran's letter (partial) (1 page)	n.d.	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Maggie Williams (Subject Files)
OA/Box Number: 12631

FOLDER TITLE:

Copies of Letters Referred [1]

2013-0359-S

ry1475

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C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.
PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).
RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

[C10]

This letter from (b)(6) was sent to the First Lady's office, requesting assistance. (b)(6) is a Gulf War veteran who is ill and seeks a medical discharge and compensation. He has been unable to get a service-connected medical discharge because the Army National Guard has lost his medical records. He does not want to be tested by the Army again because he has already gone through a lot of tests and believes that he has been treated badly.

(b)(6) had previously spoken with staff from the First Lady's office and provided information to her on another matter, and seems very reasonable.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

COPY
to: Diana
Zuckerman

April 11, 1995

Ms. Eileen Ward
1142 Vernon Place
Marco, Florida 33937

Dear Ms. Ward:

Thank you for the kind letter and invitation to Mrs. Clinton to attend and address your benefit golf tournament and reception in May.

Although Mrs. Clinton's official schedule will not permit her to accept the invitation, she appreciates your thoughtfulness and sends her best wishes.

Please do not hesitate to contact our office if we can be of any assistance to you in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Patti Solis".

Patti Solis
Special Assistant to the President
Director of Scheduling
for the First Lady



Gulf War Veterans of Georgia

April 10, 1995

Paul Sullivan
President

Brian S. Atkinson
Vice President

Dan Gardner
Treasurer

Susan L. Atkinson
Secretary

Board of Directors

Yancy Brown

Reuben J. Mestas

Ron Murray

James Rogers

Andy Wysor

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
Old Executive Office Building
Room 100
Washington, DC 20500

Attn: Dr. Diana Zuckerman
Special Assistant

Dear First Lady:

Last month, more than 30 Gulf War veterans organizations met in Irving, Texas to unite in our efforts toward the common goal of adequate medical care for those suffering from Gulf War Syndrome.

During the three day event, organizers met for many long hours to draft a National Unity Conference Statement for presentation to the President, the Congress, the media, the public, and the veterans of the Gulf War.

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**National Unity Conference
Gulf War Veterans and Families
Irving, Texas, March 12, 1995**

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The Unity Conference believes our number one goal is the immediate implementation of comprehensive medical treatment for everyone suffering from Gulf War Syndrome, including veterans, civilians, and their families.

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April 10, 1995, Unity Statement, Page Three

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Desert Storm Justice Foundation
Desert Storm Veterans Coalition
Gulf War Veterans of Arkansas
Gulf War Veterans of Georgia
Gulf War Veterans of Massachusetts
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Operation Desert Shield/Storm Association
Persian Gulf Veterans of America
Persian Gulf Veterans of Colorado
Swords to Plowshares

Once again, we thank you for your interest and involvement in this issue, and we hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Sullivan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paul Sullivan
President
Gulf War Veterans of Georgia

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE FIRST LADY

phone 202-456-6266
fax 202-456-6244

TO

Bob Jones

FROM

Diana Jones

FAX #

273 - 4876

PHONE #

OF PAGES (including cover)

COMMENTS

*Here is the request I told
you about. Please note that
the ceremony is April 29!!!*

*I remembered it incorrectly -
it's a Vietnam POW from
Kentucky & I assume we want
to do whatever we can for
Vietnam vets.*

Thanks

Diana

92.5 FM

WBKR*The
Country
Super Station*Date: April 21, 1995P.O. Box 1330
3301 Frederica Street
Owensboro, KY 42302502-683-1558
Evansville only: 477-6584
FAX: 502-685-2500FAX # (502) 685-2500
TELECOPIER COVER LETTERTO: Company The White HouseAttention Diane ZuckermanFROM: Lee Denney, Chairman, The Colonel Charles Shelton Memorial
Committee, Inc.

Hello!

