treatment, only 19 percent of servicemen with a psychiatric disorder sought treatment, Furthermore, among military personnel with PTSD, the rate of seeking treatment was only 4.1 percent, which is substantially lower than that for other psychiatric disorders. This finding may indicate that within the military culture, ''succumbing'' to PTSD is seen as a failure, a weakness, and as evidence of and innate deficiency of the right stuff.

Hoge and associates suggests that the perception of stigmatization can be reduced only by means of concerted outreach—that is, by providing more mental health services in primary care clinics and confidential counseling through employee-assistance programs. The sticking point is skepticism among military personnel that the use of mental health services can remain confidential. Although the soldiers and Marines in the study by Hoge and colleagues were able to acknowledge PTSD-related problems in an anonymous survey, they apparently were afraid to seek assistance for fear that scarlet P could doom their careers.

Our acknowledgment of the psychiatric costs of war has promoted the establishment of better methods of detecting and treating war-related psychiatric disorders. It is now time to take the next step and provide effective treatment to distressed men and women, along with credible safeguards of confidentiality.

SOURCE INFORMATION

From the National Center for PTSD, Department of Veterans Affairs, White River Junction, Vt.; and the Departments of Psychiatry and Pharmacology and Toxicology, Dartmouth Medical School, Hanover, N.H.

HONORING RACHEL GRANGER AND KYLE BAKER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BRADLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Madam Speaker, I rise this evening to pay tribute to two New Hampshire residents. First, I pay tribute to a New Hampshire resident who recently passed away after fighting a long battle against a tough and debilitating illness. Rachel Granger died on Saturday, June 5, after a brave fight with Lou Gehrig's disease, or ALS. ALS is a fatal neurodegenerative disease that leaves its victims paralyzed, but still mentally alert.

On average, a person who has been diagnosed with ALS will die within 2 to 5 years of diagnosis, and 50 percent of patients die within 18 months. ALS is truly one of the most debilitating diseases to affect patients and their families.

In the last few months of her life, Rachel was unable to speak and to enjoy many of the activities she once loved, such as needlepoint and boating on Lake Winnipesaukee.

Rachel showed tremendous courage in attending a town meeting I hosted in Wolfeboro last year. Though she was afflicted with ALS and had many difficulties with mobility, she wanted to attend the meeting in order to shed light on a problem that affects thousands of other terminally ill patients. Rachel was having trouble getting her Social Security disability claim processed in enough time to actually receive any benefits before she passed away.

Her courage to bring this problem to my attention has encouraged me to work with my colleagues and the Social Security Administration to address this situation for all terminally ill patients. Rachel's determination to help others who face the same situation is commendable and inspiring. Rachel's friends remember her as someone who was full of life and always made others laugh, despite her physical handicap.

I am fortunate to have met Rachel during her lifetime and have been able to share in some of her triumphs and tragedies. Her courage and determination should not, and will not, be forgotten.

Madam Speaker, the second New Hampshire resident I rise tonight to honor is Kyle Baker of Milton. Mr. Baker is the national winner in the 2004 Veterans of Foreign Wars' Voice of Democracy Scholarship contest. This contest is held each year to give high school students the opportunity to voice their opinion on their responsibility to our country. The following is Mr. Baker's essay:

''It is a bright summer day, and a soft breeze gently whispers through the maple leaves. A little boy is playing alone in the driveway at his grandmother's house. Above him the American flag billows and waves, trying to remove itself from its anchor at the top of the flagpole and drift down in front of him to make its presence known. The boy plays on, not realizing what it took to keep that flag flying high.

