

Military Resistance 8K28

**NOT ANOTHER DAY
NOT ANOTHER DOLLAR
NOT ANOTHER LIFE**



The burial service for Staff Sgt. David J. Weigle, at Arlington National Cemetery Nov. 3, 2010. Weigle, 29, of Philadelphia, died Oct. 10 in Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when insurgents attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device. (AP Photo/Ann Heisenfelt)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Afghan Police Officer Kills 6 U.S. Service Members

[Thanks to Michael Letwin, New York City Labor Against The War & Military Resistance Organization, who sent this in.]

11.29.2010 By RAHIM FAIEZ, The Associated Press

An Afghan border policeman killed six American servicemen during a training mission Monday, underscoring one of the risks in a U.S.-led program to educate enough recruits to turn over the lead for security to Afghan forces by 2014.

The shooting in a remote area near the Pakistani border appeared to be the deadliest attack of its kind in at least two years.

A spokesman for the Afghan Interior Ministry, Zemer Bashary, confirmed that the gunman in Monday's attack was a border police officer rather than an insurgent who donned the uniform for a day.

The Taliban claimed responsibility, saying the gunman joined the border police to kill foreign soldiers.

"Today he found this opportunity and he killed six invaders," Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid said in a statement e-mailed to the media.

The shooter opened fire on the NATO troops and then was killed in the shootout, NATO said, without providing additional details.

Col. Dave Lapan, a Pentagon spokesman, confirmed that the six killed were American.

Bashary said the incident happened in the Pachir Wagam district of Nangarhar province, a volatile area near Pakistan.

An investigation team has been sent to Pachir Wagam, said Gen. Aminullah Amerkhail, the regional border police commander for the east. But he said information was not coming back quickly.

"The area is very remote," he said. "Even the telephones are not working there."

Soldier Was Aching To Come Home



Luff, 29, died in Tikrit after insurgents attacked his unit with small-arms fire, the Department of Defense said. Photo provided

November 23, 2010 By Janice Morse, Cincinnati.com

HAMILTON - Stacy Garrison wept Tuesday at the thought of her brother's text messages, telling her how badly he wanted to come home from his Army deployment to spend more time with his infant son.

But Hamilton native Sgt. David J. Luff Jr. was killed Sunday in Iraq, preventing him from returning to Hawaii, where he had been stationed, to see his baby, Aiden, as planned in February, Garrison said.

Father and son had gotten to spend just a month together in Hawaii after the baby's birth in May, Garrison said, before Luff was sent on his second tour of duty in Iraq.

Luff, 29, died in Tikrit after insurgents attacked his unit with small-arms fire, the Department of Defense said.

"He was an awesome guy ... he loved his son and his wife very much," Garrison, 31, said, noting that her brother and his wife, the former Katie Halcomb, had been sweethearts at Hamilton High School.

The couple would have marked their second wedding anniversary Dec. 31, Garrison said, noting, "They first got together when he was 16 ... he really loved her a lot and would smile and laugh when he would talk about her."

Luff graduated from the school in 1999. Principal Dennis Malone made an announcement Tuesday, asking for a moment of silence in Luff's honor, said city schools spokeswoman Joni Copas.

Luff spent eight years in the military, following in the footsteps of his brother, John, who also did a tour of duty in Iraq, Garrison said.

Luff was a fan of the Bengals and was known for his sense of humor and good-natured attitude, his sister said.

Because her brother was stationed such a long distance away in Hawaii, the last time Garrison saw her brother was at a family gathering last year on Christmas Eve in Hamilton.

He and his wife excitedly talked about preparing for the arrival of their baby, and "he was so excited that it was a boy," Garrison said.

Brother and sister communicated mostly via text message and he didn't say much about his military duties, she said, adding, "He was ready to come home and see his son."

After spending a month with the baby, he spent his 29th birthday at a Hawaiian luau before deploying to Iraq.

"I think he's a hero - him and every other guy and girl that's ever been over there," Garrison said. Then she revised her statement: "I don't think it. I know it."

Besides his wife, sister and son, Luff also leaves his parents, David J. Sr. and Lucy; brothers Jeff, 28, in Dayton, Ohio, and John, 25, in Texas.

Funeral arrangements were pending Tuesday.

Springs Marine Killed In Afghanistan Lived For The Corps

November 22, 2010 JAKOB RODGERS, THE GAZETTE

A Marine who graduated from Doherty High School in Colorado Springs died Friday while on patrol in Afghanistan, his family said Monday.

Sgt. Jason T. Smith, 28, was killed less than a month after starting his first tour in Afghanistan when an improvised explosive device detonated, said his mother, Loretta Smith.

He had previously served two tours in Iraq.

A member of the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Branch, he was based out of the Marine Corps Air Station in Iwakuni, Japan, according to the Department of Defense.

“He was excited that he had finally found his niche,” Loretta Smith said. “He was very proud of that.”