We are transmitting 3 page(s) - (including cover letter). If you do not
receive all of the pages, please call us. Ask for the person who sent you this fax.Reply requested: YES NO Comments: I spoke with you this morning and you kindly offered to
to see that this material made its way to the President.I appreciate your assistance.

AM 1490

WOMI*Owensboro's
Own...*

Col. Charles E. Shelton Memorial



In Honor of All POW - MIA of All Wars

President Bill Clinton
The White House
Washington, D.C.

April 21, 1995

Dear Mr. President,

Greetings from the hometown of U-S Senator Wendell Ford of Kentucky.

I am Lee Denney, chair of the Colonel Charles Shelton Memorial Committee, Incorporated, of Owensboro, Kentucky.

The enclosed material will supply some background on Colonel Shelton and the committee. He is an American hero worthy of the honor we seek to bestow upon him.

Colonel Shelton was an official prisoner of war for 29 years, the final one of the Vietnam War era.

April 29th will be the 30th anniversary of his capture. And it would have been his 63rd birthday.

Our committee will hold a memorial service at 12:30pm on that date at the Daviess County Courthouse to honor him and to officially launch a nationwide drive to raise funds for a memorial in Owensboro.

It would be an outstanding honor if you, Mr. President, or your representative could join us. However, in these troubled times, that may not be possible. In that event, would you please consider issuing a statement of support to be read at the ceremony.

Thank you, Sir, and God Bless you.

Lee Denney
Chairman

Col. Charles E. Shelton Memorial



In Honor of All POW - MIA of All Wars

On April 29, 1965, Colonel Charles Shelton, a native of Owensboro, Kentucky, was flying a secret reconnaissance mission over Laos on his 33rd birthday. His U-S Air Force F-101 was shot down by enemy fire. He survived the crash and was captured.

Colonel Shelton remained an official Prisoner of War for the next 29 years, the final U-S military personnel to be so listed by the American government. There were numerous reports of sightings and of escape attempts well into the 1980s.

In October, 1994, his five children requested the Pentagon to change his status to presumed killed in action. In November of last year, there was a memorial service, with full military honors, in Arlington National Cemetery. A marker was placed next to the grave of his wife, Mariam, who is also buried in Arlington. Mariam, also a native of Owensboro, for 25-years searched for clues to her husband's fate and, she hoped, for his eventual release. She became a national symbol of the tragedy and sacrifice of families of P-O-W's and M-I-A's.

A group of Owensboro citizens, veterans organizations, friends and family is determined Colonel Shelton and men and women like him, will not be forgotten.

The Colonel Charles Shelton Memorial Committee, Incorporated, has set a \$250,000 goal to construct a fitting memorial on the lawn of the Daviess County Courthouse in Owensboro to honor Shelton, P-O-W's and M-I-A's of all wars and the families.

Tax exempt contributions may be sent to the Colonel Charles Shelton Memorial Fund, Post Office Box 1158, Owensboro, Kentucky, 42303. For more information contact Lee Denney, Chairman, at 1-800-666-1031.

Col. Charles E. Shelton Memorial • P. O. Box 1158 • Owensboro, KY 42302



Gulf War Veterans of Georgia

April 23, 1995

Paul Sullivan
President

Brian S. Atkinson
Vice President

Dan Gardner
Treasurer

Susan L. Atkinson
Secretary

Board of Directors

Yancy Brown

Reuben J. Mestas

Ron Murray

James Rogers

Andy Wyser

COL Robert J. Martinelli, USAF
Director of Manpower, Personnel,
and Administration
United States Central Command
7115 South Boundary Boulevard
MacDill AFB, FL 33621-5101

Dear Colonel Martinelli:

