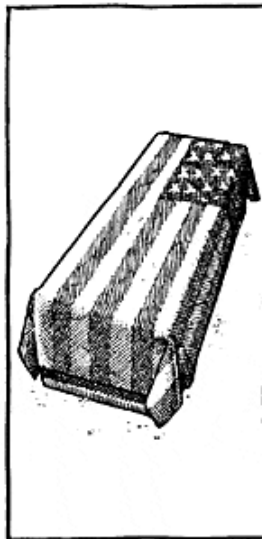


GI SPECIAL 5J9:
NATIONAL GUARD SPECIAL



BEN SARGENT
©2007 Ben Sargent
Original from 7/20/07

KILLED.



WOUNDED.



MISSING IN ACTION.



**National Guard Soldier's
Mom Says "The Army's
Lack Of Care And Lack
Of Medical Treatment
Killed My Son"**

Iraq War Veteran “Could Have Been Dead 15 Hours Before He Was Discovered”

“He May Have Been Unconscious As Long As Two Days”

[Here it is again. Same old story. Used up, thrown away, and the politicians couldn't care less. To repeat for the 3,514th time, there is no enemy in Iraq. Iraqis and U.S. troops have a common enemy. That common enemy owns and operates the Imperial government in Washington DC for their own profit. That common enemy started this war of conquest on a platform of lies, because they couldn't tell the truth: this war was about making money for them, and nothing else. Payback is overdue. T]

Oct 6, 2007 The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — The family of a soldier who died in a medical transition program is raising questions about the care he received after he was wounded in Iraq.

“I think the Army’s lack of care and lack of medical treatment killed my son,” Kay McMullen of Carmel, mother of 32-year-old Sgt. Gerald J. Cassidy, said Friday.

Cassidy was found in his room at Fort Knox in Kentucky and pronounced dead about 6:50 p.m. Sept. 21, the military said. At the time of his death, Cassidy was in the Warrior Transition Program, an outpatient program that helps injured soldiers prepare to return to duty or be evaluated for disability. He was buried this week.

McMullen said the transition unit is not equipped to handle all the wounded soldiers it receives.

“They have more patients and more wounded soldiers than they have the facilities and the doctors to take care of them,” she said.

McCullen said she had been trying to get her son transferred to an Indianapolis hospital where he could receive care she believed would be more adequate.

Cassidy’s family said he had suffered migraine headaches and other symptoms after suffering a severe head injury from a roadside bomb in June 2006.

An independent autopsy found Cassidy could have been dead 15 hours before he was discovered, the family said, and they believe he may have been unconscious as long as two days.

His wife had not had a phone call from him for three days when she called Fort Knox on Sept. 21 and pleaded with the Army to check on his condition, McCullen said.

“She started calling the Fort early Friday morning begging for help. She said please, please find my husband,” said McMullen.

Cassidy, of Westfield, was a member of the Lebanon-based Battery C of the 2-150th Field Artillery Battalion.

He was deployed to Iraq with a brigade combat team from the Minnesota National Guard.

**“Not One Soldier I Could Find
Who Thought The Surge Would
Be A Good Idea”**

**“We All Knew That It Would Just Add
More Sitting Ducks Into This
Complicated Equation”**

**“We’re Having Our Own ‘Civil War’ At
Home With The Soul Of Our Country At
Stake”**



09/20/2007 Via Garrett Reppenhagen, Iraq Veterans Against the War

Statement from an IAW member currently deployed in Baghdad, who wishes to remain anonymous.

Hopefully with an increased effort in the movement we can end this illegal occupation and bring our brothers and sisters home soon.

Here is the entire message:

By now we've all heard about the latest "successes" in Iraq out of the mouth of the Bush Administration's latest puppet and scapegoat, General David H. Petraeus.

General Petraeus was right to make the distinction between Al-Qaeda and Al-Qaeda in Iraq since we now know that Al-Qaeda was not an entity in Iraq prior to the invasion.

He left out that it is our involvement in Iraq that is the reason that Al-Qaeda never seems to have problems meeting their recruiting goals.

Also, mentioning Al-Qaeda is a sure way of tying Iraq to 9-11, an important link in the minds of many Americans, even if not actual fact.

General Petraeus even mentioned that the number of ethno-sectarian deaths have dropped in Baghdad. What he failed to mention is that elements of Al-Qaeda in Iraq and Jaysh al-Mahdi have employed the tactic of force moving populations to create Shia neighborhoods free of Sunnis and vice versa. Iraqi people are becoming increasingly afraid of leaving their neighborhoods to venture out into their country.