Born in Aberdeen, Wash., Smith moved between Kansas, Iowa and Utah before settling in 1993 with his family in Colorado Springs.

He spent three years at Coronado High School before spending his senior year at Doherty High School, where he graduated in 2000.

Soon after, he joined the Marines with his best friend.

The decision wasn't hard, said Loretta Smith. Rather, she said, he chose the Marines because of one thing: boot camp.

“It was the hardest and the longest boot camp,” Smith said. “And they wanted the hardest and the longest.”

What followed, said fellow Marines, was a career marked by a unique talent to teach.

Before joining the Marines' explosives unit, he served as a primary marksmanship instructor at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point in North Carolina, training Marines how to use their pistols and rifles.

“The guy could have told me to do anything and I would have done it without hesitation,” said Sgt. Michael Brown, stationed at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

“He was just one of those people you just follow no matter what.”

When not studying or scoring at the top of the class in shooting exercises, Smith would listen to rock music and play horseshoes and cards. Again, he was at the top of his class.

“He was good — cutthroat,” chuckled John Quinn, who was with Smith during training to become an arms instructor.

But he was also a vivacious man, his family said, one who “never met a stranger — ever.”

When not disarming bombs, he would fish and play basketball. Growing up, he wanted little else than to play professional basketball for the Utah Jazz, said his cousin, Robyn Winge, 31, of Harrisburg, S.D.

The only problem in this plan: He found the Marines.

“That’s all he’s ever known is the Marine Corps,” Winge said. “And he loved it. He absolutely loved the Marine Corps.”

**THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO COMPREHENSIBLE
REASON TO BE IN THIS EXTREMELY HIGH RISK
LOCATION AT THIS TIME, EXCEPT THAT THE
PACK OF TRAITORS THAT RUN THE
GOVERNMENT IN D.C. WANT YOU THERE TO
DEFEND THEIR IMPERIAL DREAMS:
That is not a good enough reason.**



U.S. Marine (R), who was shot in the leg and arm, holds his head as his comrade, who was shot in the leg, looks on during a Medevac mission in southern Afghanistan's Helmand province November 10, 2010. REUTERS/Peter Andrews



A U.S. soldier at the site of a blast in Laghman province, November 20, 2010. REUTERS/Parwiz



US Army Spc. Francisco Liquez from First Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division looks for an IED during a patrol in Panjwai district, Afghanistan's Kandahar province, Nov. 23, 2010. (AP Photo/Alexander Zemlianichenko)

**POLITICIANS CAN'T BE COUNTED ON TO HALT
THE BLOODSHED**

**THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE
WARS**

MILITARY NEWS

**“Thousands Of Retired Army Men
Will Hold A Protest Rally At Jantar
Mantar In Delhi”**

**“In A Protest Against The
Governments Discriminatory Pension
Policies, Hundreds Of Gurgaon
Based Army Officers Have Decided
To Return Their Gallantry Medals”**

**“We Have No Option But To Come Out
On Streets And Fight For Our Right”**

[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, Military Resistance Organization, who sent this in.]

Nov 27, 2010 Yogesh Kumar, TNN

GURGAON: In a protest against the governments discriminatory pension policies, hundreds of Gurgaon based army officers have decided to return their gallantry medals to the President of India in the Delhi on Sunday.

The ex-servicemen across the country are against the governments pension policies. We are demanding one rank one pension for all ex-servicemen but the governments unfortunately has been deaf to our legitimate demand. We have no option but to come out on streets and fight for our right, said Major General (Retd) Satbir Singh, vice chairman of Indian ex-servicemen movement.

Awarded with Seva Medal by the government, Singh now lives in Gurgaon.

We have collected over 6,000 gallantry medals from our ex-servicemen and officers from all over the country and we will hand them over to the president, who is our supreme commander, said Singh.

Retired army officer criticized the governments indifferent attitude towards defence forces: There is a Supreme Court observation that instructed the government to stop treating army men like beggars, but there is no one who is willing to listen to our demands, said Singh.

On Sunday, thousands of retired Army men will hold a protest rally at Jantar Mantar in Delhi.

We are demanding that the government must set up an ex-servicemen commission, on the lines of minority commission or SC/ST commission. The government must appoint an ex-serviceman as head of the commission, said Lt Gen (retd) Raj Kadyan, a resident of Gurgaon.

After the SC rap, the government formed Armed Forces Grievances Redressal Commission. The commission has two retired judges of the Supreme Court and two senior retired Defence Officers former army chief Ved Malik, and Lt Gen (retd) Vijay Oberoi. But the commission is only a recommendatory body with no adjudicatory authority.

Thousands of ex-servicemen had in past also held protest in Delhi and tried to return their gallantry medals but could not do so. Our condition is that we will return the medals only to the President not to anyone else, said Singh.

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?

Forward Military Resistance along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly. Whether in Afghanistan, 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 wars, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to: The Military Resistance, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657. Phone: 888.711.2550

Military Resistance Available In PDF Format

If you prefer PDF to Word format, email contact@militaryproject.org

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

Traveling Soldier is the publication of the Military Resistance Organization.