RE: FOIA 95-13, et al

1. CENTCOM failed to respond in a timely manner or with diligence to our FOIA requests. For example, three separate requests were made for the same information and CENTCOM provided two separate, partial responses.
2. CENTCOM responses to our repeated FOIA requests did not yield all of the requested information. For example, on 17 Jan 91 (and many other days such as the 22 and 23 Jan 91), CENTCOM sent only partial information. On 17 Jan 91, the log begins at 0245 hours and ends at 1050 hours the same day. In another example, entire days are missing from the report. There is no log for 24 or 25 Jan 91 and many other days.
3. Therefore, we request the missing and partial days (17, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, and 31 Jan; 01, 02, 03, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 26, 27, and 28 Feb; 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, 10, 11, and 13 through 31, inclusive. For simplicity, only 20 and 21 Jan; 04, 24, and 25 Feb; and 12 Mar appear to be complete NBC log dates.
4. No explanation for the tardiness or for the missing data has been given by CENTCOM. In addition to this fourth request, we demand an explanation from LTG Richard Neal regarding what may be either an inability to perform duties according to the law or an intentional violation of the law. We will not tolerate failures to properly comply with FOIA.

Sincerely,

- COPY -

Paul Sullivan
President

cc: Mr. Anthony Lake, White House

~~Dr. Diana Zuckerman, Old Executive Office Building~~



Gulf War Veterans of Georgia

April 23, 1995

Paul Sullivan
President

Brian S. Atkinson
Vice President

Dan Gardner
Treasurer

Susan L. Atkinson
Secretary

Board of Directors

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COL Robert J. Martinelli, USAF
Director of Manpower, Personnel,
and Administration
United States Central Command
7115 South Boundary Boulevard
MacDill AFB, FL 33621-5101

Dear Colonel Martinelli:

RE: FOIA 95-13, et al

1. CENTCOM failed to respond in a timely manner or with diligence to our FOIA requests. For example, three separate requests were made for the same information and CENTCOM provided two separate, partial responses.
2. CENTCOM responses to our repeated FOIA requests did not yield all of the requested information. For example, on 17 Jan 91 (and many other days such as the 22 and 23 Jan 91), CENTCOM sent only partial information. On 17 Jan 91, the log begins at 0245 hours and ends at 1050 hours the same day. In another example, entire days are missing from the report. There is no log for 24 or 25 Jan 91 and many other days.
3. Therefore, we request the missing and partial days (17, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, and 31 Jan; 01, 02, 03, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 26, 27, and 28 Feb; 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, 10, 11, and 13 through 31, inclusive. For simplicity, only 20 and 21 Jan; 04, 24, and 25 Feb; and 12 Mar appear to be complete NBC log dates.
4. No explanation for the tardiness or for the missing data has been given by CENTCOM. In addition to this fourth request, we demand an explanation from LTG Richard Neal regarding what may be either an inability to perform duties according to the law or an intentional violation of the law. We will not tolerate failures to properly comply with FOIA.

Sincerely,

COPY

Paul Sullivan
President

cc: Mr. Anthony Lake, White House
~~Dr. Diana Zuckerman, Old Executive Office Building~~

=== COVER PAGE ===

TO: DR. Diana Zuckerman

FAX: 202 - 456 - 6244

FROM: Jay Chavez

FAX: 803-328-0410

TEL:

28 ~~80~~ PAGE[S] TO FOLLOW

COMMENT: PLEASE CALL



Gulf War Veterans of Georgia

copy

April 23, 1995

Paul Sullivan
President

Brian S. Atkinson
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Board of Directors

Yancy Brown

Reuben J. Mestas

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— COPY —

Paul Sullivan
President

cc: Mr. Anthony Lake, White House

~~Dr. Diana Zuckerman, Old Executive Office Building~~

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
011a. fax	To Hillary Clinton (partial) (1 page)	02/23/95	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Maggie Williams (Subject Files)
OA/Box Number: 12631

FOLDER TITLE:

Copies of Letters Referred [1]

2013-0359-S

ry1475

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

*Alicia has
original
- copy*

[011 a]

Mrs. Hillary Clinton
Office of the First Lady
Attention: Diana Zuckerman
White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, D.C.