The permanent Iraqi Police checkpoints make it difficult to navigate the roads without bribe money and if you're a Sunni, you just might not want to be caught at the checkpoints. The Iraqi Police have been known to casually look the other way while Sunnis get kidnapped or even while bombs are planted for "Coalition" forces. He also failed to mention the cherry picking of evidence in order to base his lies on his interpretation of fact.

General Petraeus mentioned the number of Iraqi Security Forces are growing, but said it was "amid continuing concerns about the sectarian tendencies of some elements in their ranks." This was good because those "some elements" are estimated to hover around eighty percent. The Iraqis I speak with on a near daily basis can't count on the Iraqi Police for anything and don't trust them with their security.

In the Sunni neighborhood of Dora, the Iraqi Police are known to blare from their vehicles to the local population that if they are real men, they will come out of their homes and face the police. When a police force openly declares war on its population, that's security! That's democracy! None of our law or policymakers even asked what we are doing to quell this sectarianism within the security forces. Is it too hard to tell them that we are doing nothing to fix that particular problem? The Iraqi Police, after five years, still don't have the logistical means to fix any of their equipment that breaks down. The training of sectarian police, the supplies that they use... that's all being done at American taxpayer's expense.

General Petraeus mentioned that the local people of Anbar have risen up against Al Qaeda. Isn't that what the anti-war crowd has been saying for a while now? That the Iraqis can be trusted with their own security?

It may be tenuous, and I'm sure that even these local tribal leaders would still rather see their country free of Americans, but it goes to prove that no, the Iraqi people don't need us to solve their problems for them.

There's another lie debunked straight from the horse's mouth! Maybe Dave will join Iraq Veterans Against the War.

The General also told us, point blank, that for all the extra troops and strategy and time and money and blood invested, that violence levels are back to where they were at... summer of 2006?

Is he joking?

The average Iraqi knows that America can't keep them safe. It's true that the security improves when Americans are in the immediate vicinity, but the minute we turn a corner, that security is gone.

Weapons of mass destruction, Saddam, the military has accomplished everything it set out to accomplish.

It's time to give the Iraqis the freedom we originally promised them.

They're proving that they can be trusted with their own security. What the General failed to mention is that it wasn't the surge that sparked the Iraqis taking control, it was the talk of withdrawal. Up until now, the Iraqis haven't had to take control or risk their lives because we were willing to do that for them, now they're understanding that play time is over.

In typical military fashion, they've boiled everything down to numbers, but only the numbers that the military cares about. The number of Iraqis who have left their country to seek a better life somewhere else are not definitively known nor is the number of Iraqi civilians killed since the invasion. General Petraeus has said before that there is no military solution to the problems in Iraq and it's becoming increasingly more clear that we're just staving off the inevitable. All the American and Iraqi blood being spilled in Iraq is just a stall, a stall for sectarian political reconciliation that has, at best, a fifty-fifty chance of working. Oh, and he left out suicides which, for the Army, have reached a quarter-century high.

General Petraeus didn't disappoint when he said more time was needed. Of course it is! There's no money to be made in ending the war!

And Iraq has been very good for his career while simultaneously ending 3700 other soldier's careers and ruining a countless number of wounded soldier's careers.

The General said he would offer another assessment in March 2008, whistling his favorite tune "the next six months will be critical."

Did he fail to mention that there is still no end to the war in sight?

The surge was the wrong answer and sent the wrong message.