''A few years later, on the 11th of September, 2001, the same boy, now a bit older, stares at the television in shock and disbelief. He watches as the towers collapse, ending so many lives and bringing anguish to so many families. The boy's classmates sitting all around him reflect in their eyes the desperation, sorrow and helplessness the boy himself feels. He realizes at that moment how precious the freedoms are that he sometimes takes for granted. He realizes what a privilege it is to live in America, and that the future of his country is now changed forever. He goes home that night wondering what he can do for his country at such a time of loss, what commitment can he possibly make to the future of America after such a tragedy:

''Now it is July of 2003, and the boy stands in front of the Vietnam Memorial seeing 'The Wall' for the very first time. He is overcome by how many names there are. He walks solemnly and slowly, passing by the countless flowers, letters, photographs, even teddy bears left at the wall by the families of the fallen. He wonders if some of the people walking near him are searching for one of the names, an uncle maybe, or even a father. He can picture a young man only a few years older than himself, crouching, frightened in the thick jungle brush, wondering if he will ever come home. He can picture this young man removing a photograph wrapped in plastic from his pocket. It is a photograph of the young man's high school girlfriend, the same girl this man had decided he would ask to marry as soon as he came home from the war. 'Be mine forever,' he would have undoubtedly said as he kissed her good-bye. 'Was it their last good-bye,' the boy wonders? 'Was this young man's name engraved here on the wall somewhere?'

''The boy walks on, gazing at panel after panel, feeling sadness, but also an immense gratitude with the passing of each and every name. He reads the names, trying to imagine what each man might have looked like. He wonders how many children they might have had or whether or not they, like the other young men he pictured, left a sweetheart behind when they went to fight for their country. So many names. So many faceless reminders of the highest commitment one can fulfill.

''The boy keeps moving slowly, when something at the foot of the wall catches his eye. He bends down to look, and there sits a small American flag, resting amongst a bouquet of flowers. Tears well up inside of him for a moment, and the boy can think of only one thing that he can do to show his appreciation for those lives reflected in the marble. He places one hand on a panel, closes his eye, and whispers 'thank you.'

It is October 22, 2003, and that same little boy who used to play in the driveway at his Grandma's house underneath a billowing American flag sits in a classroom, wondering how he can write about his commitment to America's future. He wonders whether or not he should promise to do great things with his life, or whether or not he should tell the story of someone else who had. Yes. That little boy is me.

Upon preparing for this essay I realized that it would not do to recite the words of our country's great leaders or prominent citizens, regardless of how moving and profound those words may be. I realized that this essay was not about how much research I had done, or how much I knew about the political structure of our nation. No. I realized that this time I needed to convey what I considered to be my commitment to America's future, using my own words, and expressing my own feelings. Well, here is what my commitment to America's future is. My commitment to America's future is simply to remember America's past.

I will remember our fallen heroes, those brave souls who paid the ultimate price to ensure the safety of future generations. I will remember those that live on, continuing with the task bestowed upon them by the voices of days gone by. I will never lose sight of all that it took to provide me with the freedoms that I once took for granted, and I do not, and should not, stand alone with my commitment. When I see the flag in Grandma's driveway

billowing proud and tall in the same soft breeze, I am reminded of why that flag is still flying. This is my commitment to America's future, and it is something that not only I, but all of us, as Americans, must never forget.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the house, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. LIPINSKI addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

CONCERN ABOUT DEMOCRATIC VICE PRESIDENT NOMINEE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, I come before the House tonight as a Member of Congress concerned about the impending Presidential race and particularly concerned about the Vice Presidential nominee chosen this week by the Democrat nominee for President.

I am very concerned, Madam Speaker, because the choice that has been made is a divider rather than a uniter, and I think we are about to engage in a debate that will determine who will lead us for the next 4 years. I am very concerned that someone has been chosen that has talked about two Americas, and that is a great concern to me, the framing of this debate around two Americas.

Quite frankly, Madam Speaker, I am concerned about two Americas. I am concerned about giving access and a platform to the trial lawyers in America, a stage and the ability to launch their efforts, which is unprecedented in the history of our Republic.

I see two Americas. A lot of trial lawyers, attorneys are my best friends, but I see an America with a few trial lawyers who have benefited greatly and substantially financially, and I see an America in which the rest of us have paid and are paying every day for what those trial lawyers have done to our society and our country.

This is a very serious issue because we are going to decide in this campaign if we continue to let trial lawyers have two Americas, where a few benefit, and then we all pay.