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
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011b. letter	To Whom It May Concern from veteran's wife (partial p. 1) (1 page)	n.d.	b(6)
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WHEN MY HUSBAND RETURNED FROM HIS SERVICE IN THE GULF IN SEPTEMBER OF 1991, I THOUGHT THE WORST WAS OVER FOR US WHEN IN REALITY THE WORST WAS JUST BEGINNING. DAN ALREADY HAD SYMPTOMS OF HIS ILLNESS, THOUGH HEADACHES, OPEN SORES, AND DIARRHEA CAN EASILY BE EXPLAINED AWAY FOLLOWING A WAR. WE FELT THAT IT WAS READJUSTMENT, FOODS NOT EATEN IN OVER 8 MONTHS, AND THOSE DREADED FLIES THAT HAD BITTEN HIM CONTINUALLY IN THE DESERT. BUT INSTEAD OF THESE PHYSICAL PROBLEMS GOING AWAY, THEY HAVE CONTINUED TO PLAGUE HIM. NOW, FOUR YEARS LATER, HIS ILLNESS HAS INCREASED TO THE POINT THAT HE HAS HAD TO FILE FOR DISABILITY

FROM HIS JOB. THE DISABILITY WE FILED FOR THROUGH THE VA HAS BEEN DENIED. I AM VERY FRIGHTENED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE. I WILL TRY TO EXPLAIN TO YOU WHY.

TEN MONTHS AGO WE FILED FOR DISABILITY THROUGH THE VA SYSTEM. I AM ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO HAVE MADE TRIPS TO WASHINGTON TO ATTEND THE HEARINGS ON THE GULF WAR SYNDROME, HOPING THAT SOME NEW INFORMATION WOULD COME FORTH AND THE CURE WOULD BE ON THE HORIZON. I KNEW OF THE BILLS BEING PASSED STATING THAT THE VETERAN WOULD BE GIVEN THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT AND THAT ILLNESS HAD TO MANIFEST ITSELF WITHIN 2 YEARS OF SERVICE. I ALSO KNEW THAT WE WOULD BE SAFE UNDER THESE NEW LAWS. EVEN THOUGH IN 1991, WHEN MY HUSBAND LAY ON THE BED IN TEARS DUE TO A HEADACHE WE COULD NOT CONTROL, THE VA REFUSED TO ALLOW HIM AN APPOINTMENT, STATING THAT THEY COULD GET HIM IN IN 6 MONTHS, I GOT HIM INTO OUR CIVILIAN DOCTOR. I ALSO KNEW THAT THAT APPOINTMENT LED TO OTHERS AT VARIOUS SPECIALISTS, NEUROLOGISTS, DERMATOLOGISTS, AND PSYCHOLOGISTS, WE HAD THE RECORDS TO BACK UP OUR STATEMENT OF HIS ILLNESS. WHAT I DIDN'T COUNT ON WAS THAT WHEN HE FILED FOR HIS DISABILITY AND WE LISTED ALL THESE OTHER DOCTORS TO USE AS A SOURCE FOR HIS HEARING, THEY WOULD BE IGNORED. YOU SEE, MY HUSBAND'S DENIAL CAME ON VALENTINE'S DAY, AND IT STATED THAT THE SOURCES THE VA DENIED HIM ON WERE A VA APPOINTMENT ON JULY 13, 1994 AND HIS SERVICE RECORD BOOK. I UNDERSTAND THAT WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO APPEAL, BUT I KNOW THAT THE APPEAL PROCESS CAN TAKE EVEN LONGER. MANY PEOPLE ARE STILL WAITING 3 YEARS AFTER THEIR INITIAL FILING. WHERE DO WE TURN UNTIL THEN? SOCIAL SECURITY?