Telling the truth - about the occupations or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance to Imperial wars inside the armed forces.

Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces.

If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers. <http://www.traveling-soldier.org/>

And join with Iraq Veterans Against the War to end the occupations and bring all troops home now! (www.ivaw.org/)

CLASS WAR REPORTS

Justice Denied Auto Workers At Lake Orion!

**“Our Union Has Become Something
We Don’t Recognize”
“We Will Not Stand Down”**

[Thanks to Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade; United Auto Workers Soldiers of Solidarity & GM Retiree, who sent this in.]

Democracy, equality, and solidarity means members vote on all contracts, means equal pay for equal work, and an end to double tiers, double talk, and other divisive tactics that pit worker against worker and local against local in a competitive race to the bottom.

November 11, 2010, S.O.S. BULLETIN, Voices of the UAW Rank and File, Issue No. 16

This bulletin is put out in the interests of informing workers and renewing the fighting power of organized labor. Please send your comments and your on-the-job, on-scene reports to: soldiersofsolidarity@yahoo.com.

www.soldiersofsolidarity.com
www.factoryrat.com

Despite Bob King’s public promotion of workers’ rights, [United Auto Workers union] enforcers have again kicked democracy down the stairs and thrown the UAW Constitution out the window.

On November 7 UAW Local 5960 member Nick Waun attempted to exercise his Constitutional right to make motions at a membership meeting. The Local Union president in the presence of two UAW International enforcement officers refused to allow the motions to be voted on and ignored the majority’s call to over-rule the chair and let the motions be considered.

While Bob King wraps himself in the flag of righteousness, tyranny rules the union he leads.

Brother Nick and fellow UAW members are appealing the UAW’s Concession Caucus decision to implement a two tier contract that cut 40% of the workforce’s wages in half — without proper authorization and without a membership vote!

Heed the warning. This isn't a local issue, it has national implications.

In the November-December issue of Solidarity magazine, Bob King wrote: *"If we raise the total fixed costs of our union employers above the nonunion competition, then indirectly we will be helping the most anti-union employers win in the marketplace. It would be against our members' interests for the UAW to adopt a strategy that penalizes unionized companies while letting nonunion companies off the hook."*

Five months prior to the UAW Bargaining Convention, King announces in Solidarity magazine his strategy to drive wages and benefits down to nonunion standards.

Ten months prior to the expiration of contracts at GM, Ford, and Chrysler, King demonstrates at Lake Orion that he will not allow his authority to be subject to a vote of the membership or to the requirements of the UAW Constitution.

King knows full well that labor constitutes less than 10% of the average vehicle selling price, yet he is determined to drive down UAW wages to nonunion standards in order to help the companies make higher profits.

He frames his argument as an organizing strategy.

Does he actually believe that nonunion workers will flock into the pockets of UAW organizers once our wages and benefits are no higher than nonunion workers?

Work For Less Is Not An Organizing Slogan!

King's strategy to "win in the marketplace" in order to organize new members is befuddled corpo-speak.

Yes, everything looks different when you stand on your head, but if we lower our wages, benefits, and working conditions to nonunion standards, what incentive would anyone have to join a union?

King got his brain washed at the Mulally laundromat. We should hang him out to dry.

Maintaining union scale means that GM, Ford, and Chrysler-Fiat will have to accept slightly smaller profits or trim the fat off the waste bulging over their desks. American auto executives make twice as much as their German and Japanese competitors.

In his article in Solidarity magazine, King compared himself to Walter Reuther.

But Reuther raised standards for all workers. King wants to level the playing field by lowering standards.

Break The Trend And Raise The Benchmark

In 2011, GM and Chrysler workers will be told that their contract is in the hands of an arbitrator so they can't vote it down – a contract virtually guaranteed to reduce their wages, pensions, and benefits.

So how will King dupe Ford workers into accepting his stupefying organizing strategy — that is, smaller paychecks for all?

Whipsawing. And contracts without any ratification.

The national contract at Ford will likely have provisions stating that if a local wants new work, it will have to negotiate an “innovative Competitive Operating Agreement”. Ford may now have a superior contract, but the Concession Caucus is determined to dismantle it, local by local, until we are all Delphied and Axled down.

If the travesty at Lake Orion UAW Local 5960 is allowed to stand, it will become the standard.

How many other contracts will be implemented without the members' consent?

Ford-UAW members can begin to break the trend and raise the benchmark for the real UAW, and open the way for the rest of us to join in.

We Will not Stand Down!

On October 16th, an original Sit-Downer, Olen Hamm, stood in Solidarity with over 250 UAW brothers and sisters, at the End Two Tier/Lake Orion Solidarity Rally in front of Solidarity House in downtown Detroit.

We hope to stand for the next generation just as Olen and the other Sit-Downers did for us. We will not dictate half wages to our children. We will not back off and we will not stand down.