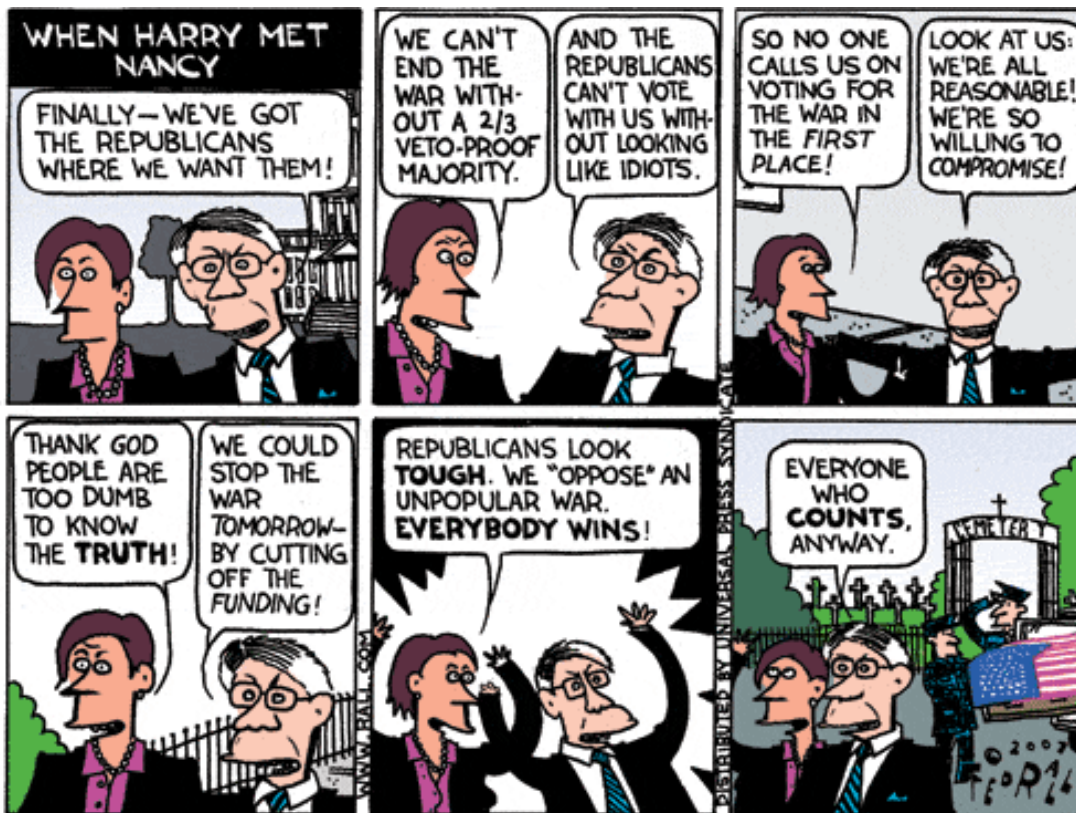
Prior to the surge, there was not one soldier I could find who thought the surge would be a good idea.

We all knew that it would just add more sitting ducks into this complicated equation.

The numbers don't tell us that for the American combat arms soldier, after four and a half years of conflict, Iraq is still just keeping your fingers crossed and praying that you don't die or end up permanently disabled from an IED or [knowing] that as long as we are still in Iraq, that the light at the end of the tunnel can't shine through.

It is important that the anti-war crowd know that it should not lose heart or give up the fight just yet.

We're having our own "civil war" at home with the soul of our country at stake.



National Guard Unit Deployed Longer Than Any Other Ground Combat Unit Cheated Out Of Their Benefits By Pentagon Rats: 1st Lt. Says "I Think It Was A Scheme To Save Money"

[Thanks to Pham Binh & Alberto Jaccoma, Military Project & Phil G & Will Hassell [Australia], who sent this in.]

Here's what happened: Anderson's orders, and the orders of 1,161 other Minnesota guard members, were written for 729 days. Had they been written for 730 days -- one day more -- the soldiers would receive those benefits to pay for school.

10/3/2007 By Scott Goldberg, KARE 11 News [Excerpts]

When they came home from Iraq, 2,600 members of the Minnesota National Guard had been deployed longer than any other ground combat unit.

The tour lasted 22 months and had been extended as part of President Bush's surge.

And 1st Lt. Jon Anderson says he never expected to come home to this: A government refusing to pay education benefits he says he should have earned under the GI bill.

"It's pretty much a slap in the face," Anderson said. "I think it was a scheme to save money, personally. I think it was a leadership failure by the senior Washington leadership, once again failing the soldiers."

Here's what happened: Anderson's orders, and the orders of 1,161 other Minnesota guard members, were written for 729 days.

Had they been written for 730 days -- one day more -- the soldiers would receive those benefits to pay for school.

"Which would be allowing the soldiers an extra \$500 to \$800 a month," Anderson said.

That money would help him pay for his master's degree in public administration.

Both [John] Hobot and Anderson believe the Pentagon deliberately wrote orders for 729 days instead of 730.

Now six of Minnesota's members of the House of Representatives have asked the Secretary of the Army to look into it. So have Senators Amy Klobuchar (D) and Norm Coleman (R).

Klobuchar said the GI money "shouldn't be tied up in red tape," and Coleman said it's "simply irresponsible to deny education benefits to those soldiers who just completed the longest tour of duty of any unit in Iraq."

Anderson said the soldiers he oversaw in his platoon expected that money to be here when they come home.

"I had 23 guys under my command," Anderson said. "I promised to take care of them. And I'm not going to end taking care of them when this deployment is over, and it's not over until this is solved."