SOCIAL SECURITY-SSD OR SSI DOESN'T SEEM TO BE AN OPTION FOR US. WE OWN A HOME OTHER THAN THE ONE WE LIVE IN. IT IS RENTED FOR THE AMOUNT OF THE PAYMENT BECAUSE WE COULDN'T SELL IT. FOR YEARS WE TRIED AND FINALLY HAD TO SETTLE FOR RENTING IT BECAUSE FINANCIALLY IT WAS DRAINING US. SO NOW WE HAVE SOMEONE LIVING THERE WHO IS PAYING THE PAYMENT FOR US. BUT WE STILL OWN IT. SO WE WON'T BE ELIGIBLE FOR SOCIAL SECURITY. SO OUR OPTIONS ARE NARROWING RAPIDLY. WE THOUGHT ABOUT THE WELFARE SYSTEM AND FOOD STAMPS. AN OPTION I NEVER THOUGHT WE WOULD HAVE TO LOOK INTO. BUT I HAVE. LET ME TELL YOU WHAT I HAVE LEARNED

ABOUT IT.

FOOD STAMPS-WE OWN A VEHICLE. THE FOOD STAMP SYSTEM WILL TELL YOU THAT IN ORDER TO EAT, OR RECIEVE FOOD STAMPS WE MUST FIRST SELL OUR CAR. IT IS TOO NEW FOR US TO BE CONSIDERED DESTITUTE ENOUGH TO NEED ASSISTANCE. IF WE SELL IT, HOW DO WE GET OUR CHILDREN TO THE DOCTOR, HOSPITAL, OR SCHOOL FUNCTIONS? HOW CAN MY HUSBAND POSSIBLY GO TO WORK, IF BY SOME MIRACLE, THEY FIND A WAY TO TREAT GWS? ANOTHER OPTION, I CAN GO BACK INTO THE WORKING WORLD.

I DON'T HAVE A PROBLEM WITH WORKING TO FEED MY FAMILY. WHAT I DO HAVE A PROBLEM WITH IS KNOWING THAT I CANNOT GET MUCH MORE THAN MINIMUM WAGE BECAUSE I AM WITHOUT A COLLEGE EDUCATION. I HAVE SPENT THE MAJORITY OF MY MARRIED LIFE BEING A WIFE AND MOTHER. I HAVE BEEN FORCED TO REMAIN AT HOME DUE TO HAVING CHILDREN WITH ASTHMA AND ALLERGIES, AND I DO NOT REGRET IT FOR A MOMENT. THERE ARE MANY TIMES THAT I HAVE HAD TO RUN TO SCHOOLS TO TAKE CARE OF EMERGENCIES THAT THE SCHOOL WAS NOT PREPARED TO DEAL WITH. WE HAVE DONE WITHOUT MANY EXTRAS, BUT WHAT A PAYBACK I HAVE HAD. UP UNTIL THEIR FATHER'S RETURN FROM THE GULF, I HAD MANAGED TO RAISE RELATIVELY HAPPY CHILDREN. THEY KNEW NO MATTER WHAT, MOM WAS THERE. IF THERE WAS AN EMERGENCY, I WAS NO MORE THAN A PHONE CALL AWAY. NOW I AM WONDERING HOW I CAN FEED MY FOUR CHILDREN AND PAY BILLS ON MINIMUM WAGE. THIS IS HOW WE HAVE BEEN REPAID FOR MY HUSBAND'S SERVICE TO THIS COUNTRY.

WHAT DOES GULF WAR SYNDROME MEAN TO FAMILIES AROUND THE WORLD? I AM FORCED TO SIT HERE AND WATCH THE MAN I HAVE SPENT 17 YEARS WITH DETERIORATE. HIS SYMPTOMS NOW ARE: CHEST PAIN, SHORTNESS OF BREATH WHICH HAS BEEN DIAGNOSED AS COPD (CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE), OPEN SORE, MEMORY LOSS, COGNITIVE PROBLEMS (MOST OFTEN HE CANNOT UNDERSTAND WHAT WE ARE SAYING TO HIM), DIARRHEA THAT HAS LASTED FOR 4 YEARS, PHOTSENSITIVITY, RINGING IN THE EARS, EXCESSIVE WEIGHT GAIN (ALL AROUND HIS MIDDLE), NUMBNESS IN HIS HANDS, FEET, AND FOREHEAD, SEVERE HEADACHES WHICH TURN HIS EYES, EYELIDS, AND FOREHEAD BRIGHT RED, MUSCLE AND JOINT PAIN (MOST DAYS HE HAS A LOT OF DIFFICULTY WALKING), MOOD SWINGS, ANGER, RAGE, NIGHT SWEATS, AND NOW HE HAS BEGUN TO STOP BREATHING OCCASIONALLY

