

are also suffering from ALS, an unusual disease that rarely strikes individuals under the age of 50. In fact, with the ten of us who have ALS—and we are certain there are more out there whom we just haven't found—the incidence of ALS already far exceeds the normal incidence given the number of soldiers who served in the Gulf. Why is there no special emergency study of this outbreak? Why is no one worried about what is obviously a frightening incidence of a terrible neurological illness among such a young and healthy population? One thing I can tell you: this is not stress.

With every other Gulf War veteran we have found who has ALS, the common thread has been subsequent exposure to some kind of strong chemical or pesticide, such as malathion, diazinon, and lindane—which is used to treat head lice in children.

Why aren't the DOD and the VA warning everyone else who served in the Gulf War that they may get sick in the future, just as I got sick four years after I returned to the US. How many other people are out there waiting for that one exposure that will put them over the top? Why is no one putting the word out. A warning could save the lives and health of many individuals, could save them from going through what I am now going through. I'll tell you why, because that would take admitting that something happened in the Gulf War that's making people sick.

I wonder how many flight mishaps or accidents that have happened since the war have involved Gulf War veterans. Those numbers shouldn't be hard to find: the military keeps records on all of that. In fact, I wager that someone out there already knows the answer to that question and hasn't shared it either because of a direct order not to or because the right person has yet to ask.

How many other pilots are still out there—flying—who are not quite feeling right? Just as I flew for four years after I returned from the Gulf, how many other pilots fear for their livelihood and the repercussions they know they would encounter were they to speak up because they know "There's no conclusive evidence that there's any link between service in the Gulf and any illness."

Imagine my dismay when the DOD announces \$12 million (a drop in the bucket) to study the Gulf War illnesses and four of those studies are centered around the effects of stress or post-traumatic stress disorder. You would think that the DOD and the VA would have an in-depth knowledge of the effects of stress after all the wars this country has fought. Most of them a lot more "stressful" than the Gulf War. Why aren't they taking our illnesses seriously? I'll tell you why, because that would take admitting that something happened in the Gulf War that's making people sick.

Part of the ongoing cover up has been to trivialize the illnesses that Gulf War veterans are suffering from. In the press and from the VA, you hear about skin rashes and joint aches, about insomnia and fatigue. There is no doubt that these are real symptoms and are debilitating in and of themselves. But what you don't hear about is the high incidence of rare cancers, neurological disorders that are totally debilitating. This is not stress. This is life and death.

Why is it impossible to get the right numbers from the DOD and the VA about how many veterans are sick or have sought treatment? Why is it more important to protect certain high-placed government officials than to care for veterans who are sick? When it comes time to fund the military, budget concerns are usually set aside in the interest of defense and the public good. Well, the national defense issue now is that it's public

knowledge that the DOD mistreats people who serve. America will have no one to fight its wars.

The primary goal at this point is not to find out whose fault all of this is. Someday, someone will need to investigate what happened and why. The people responsible for this tragedy should be found out and punished.

The top priority now for all of us is to help veterans and their families get their health and their lives back. Or at least that should be the goal. That should be your goal. All I want is what I brought to the Air Force: my health.

I'm not interested in hearing how surprised General Powell and General Schwartzkopf are about how we were all exposed to chemical weapons, or that the CIA really did know Hussein had these weapons, or that the CIA alerted the DOD to this fact. It's obvious now that there's been a cover up going on all this time as more and more information gets released or discovered. It's time for those people who know something—and they do exist—to come forward. And maybe we can save some lives.

During and after the war, we proclaimed to ourselves and to the world how we learned the lessons of Vietnam and fixed the military. We learned the lessons of Vietnam and we did it right this time. Last week, General Powell stated that we suffered only 149 casualties in the Gulf War. Well, I am here to tell you that the casualty count is still rising. Just like in Vietnam with Agent Orange, it appears that we didn't learn all the lessons. We still mistreat veterans. This country has again turned its back on the people who fight its wars, the individuals to whom it owes the most.

I want to thank you for what you are doing for the veterans who went to war for this country. Many of whom were squeezed out of the military right after the war and now find themselves out on the street, fighting the very institution they fought for. In the military, we have a tradition called the salute and it's used to show admiration and respect for an individual who has earned it. I salute you for what you are doing here. You go a long way in restoring this soldiers waning faith in a country that could so willingly desert it's own.

Remember: I am not the enemy. ●

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 1997

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until the hour of 9:30 a.m., on Tuesday, April 29. I further ask unanimous consent that on Tuesday, immediately following the prayer, the routine requests through the morning hour be granted and the Senate then immediately resume the motion to proceed to S. 543, the Volunteer Protection Act, and I further ask unanimous consent that the time from 9:30 to 12:30 be equally divided between Senator COVERDELL and/or his designee, and the ranking member and/or his or her designee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that on Tuesday, the Senate stand in recess from the hours of 12:30 to 2:15 for the weekly policy conferences to meet.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, tomorrow morning the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 543, the Volunteer Protection Act. Senators are reminded that there will be a cloture vote at 2:15 on Tuesday on the motion to proceed to S. 543. If cloture is invoked tomorrow, there will be an additional hour of debate to be followed by a vote on the motion to proceed. Senators can therefore expect additional votes during Tuesday's session of the Senate.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I now ask that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:12 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, April 29, 1997, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate April 28, 1997:

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

MICHAEL J. ARMSTRONG, OF COLORADO, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY, VICE RICHARD THOMAS MOORE, RESIGNED.

FOREIGN SERVICE

EDWARD WILLIAM GNEHM, JR., OF GEORGIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE, VICE ANTHONY CECIL EDEN QUAITON.

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE U.S. NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 618 AND 628:

To be commander

THOMAS P. YAVORSKI, 0000

To be lieutenant commander

ROBERT J. BARTON, III, 0000

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED SUPPLY CORPS OFFICERS FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN THE LINE TO THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE U.S. NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 5582(A):

To be lieutenant commander

CRAIG L. HERRICK, 0000

To be lieutenant

JORGE A. MCCURLEY, 0000
WILLIAM S. SEWELL, JR., 0000

To be lieutenant (junior grade)

JOHNNY E. BOWEN, 0000
JOSEPH M. BYRD, 0000
CHRISTOPHER R. COURTRIGHT, 0000
STORMI J. LOONEY, 0000
STEVEN R. SORCE, 0000
WILLIAM J. STEGNER, 0000
HAYDN A. THOMAS, 0000

To be ensign

BENJAMIN A. SNELL, 0000

I NOMINATE THE FOLLOWING-NAMED OFFICERS FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE U.S. NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be captain

DAVID J. DAVIS, 0000
CRAIG M. MARCELLO, 0000
RADFORD D. TANKSLEY, 0000

To be commander

BRUCE R. BOYNTON, 0000
JAMES H. GHERARDINI, JR., 0000
JOHN R. HAGUE, 0000

To be lieutenant commander

TIMOTHY G. BATTRELL, 0000