Our union has become something we don't recognize.

At the rally, when Olen Hamm was asked what he thought about Solidarity House, he replied, “I don't know them”. We understand completely. We don't know them either. But we do know how a real union walks and talks.

Democracy, equality, and solidarity means members vote on all contracts, means equal pay for equal work, and an end to double tiers, double talk, and other divisive tactics that pit worker against worker and local against local in a competitive race to the bottom.

Olen Hamm didn't recognize the people behind the gates at Solidarity House, but he recognized us as brothers and sisters in an honest struggle for workers' rights and justice.

We will not stand down.

MORE:

Now They Gonna Make Us Shut Up

(By Gregg Shotwell, United Auto Workers Soldiers Of Solidarity)

**Now they gonna make us shut up
—sharpen pencils for them and
wet the lead between our lips**

**Now they gonna make us shut up
—take a wage cut and walk away
like nothing happened out of the ordinary**

**Now they gonna make us shut up
—automatically deduct from paychecks
for things we don't want**

**Now they gonna make us shut up
—call overtime mandatory and
health insurance optional**

**Now they gonna make us shut up
—give us new rules, old tools, and
zero tolerance for being human**

**Now they gonna make us shut up
—cut our break time, break our lunch time,
get written permission to urinate**

**Now they gonna make us shut up
—sign over our pensions to stock brokers
working on straight commission**

**Now they gonna make us shut up
—work twice as hard for half as much
and repeat after me, "I'm lucky to have a job"**

**Now they gonna make us shut up
—kneel down and tie their laces
say please and thank you to their faces
Now they gonna make us shut up**

[Super-Long But Worth It]

**Poisoning The Kids For Drug
Industry Profits:
“Children Have Been Subjected To
Mental Health Screening And
Psychiatric Labeling And Drugging
With Psychotropic Drugs, Many
Times Off-Label, Without Informed
Consent”
“Kids Should Be Off-Limits As Targets
Of Convenience For The Drug Industry”**

After she became unwilling to give Michael the drugs, “the school threw him out,” she told the panel. “As a final blow, they proceeded to call Child Protective Services on my husband and I, charging us with medical neglect for refusing to drug our child,” she said.

A month-long investigation cleared the charges and independent psychiatrists determined the bizarre behaviors were caused by the drugs and Michael did not need hospitalization.

By Evelyn Pringle, November 19th, 2010, Dissident Voice

The founders of Ablechild, Patricia Weathers and Sheila Matthews, have earned the title of “Unsung Heroes,” as both pioneers and warriors for over a decade, in the battle to protect children from the Psychopharmaceutical Industry.

Ablechild (Parents for A Label and Drug-Free Education), is a national non-profit founded in 2001, by these two mothers who each had personal experiences with being coerced by the public school system to label and drug their children for ADHD. Patty and Sheila went from being victims to become national advocates for the fundamental rights of all parents and children in the US.

Now with thousands of members, Ablechild acts as an independent advocate on behalf of parents whose children have been subjected to mental health screening and psychiatric labeling and drugging, and as a proponent for children in foster care who are improperly treated with psychotropic drugs, many times off-label, without informed consent.

Long Battle Against Coerced Drugging

Roughly eight years ago, on September 26, 2002, then Chairman the US House Government Reform Committee, Congressman Dan Burton (R-IN), held a hearing on the "Overmedication of Hyperactive Children," prompted by a series in the New York Post.

"It's estimated that 4 to 6 million children in the United States take Ritalin every single day," Burton said in his opening statement. He pointed out that Ritalin was a Schedule II stimulant under the Federal Controlled Substances Act, that research showed it was a more potent transport inhibitor than cocaine, and use in the US had increased over a 500% since 1990. The Schedule II category also includes drugs such as cocaine, morphine, and Oxycontin.

On one side of the issue, Burton said, they would hear from the associations of psychiatrists and an organization known as Children and Adults with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (CHADD), and they believed 13% of the US population suffered from an attention disorder and it should be treated with medication.

At the other end of the discussion, he said, was the Citizens Commission for Human Rights (CCHR), and concerned parents, who challenged the legitimacy of calling ADHD a neurobiological disorder and raised questions about giving psychiatric drugs to children.

Two of these "concerned parents" were Patty Weathers and Neil Bush, the brother of then President Bush, who was pressured by a private school in Houston to drug his son with Ritalin after he was misdiagnosed with ADHD by the school.

Unsung Hero: Patty Weathers

At the hearing, Patty testified about the ordeal she and her son, Michael, went through in a public school in New York State that began in 1997. When Michael entered first grade, the teacher told Patty his learning development was not normal and he would not be able to learn without medication.

"Near the end of first grade, the school principal took me into her office and said that unless I agreed to put Michael on medication, she would find a way to transfer him to a special education center," Patty told the committee.

At this point, his teacher filled out an actor's profile for boys, an ADHD checklist, and sent it to his pediatrician, she said. "This checklist, along with a 15-minute evaluation by the pediatrician, led to my son being diagnosed with ADHD and put on Ritalin."