WHILE HE IS SLEEPING. BUT WE ARE BY NO MEANS THE ONLY FAMILY OUT THERE SUFFERING LIKE THIS. THERE ARE THOUSANDS AND THE LIST CONTINUES TO GROW.

MY CHILDREN HAVE NOT BEEN WITHOUT MEDICAL PROBLEMS, AS I STATED BEFORE. MY OLDEST SON HAS BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH MYCOPLASMA PNEUMONAE, WHICH HAS RECURRED FOR THREE STRAIGHT YEARS. THE INTERESTING THING ABOUT THAT IS THAT MYCOPLASMAS IN ONE PROBLEM THAT MANY OF THE VETS OF THE WAR HAVE BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH. ALL FOUR OF MY BABIES HAVE HAD OPEN SORES AND RASHES THAT HAVE MADE OUR DOCTOR SHAKE HIS HEAD. AFTER SCRAPINGS AND TESTING ON THE SORES, HE HAS BEEN UNABLE TO COME UP WITH A DIAGNOSIS. ALL FOUR OF MY CHILDREN HAVE USED MORE THAN THEIR ALOTTED 8 SICK DAYS FROM SCHOOL. THEIR IMMUNE SYSTEMS SEEM TO BE DOWN, AND THE SCHOOLS CALL ME AND TELL ME THAT THEY ARE GOING TO BE FORCED TO CONTACT THE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION IF THEY MISS MUCH MORE. BUT WHAT CAN I DO? WHEN THEY GET ILL, VOMIT, RUN TEMPERATURES, AND THE LIKE, I FEEL THAT I WOULD BE SORELY LACKING AS A MOTHER TO SEND THEM TO SCHOOL. ALSO I CANNOT TAKE THEM TO THE PHYSICIAN EVERYTIME SOMETHING COMES UP. I AM STILL PAYING ON BILLS INCURRED FROM TESTING OF MY HUSBAND WHEN THE VA REFUSED US AN APPOINTMENT. IF THE KIDS HAVE AN ILLNESS I CAN HANDLE WITHOUT THE DOCTOR, I HAVE TO DO IT THAT WAY.

I HAVE SPENT THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS TRAVELLING TO THE DOCTOR AND GYNECOLOGIST. AT FIRST THEY THOUGHT I HAD LEUKEMIA. THOSE TESTS CAME OUT NEGATIVE. THEN I WAS TESTED FOR CERVICAL CANCER. THOSE TESTS WERE ALSO NEGATIVE. EVERY MONTH, I BLEED AT LEAST 3 WEEKS. THE GYNOCOLOGIST DOESN'T KNOW WHY. I HAVE BEEN TESTED, PROBOD, SONOGRAMMED, SCRAPED AND CUT. AND THEY CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHERE THE BLEEDING IS COMING FROM. I HAVE SEVERE PAIN IN MY LEFT SIDE THAT THEY THOUGHT WAS CAUSED BY AN INFECTION OF SOME TYPE. A TEN DAY ROUND OF ANTIBIOTICS PROVED TO DO NOTHING. INTIMACY IS PAINFUL. NOW THEY ARE TALKING ABOUT SURGERY. THAT IS SOMETHING THAT IS NOT AN OPTION NOW. WE CANNOT AFFORD IT. WE HAVE NO MONEY THAT WILL BE COMING IN.

