Bob’s contributions are too numerous to mention, but principal among them are his efforts to improve import coverage uniformity in applying FDA policies and procedures and his work to increase cooperative activities with Customs and Border Protection. As the Nation has faced serious threats to the safety of its food supply, Bob significantly increased the number of import samples and product exams performed each year and contributed to updating the FDA import training program. Most importantly, Bob focused on FDA/SWID outreach and education efforts to work with the Federal and State agencies on border health to improve the health of the population living along the United States and Mexican border.

For all of his accomplishments in life, Bob Deininger’s greatest achievement will always be his family. His mother Evelyn and brother Gary are very proud of him, as is his wonderful wife Rosemary. Together, she and Bob have raised two impressive sons, Kristopher and Brian. They are blessed with a lovely daughter-in-law, Katherine, who has given them their pride and joy, grandson Jack.

Mr. Speaker, let us pause and give thanks to Bob Deininger for four decades of tireless, selfless service to the Food and Drug Administration and the American public.

Today, I join the good people of the Seventh Congressional District of Pennsylvania and the thousands of FDA employees Bob has led, mentored and cared for over the course of his brilliant career, and Bob’s many friends and colleagues, to wish Rosemary and Bob “fair winds and following seas” as they embark on the next, and no doubt even more remarkable, chapter of their lives.

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

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

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Wanda Evans, one of his secretaries.

NUMBER OF MARINE SUICIDES INCREASING

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week I was saddened to read an article in the Marine Corps Times with the heading “7 July suicides push Corps to record pace.” I will submit that article for the record.

The article states, “At least seven Marines are believed to have killed themselves so far in July, putting the Corps on a record pace despite broad-based efforts introduced to reduce suicides.”

The Corps is on a pace for about 56 suicides in 2009, which would shatter a record set last year when the Corps lost 42 Marines to confirmed or suspected suicide. The article further states, “Marine suicides have increased annually since 2006.”

[From the Marine Corps Times, July 30, 2009]

July Suicides Push Marines to Pacific Record

(By Dan Lamothe, staff writer)

At least seven Marines are believed to have killed themselves so far in July, officials said, putting the Corps on a record pace despite broad-based efforts introduced to reduce suicides.

The deaths come as the service rolls out a new suicide-prevention program this week focused on getting sergeants and corporals to take a more active role in watching for signs that a Marine may be in danger of killing himself. Nine Marines killed themselves in June, and 33 have done so this year, Maj. Carl Redding, a spokesman at Marine Corps headquarters.

The statistics were discussed Monday at the Sergeant’s Major Symposium, an annual meeting of the Corps’ top enlisted leaders in Washington. The 31 dead Marines put the Corps on pace for about 56 suicides in 2009, shattering a record set last year, when the Corps lost 42 Marines to confirmed or suspected suicides.

“We’re looking at all options to get a handle on this,” said Sgt. Maj. Carlton Kent, the Corps’ top enlisted adviser. “We’re trying to pinpoint what we can do, and we’re going to stay engaged until we find a fix for it.”

Marine suicides have increased annually since 2006, when 25 Marines killed themselves. Thirty-three Marines are believed to have committed suicide in 2007, Marine officials said.

The recent numbers have alarmed Marine leadership, prompting additional “all-hands” prevention training in March that included videos made by commanders, a slideshow outlining recent statistics and an overview of warning signs shown by Marines at risk of killing themselves.

On Monday, senior enlisted leaders discussed a next wave of suicide-prevention training that has been in the works for months. Noncommissioned officers throughout the Corps will be trained to watch for suicide signs more carefully, with “master trainer” sergeants who went through ¾ days of training in July at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., now fanning out across the service to teach NCOS how they can be a better help to at-risk Marines.

The new training package will include a 30-minute video featuring professional actors portraying Marines, and 11 documentary film clips featuring Marines who considered killing themselves and survivors of Marines who died. The Corps’ senior enlisted leaders were told Monday. It will focus in part on eliminating the stigma of reporting a Marine who is considering suicide, officials said.

“Peer groups have to recognize the signs at ankle level, not chest level,” said Sgt. Maj. Michael Timmerman, the senior enlisted adviser with the Personal and Family Readiness Division at Marine Corps headquarters. Kent said he wants NCOS to feel empowered to report that a Marine in turmoil may be considering suicide, but he believes senior enlisted leadership and officers also need to be actively involved.

“We still have to provide the guidance, oversight and support in the chain of command for enlisted leadership. ‘We have to give (NCOS) the tools they need’ to prevent suicides.”