□ 1845

I do not know any American that has been paying lower hospital bills or lower medical care costs. And if we look at the root of the higher costs, it is because of the system that has evolved. A few are suing, and a few are benefiting. I am very concerned about what I see for health care costs and, in manufacturing, the jobs that have been driven out of this country. I come from the business sector. I am so pleased I am not in business because of the threat of lawsuits today.

Everything we do in our society now, the cost is dramatically affected; not just prescription drugs or health care, access to health care, but also manufacturing, our ability to compete in the world. Sometimes we compete on a wage basis, but when we look at lawsuits, I will give two examples.

One, the only bill that we overrode when President Clinton was in office was one in which we attempted to do something about civil aircraft manufacturing. We were losing it in the United States, and we had lost most of it. We did override a veto, and we did restore some civil aviation manufacturing. However, we have lost all regional jet manufacturing, lost 50 percent of the large aircraft manufacturing. If we look around the States, North Carolina, the South, the North, Ohio, we see manufacturing closing down, because we would not want to manufacture in the United States when we can take that activity outside the United States.

Another example is Orlando Helicopter, in my own backyard in central Florida. It does not exist anymore. They moved to South America and China. Why? Because of liabilities.

So I see two Americas. I see an America where we may have a great opportunity for people to get health care at affordable costs, I see opportunity where we can expand jobs and have great economic opportunity, but I do not see it with, unfortunately, the Democratic nominee who is being brought forth.

What concerns me, too, having just survived 2 years ago a $5 million unprecedented election by a contestant who was a trial lawyer who spent $5 million to oust me from office, I see that same onslaught of funds coming in to try to capture the second highest office in our land. I see two Americas, and I see one that does concern me.

STOP PLAYING GAMES WITH AFRICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, as we mark the first anniversary of the President's historic tour of Africa, we cannot help but wonder when, if ever, the government of this country will end the ''promise game'' they are so adept at playing with the peoples of Africa.

The administration's whirlwind, 1-week tour was ostensibly undertaken in pursuance of a policy ''to work with others for an African continent that lives in liberty, peace, and growing prosperity.'' It offered a laundry list of financial aid and development initiatives that could wipe out its poverty and dependence.

It is up to us to insist that the promises are kept and not relegated to unfunded programs for Africa, so characteristic of compassionate conservatives.

Startled by the realities of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, a threat potentially more devastating than global terrorism, the administration announced a tripling of its relatively modest commitment to battling the spread of the dreaded disease in Africa. The proposed $15 billion appropriation over the next 5 years in a region in which the pandemic has infected more than 30 million people, a tenth of them being children under the age of 15, is a drop in the bucket compared to the several billions we are committing annually to the pursuit of geopolitical strategies of a significantly less danger to the world at large.

But as generous and noble as this initiative is and touted to be, it is subject to political strings and is actually presented as another means of imposing our ideological concepts on the suffering people of Africa.

The other priority of the administration's African policy is the so-called advancement of political and economic freedom. Considering the means by which this government sat itself in power, it remains a source of wonder that they have had the unmitigated gall to propose to lecture any other state, least of all ancient African kingdoms, on the arts of governance and the democratic path to freedom.

The supposedly well-intended African Growth and Opportunity Act, known as an AGOA, is designed to build trade capacity with Africa and will, no doubt, be renewed and extended. Yet its full effect may never be realized until its implementation is not limited to those African nations that place themselves under the thumb of U.S. business interests.

The administration's third African policy priority is, they say, to create peace and regional stability. This would and could have been a lofty goal in itself had it not been proffered by an administration whose overall relations with other nations is based on a doctrine of preemptive aggression and regime change by violent external force.

We of the Congressional Black Caucus have been dubbed the conscience of this Congress. It is our duty to watch over the actions and activities of this government and to insist that, in words as well as in deeds, the interests of our constituency primarily and of the Nation ultimately are served.

In closing, Madam Speaker, our priority, therefore, is to ensure that the advantageous promises made to Africa are kept, and that every cent committed is spent as appropriated; that this and every other administration become fully convinced that its appropriations to Africa are not charitable contributions, but at least are reparations for past exploitations and, at the most, investments in the prosperity of Africa's people and all of the world.