I HAVE OPENED THE MOST INTIMATE PARTS OF MY LIFE UP TO OTHERS TO EDUCATE THEM. I HAVE EXPLAINED THAT MY HUSBAND'S SEMEN HAS CAUSED ME TO HAVE SEVERE INFECTIONS, BURNING AND PAIN THAT HAS LASTED FOR WEEKS. I HAVE TOLD OTHERS OF

THE EMOTIONAL PROBLEMS THAT MY CHILDREN HAVE HAD HAVING TO WATCH THEIR DAD BECOME ILL. I HAVE TOLD OF THE TEARS THEY HAVE SHED WHEN WE CONTINUALLY HAVE TO SAY THAT DAD CAN'T PLAY WITH THEM ANYMORE BECAUSE HE IS SICK. I HAVE LET EVERYONE KNOW WHAT IT IS LIKE TO WATCH YOUR HUSBAND GO INTO A RAGE BECAUSE HE COULDN'T FIND A CERTAIN SHOW ON TV. I HAVE TOLD THEM HOW MANY TIMES I HAVE CRIED BECAUSE ALL THE PROMISES BEING MADE CONTINUE TO BE BROKEN. I WANT TO SCREAM TO EVERYONE "IS ANYONE LISTENING TO ME?"

SOMEONE HAS TO LOOK AT THE THOUSANDS OF FAMILIES OUT THERE LIKE US. YOU HAVE TO ASK YOURSELVES WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE TO BE AFRAID TO SLEEP SOUNDLY FOR FEAR THAT YOUR HUSBAND WOULD STOP BREATHING. YOU HAVE TO BE HONEST ENOUGH WITH YOURSELF TO ASK WHAT YOU WOULD DO IF YOU WEREN'T SURE YOU COULD FEED YOUR CHILDREN IN A WEEK, OR A MONTH. I FIND THAT LATELY I HAVE BEEN ASKING WHAT WE HAVE DONE TO MAKE GOD SO ANGRY AT US. I FIND THAT I AM SO ANGRY THAT MY COUNTRY WOULD FORSAKE THE VERY SOLDIERS THAT THEY TRUSTED TO PROTECT OUR FREEDOM. FREEDOM AT WHAT PRICE?

TO ME THIS SEEMS LIKE PREMEDITATED MURDER. THE MURDER OF THOUSANDS OF VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES. WAR IS HELL, AND WHEN MY HUSBAND SIGNED ON THAT DOTTED LINE, WE KNEW THAT HE MAY NOT COME BACK. WE ALSO KNEW THAT SOMETHING LIKE THIS COULD HAPPEN TO HIM. BUT THIS FAMILY IS NOT A PACKAGE DEAL. MY CHILDREN WERE NOT A PART OF THE BARGAIN. BUT WE ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT IF SOMETHING LIKE THIS WERE TO HAPPEN TO HIM, WE WOULD BE TAKEN CARE OF. INSTEAD, WE HAVE TO SIT BACK AND READ ARTICLES ABOUT HOW OUR GOVERNMENT HAS ALLOWED IRAQI REFUGEES IN AND GIVEN THEM HOMES, TRAINING, AND HEALTH CARE. THAT IS A BITTER PILL TO SWALLOW.

IT IS A SAD STATE OF AFFAIRS WHEN MY HUSBAND SAYS TO ME THAT HIS FAMILY WOULD HAVE BEEN FURTHER OFF HAD HE LOST HIS LIFE DURING THE WAR. HE FEELS THAT AT LEAST WE WOULD HAVE BEEN TAKEN CARE OF THEN.

AT ONE OF SENATOR REIGLE'S HEARINGS I ATTENDED IN WASHINGTON, I HEARD SOMEONE SAY "IT'S CHEAPER TO BURY THEM THAN TO DIAGNOSE THEM AND TREAT THEM." HOW SAD. HOW PROPHETIC. HOW PATHETIC!