Michael was not given a physical exam prior to the prescribing of Ritalin and no exams were conducted during appointments when refills for prescriptions were written.

"I would never have subjected my son to being labeled with a mental disorder if I had known that it was a subjective diagnosis," Patty told the panel. "I would not have allowed my son to be administered drugs if I had been given full information about the documented side effects and the risks."

“At no time was I offered any alternatives to my son’s needs, such as tutoring or standard medical testing.” she said. “The school’s one and only solution was to have my child drugged.”

Early on, Michael experienced the common side effects of Ritalin, such as sleep problems and loss of appetite, and by the third grade, Michael became withdrawn, stopped socializing with other children, and began chewing on pencils and other objects. He was then put on Dextrostat, an amphetamine, which only worsened the problems.

But instead of recognizing the drug side effects, the school psychologist then claimed Michael had either bipolar or social anxiety disorder and needed to see a psychiatrist.

The psychologist gave Patty the number for a psychiatrist to call and the psychiatrist talked to her and Michael for a short time, and “again, with the aid of school reports, diagnosed him with social anxiety disorder,” she recalled.

Without telling her it was not approved for children, the psychiatrist prescribed the antidepressant, Paxil, saying it was a “wonder drug for kids.” “Those were her exact words,” Patty told the committee.

The drug cocktail caused even more horrendous side effects, until Michael’s behavior became so out of character that Patty could not even recognize her own son.

“Through this whole ordeal, the school psychologist’s favorite saying was that it was trial and error,” she said. “If one drug didn’t work, try another.”

After watching Michael become violent, psychotic, hear voices and hallucinate, Patty stopped giving him the drugs.

Not recognizing that he was going through withdrawal, the psychiatrist wanted to hospitalize Michael and try different sedatives and antipsychotics until they found “the right one,” but Patty refused to allow it.

After she became unwilling to give Michael the drugs, “the school threw him out,” she told the panel. “As a final blow, they proceeded to call Child Protective Services on my husband and I, charging us with medical neglect for refusing to drug our child,” she said.

The complaint filed by the school stated in part: “[Michael’s] behavior at school is bizarre: He hears voices and appears delusional, he chews on his clothes and paper, he talks to himself and rambles when he talks.”

A month-long investigation cleared the charges and independent psychiatrists determined the bizarre behaviors were caused by the drugs and Michael did not need hospitalization.

Medical testing by Dr Mary Ann Block, a Texas osteopathic physician, later showed that Michael suffered from anemia, hypoglycemia and allergies. When those conditions were treated, any attention problems disappeared.

On August 7, 2002, the New York Post ran a front-page article featuring Patty's story.

Within a few days, over 65 parents came forward to describe similar stories of coercion and intimidation used by school districts to strong arm them into drugging their kids.

Unsung Hero: Sheila Matthews

Connecticut mom, Sheila Matthews, turned on the TV one day and saw Patty testifying on C-Span at a hearing titled, "Behavioral Drugs in Schools," on September 29, 2000, before the US House Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Sheila immediately related with Patty because she was then going through what she would later call the "ADHD nightmare," of being pressured to put her 7-year-old son on Ritalin, after he was screened and diagnosed with ADHD by a school psychologist, with claims he would "self-medicate" and end up a drug addict if she did not medicate him.

While testifying at this hearing, Patty explained that being labeled made Michael feel worse about himself and "like a freak" because he "had to be drugged to go to school."

She also voiced her concerns for other families over the intimidation tactics used by schools to coerce parents into drugging their children. "If I didn't have family members who were willing to financially back my son and I in my son's cause, it is entirely possible that my son would have ended up in a psychiatric ward," she told the panel.

That very day, Sheila made up her mind to expose the misleading information being given to parents about so-called mental disorders in public schools and expose the coercive tactics being used on parents who refused to label and drug their children.

She wanted to meet Patty so she contacted the Congressional office and they put her in touch with Marla Filidei, Vice President of CCHR International. Marla hooked her up with Patty, and together, they founded Ablechild.

National Spokespersons

Over the past ten years, Patty and Sheila have become national spokespersons. The normally shy, quiet Patty has made appearances on more than two dozen media programs including ABC's Good Morning America, the Today Show on NBC, Hannity & Colmes, on Fox, CNN's Lou Dobbs, A&E's Investigative Reports, and Montel Williams.

She has also been interviewed for stories in major newspapers including the New York Times, New York Post, USA Today, and Christian Science Monitor, as well as Time, People, and Redbook magazines, and has been interviewed by Gary Null, Sean Hannity, Michael Regan, and other popular radio talk show hosts.

In February 2001, Patty received a "Human Rights Award," from CCHR, and was recognized for standing up against the injustice of psychiatric labeling and drugging of

children in public schools at the group's annual banquet. Sheila received an award from CCHR in 2002, and was recognized for her hard work and role as national spokesperson.