Minnesota National Guard spokesman Lt. Col. Kevin Olson said the soldiers are "victims of a significant injustice."

***Warning To Reservists And
National Guard Members:
Do Not Trust The U.S. Dept. Of
Labor To Get Your Job Back:
These Stooges For Corporate
America Will Stab You In The Back,
Slit Your Throat, And Laugh;
Reservist Wins \$542,000 After DL Filth
Said He Had No Case***

September 15th, 2007 MICHAEL GILBERT; The News Tribune

A federal jury has awarded more than a half-million dollars in lost pay and damages to a McCord Air Force Base reservist who was fired from his civilian job after returning from active-duty service in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The U.S. Department of Labor previously ruled against retired Tech. Sgt. Gerald Delay when his employer, Ace Heating of Seattle, produced documents that said he was a disciplinary problem.

But those documents proved to have been fabricated after Delay's firing, and one was even dated Feb. 29, 2005, a "leap day" in a nonleap year, Delay's lawyer said.

A jury this week awarded the Federal Way resident \$250,000 for the false statements and \$292,000 in lost pay and punitive damages.

The panel agreed Ace Heating had defamed the former C-17 loadmaster and retaliated against him for trying to assert his rights under the Uniformed Service Employment and Reemployment Act. The federal law was designed to protect the jobs of National Guardsmen and reservists called to active duty.

Delay, 40, who has since retired from the military, said he hopes the verdict serves as an example for other service members struggling with deployment-related problems at their civilian workplaces.

"The money is not that important; it's the principle of what he did to me," Delay said Friday. "That made me mad. This is going to make it easier for guys behind me. It's about what's right and wrong."

Delay's case is unusual. Employment complaints by returning guardsmen and reservists are first handled by the committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

But few veterans win a positive outcome when they pursue their employment complaints through the federal government, the Government Accountability Office recently reported.

And advocates for service members contend the administration has closed off access to previously open public records showing that many guardsmen and reservists are reporting problems with getting back to their civilian jobs.

After losing before the Department of Labor, Delay took matters into his own hands and went to court.

He had worked as a heating and air-conditioning technician at Ace for three years before he was called to active duty in February 2003. He flew missions to Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere with the 446th Reserve Airlift Wing in support of the two wars until late 2004.

When he returned to work at Ace, he was given only about 30 hours a week, instead of the 40 or more that he typically got before he was activated.

He complained to his boss, then went to military lawyers at his wing headquarters. They sent a letter to Ace setting out his rights under the federal law. The company fired him the day the letter arrived, said Delay's lawyer, James Beck of Tacoma.

Department of Labor officials later took Delay's statement, reviewed the records submitted by the company and ruled in the employer's favor.

Beck said he obtained the company documents under a Freedom of Information Act request. None was signed by Delay, and at trial the employer acknowledged that they'd been prepared and backdated after the airman was fired, Beck said.

The two-day trial was held Tuesday and Wednesday in U.S. District Court in Seattle before Judge John Coughenour.

One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.

Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
December 13, 2004



Troops Invited:

What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send email contact@militaryproject.org. Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Replies confidential. Same address to unsubscribe.

OCCUPATION ISN'T LIBERATION BRING ALL THE TROOPS HOME NOW!

Do you have a friend or relative in the service? Forward GI Special along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly. Whether in Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the war, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to: The Military Project, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657

Troops Invited:

What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send email contact@militaryproject.org. Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Replies confidential. Same address to unsubscribe.

GI Special Looks Even Better Printed Out

GI Special issues are archived at website <http://www.militaryproject.org> .

The following have chosen to post issues; there may be others:

<http://williambowles.info/gispecial/2007/index.html>; <http://www.uruknet.info/?p=6&l=e>; http://www.traprockpeace.org/gi_special/;
<http://www.albasrah.net/magalat/english/gi-special.htm>

GI Special distributes and posts to our website copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available in an effort to advance understanding of the invasion and occupation of Iraq. We believe this constitutes a "fair use" of any such copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law since it is being distributed **without charge or profit** for educational purposes to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving the included information for educational purposes, in accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107. **GI Special has no affiliation whatsoever with the originator of these articles nor is GI Special endorsed or sponsored by the originators. This attributed work is provided a non-profit basis to facilitate understanding, research, education, and the advancement of human rights and social justice.** Go to: www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml for more information. If you wish to use copyrighted material from this site for purposes of your own that go beyond 'fair use', you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.

If printed out, this newsletter is your personal property and cannot legally be confiscated from you. "Possession of unauthorized material may not be prohibited." DoD Directive 1325.6 Section 3.5.1.2.