Sheila has also appeared on TV numerous times including shows on CNN, NBC and Fox, and has been interviewed on many talk radio programs. Her story has also been featured in major newspapers and magazines.

In her home state of Connecticut, Sheila worked with State Representative, Lenny Winkler (a nurse by trade), to secure passage of the first state law in the country that restricts schools from suggesting psychiatric diagnosing and drugging of any child as a condition of attending school. She testified before the Connecticut State Assembly about her own personal experience with the school trying to pressure her to put her son on Ritalin and the lack of validity of the disorders children are being labeled with.

Sheila was with the Connecticut Governor when he signed the bill into law in 2001 and told USA Today that she was thrilled "because it gives parents an awareness that there should be a clear difference between education and medication."

"No other industry has total access to our children the way the psychiatric community does, and I think this new law is just the beginning of changes to come," she told Kelly Patricia O'Meara, in an interview for Insight News.

"Kids should be off-limits as targets of convenience for the drug industry," Sheila said. "I want the mental-health industry out of our schools."

However, any victory celebration was short lived because in September 2001, a number of family orientated magazines began running the first ever ads for ADHD drugs. "It seems like every time we take a step forward, they come back and hit us harder," Patty told Time magazine.

After the Connecticut law was passed, Sheila continued to work with other parents on state and federal levels to pass similar bills.

By 2003, seven states had passed laws against schools coercing parents to drug their children or expelling students whose parents refused to medicate them.

On a national level, both Sheila and Patty made many trips to Washington to educate lawmakers. In September 2001, Patty and CCHR's Bruce Wiseman and Marla Filidei, briefed legislators at a national congress of the "National Foundation of Women Legislators," and gained their unanimous approval of a model law in the "Child Medication Safety Act (CMSA)," which mandates that: "State educational agencies develop and implement policies and procedures that will prohibit school personnel from requiring a child to obtain a prescription for a controlled substance such as Ritalin as a condition of attending school or receiving services."

In both October and November of 2001, Sheila traveled to Washington with Marla and Lawrence Smith, whose 11-year-old son died of a heart attack caused by Ritalin, to meet with key lawmakers and discuss the crisis of children being diagnosed and drugged in schools and the need for federal legislation to end it. They also worked with Congressional staff to get co-sponsors for the CMSA

In July 2002, the nationally syndicated columnist and radio show host, Armstrong Williams, featured Sheila, Patty and Lawrence Smith in a radio show on safeguarding children from being labeled and drugged in public schools.

The next month, Patty appeared on NBC's Today Show, on August 8, 2002, and the same day, the New York Post ran an article reporting that Patty was calling for a state wide tracking system to determine how widespread forced drugging was in schools.

Strongest Foe Funded by ADHD Drug Makers

In March 2003, Patty, Michael, and Sheila appeared on a Montel Williams show on promoting "A Parents Right to Choose," along with Connecticut Rep, Lenny Winkler, Bruce Wiseman, Patricia Marks, Dr Mary Ann Block, and Vicky and Steve Dunkle, whose 10-year-old daughter died from Desipramine toxicity, after the antidepressant was prescribed for ADHD as a result of pressure from school officials to medicate the child.

The guests covered everything from the subjective diagnosis of mental disorders, with no confirming medical testing, to the many side effects of psychiatric drugs, to the fact that most children involved in school shootings were on psychiatric drugs.

They warned that due to coercion in schools, parents all over the country were losing the right to choose whether their kids would take powerful drugs, including stimulants, referred to as "kiddie cocaine."

At the end of the program, Montel asked the audience to write to Congress asking for federal legislation against the coerced drugging of school children.

After the show aired, CHADD, the main front group for the stimulant makers, organized a letter writing campaign to Montel, who they said "mocked" ADHD, as part of responding to "offensive media depictions" of ADHD, they claimed in CHADD's 2002-2003 Annual Report.

The group also published an open letter to Montel, saying no one would "dispute that unnecessarily placing a child on medication is deplorable."

"But the greater travesty is delaying proper diagnosis and effective treatment for those who truly need it," CHADD said. "The sad truth is that many more children with mental disorders slip unrecognized past the gatekeepers of mental health services than those who are improperly diagnosed."

In April 2003, Ablechild issued a press release blasting CHADD for lobbying against the CMSA with claims that only a "handful" of incidents had occurred involving parents being coerced by schools to drug their children.

In lobbying to CHADD's membership, the group's CEO, E Clarke Ross, used the electronic newsletter, "News from CHADD," to raise questions about whether the problem was common enough to require federal legislation and called such cases "isolated and highly publicized." Because a number of states and school boards had passed laws or resolutions, Ross claimed the federal bill was "legislative overkill."

However, for a May 13, 2003 investigative report on the CMSA published in Insight magazine, in which Ross again referred to “a few highly publicized cases,” Kelly Patricia O’Meara interviewed Mike Stokke, deputy chief of staff to the Speaker of the House at the time, and found cases of school personnel demanding that parents drug children as a condition of staying in school were far from isolated in numbers or areas.

In case after case, Stokke told Insight, “when we started meeting some of these families who have been through this problem, such as in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, we saw the coercive action of the state come in and say that the teacher says you have to take these drugs.”

“And if you don’t it’s child neglect and the child is taken away from the parents,” he said.

“Many of the parents that we talk to are people who have the means to fight back but what is troubling,” he said, “is that there are many families out there in similar situations who don’t have the means to fight the system.”

In the press release, Ablechild noted that CHADD was only opposing the CMSA because its livelihood was at stake being the group was funded by stimulant makers.

Complaints about the funneling of money through CHADD, to increase drug sales and the diagnosis of ADHD, were discussed at length during the September 29, 2002, hearing on the use of behavioral drugs in schools. Portions of a 1995 report on the matter, by the US Drug Enforcement Administration, were even read into the record.

“It has recently come to the attention of the DEA that Ciba-Geigy, the manufacturer of Ritalin, marketing under the brand name Ritalin, contributed \$748,000 to CHADD from 1991 to '94,” the agency reported.

“The DEA has concerns that the depth of the financial relationship with the manufacturer was not well known to the public, including CHADD members, that have relied upon CHADD for guidance as it pertains to the diagnosis and treatment of their children,” it wrote.

The agency was particularly concerned that most of the ADHD material prepared for public consumption by CHADD, and made available to parents, did not address the potential or actual abuse of Ritalin.

Instead, it was portrayed as a benign, mild substance that’s not associated with abuse or any serious side effects.

CHADD received \$848,000 from Novartis in 2001, according to testimony at the hearing.

Kids Drugged For Cash

On its website, CHADD provides a link to a webpage on “Disability Benefits,” and tells parents that some kids with ADHD can be declared disabled and receive

benefits including “cash payments,” under the federal Supplemental Security Income program.

“Children under age 18 who have disabilities, including some children with AD/HD, can receive SSI if they meet eligibility criteria,” CHADD says. “The SSI program can provide monthly cash payments based on family income, qualify the child for Medicaid health care services in many states, and ensure referral of a child into the system of care available under State Title V programs for Children with Special Health Care Needs.”

At the congressional hearing ten years ago, Colorado Representative, Bob Schaffer, reported concerns about Federal cash incentives to label children with ADHD, and specifically the two that resulted in cash payments to parents and schools.

In 1990, the SSI program made low-income parents eligible for a cash benefit of more than \$450 a month for each ADHD child, and in 1991, the Department of Education made it so schools could receive more than \$400 a year for students with ADHD, under the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Both cash incentives coincided with a dramatic rise in the number of children labeled with ADHD.

In 1989, children citing mental impairments, including ADHD but not retardation, made up only 5% of disabled kids on SSI. But that figure rose to nearly 25% by 1995.

Between 1990 and 1992, the number of ADHD diagnoses jumped from about one million to over three million, Schaffer informed the committee.

The IDEA also had a “child find” provision which required states to actively seek out kids who may qualify for special education in order to receive Federal special education funds, Patti Johnson, a member of the Colorado State Board of Education, told the panel. In many states, schools had also become authorized Medicaid providers and collected funds for children labeled with one of the learning or behavior disorders, she reported.

“Between SSI, Medicaid and IDEA, we have turned schools into aggressive identifiers of disabled children,” Schaffer told the panel. “Without a doubt we are subsidizing the aggressive pursuit of children with disabilities.”

“It is not resulting in accurate diagnosis,” he said. “It is resulting in an over diagnosis.”

Roughly a decade after the hearing, the new book, *Anatomy of an Epidemic: Magic Bullets, Psychiatric Drugs, and the Astonishing Rise of Mental Illness in America* by Robert Whitaker, reports that the number of kids receiving SSI checks due to mental illness increased 35-fold between 1987 and 2007, from 16,200 to 561,569.

Drug Money Pours In

Despite non-stop criticism over being in the pocket of the pharmaceutical industry, money from ADHD drug makers continues to pour into CHADD year after year.

The group's Income & Expense Reports, show CHADD received \$507,000 in 2002, \$674,000 in 2003, and five years later, the amounts nearly tripled. For the fiscal year of July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008, CHADD received a total of \$1,205,000, from Eli Lilly, J&J's McNeil division, Novartis, Shire US, and UCB. In addition, 64% of sales and advertising, or \$466,104, came from drug companies.

The next year's report shows CHADD received a total of \$1,174,626, from Lilly, J&J's McNeil division, Novartis, and Shire, and 57.2 % of sales and advertising, or \$412,500, was from drug companies.

For the year 2008, Lilly's full year grant report lists a \$200,000 donation to CHADD. The 2008 IRS filing for the Eli Lilly Foundation also shows a \$50,000 gift, a drop from the \$100,000 given to CHADD in 2007. Lilly's 2009 grant report lists a \$130,000 donation and the first quarter report for 2010 shows a \$50,000 grant for CHADD. Lilly is the only ADHD drug maker required to post grant reports online, so there is no way to break down how much money is pouring into CHADD from the other companies.

The group's 2008 IRS filing lists CHADD's most significant activity as, "provides support for individuals with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorders." Yet the non-profit blew \$330,000 on its annual conference and another \$114,950 on a 20th Anniversary Gala that same year, according to the 2008 I&E report.

Also, in sharp contrast to the yearly SSI income of about \$8,000 for persons disabled by ADHD, the group's 2008-2009 tax forms lists compensation for CEO Ross as \$187,747, and the next two highest paid officials of this "non-profit" earn \$130,217 and \$121,095.

Landslide Vote

On May 21, 2003, the CMSA passed by a landslide vote of 425-1 in the House. On May 27, 2003, Sheila and Patty appeared on the national radio show Scams and Scandals, for a program about the need for the Act to end the abuse of parents by schools.

During the show, they asked all parents who had experienced abuse similar to theirs to go online and sign Ablechild's petition.

The next month, Sheila was featured in her hometown newspaper, The New Canaan Advertiser, in a front-page article on June 5, 2003 with the headline: "Mother pushing Congress to prevent schools from ADD testing," with details of her campaign to enact federal legislation. The article profiled AbleChild, and criticized CHADD for its industry funding and opposition to the CMSA.

When public health officials in the UK and US announced that Paxil increased the risk of suicide in children in June 2003, Sheila pushed her Governor's office to issue a press release warning against the use of Paxil with kids.

In July 2003, the Associated Press reported that the Department of Children and Family Services in Connecticut planned to stop using Paxil to treat young people with depression.

The New American published an article titled, "Drugging Our Kids," by William Norman Gregg in August 2003, and covered Patty and Michael's story in depth, along with similar cases reported by other parents including Neil Bush and two families in which children died as a result of coerced drugging.

On February 20, 2004, Patty spoke on the nationally syndicated Joyce Riley radio show, and discussed the need for the CMSA in the wake of recent FDA hearings on the link between antidepressants and suicide, including Paxil, the drug Michael was prescribed.

Michael described how bad it felt to be on medications and Patty warned about the lack of informed consent given to parents regarding both the diagnoses of mental disorders and the drugs used as treatment.

The next month, Patty led a protest of hundreds of parents, children and human rights activists at the opening of the American Psychiatric Association's annual conference in New York City, saying parents were fed up with psychiatrists telling them their children's behavior was a "mental disorder" requiring dangerous drugs.

Sheila was again featured in her hometown newspaper on May 10, 2004, in an article about the need for an investigation by the Connecticut Attorney General into the drugging of children in foster care. Sheila was quoted throughout and promoted passage of CMSA.

Another federal bill that was introduced as a "Prohibition on Mandatory Medication," amendment to the IDEA in April 2003, was passed by the House and Senate on May 13, 2004, and banned state and local educational agency personnel from requiring a child to take a drug covered by the Controlled Substance Act as a condition of attending school, receiving an evaluation, or receiving services. Key wording from the CMSA was included in the amendment.

On September 13, 2004, Patty testified at an FDA advisory panel hearing on the need for black box warnings on antidepressants about the risk of suicide and violence. "The FDA had enough evidence 14 years ago to issue these warning labels," she told the committee.

She also testified about the lack of science behind psychiatric labels given to children. "Parents are told that their child has a chemical imbalance or a neurobiological illness," she testified. "We risked our child's life based on this fundamental lie."

"The FDA is well aware that there are no x-rays, biopsies, blood tests or brain scans that verify these mental disorders as a disease or illness," she said.

"The FDA should not be condoning or approving these drugs without evidence of disease, illness or physical abnormality that would justify risking our children's lives with a harmful and potentially lethal drug."

The hearing ended with a vote by the panel in favor of black box warnings.

On February 17, 2005, Patty testified at a hearing titled, “ADHD Diagnosis, Treatment & Consequences,” in New York City, and told the story of what happened when Michael was labeled mentally ill in a public school and she refused to keep drugging him.

“The irony of the whole ordeal was that I was charged with medically neglecting my son, when there was no proof that anything was medically wrong with him,” she testified.

The next month, the Ladies Home Journal ran an article titled, “A Generation out of Control,” with a sub-heading that read: “A record four million children — some as young as 2 — are being diagnosed with ADHD and many are being put on powerful medications, perhaps for life.”

The article featured Sheila, and Patricia Marks, another Connecticut mom whose son was misdiagnosed with ADHD. The article discussed the dangers of teachers diagnosing kids in schools to solve classroom problems and warned parents to make sure and rule out undiagnosed medical conditions that might manifest as ADHD.

Also in March, in letters to the US Attorney for the District of Minnesota and the FDA, Ablechild called for an investigation into the role of antidepressants in a school shooting by Jeff Weise in Red Lake, Minnesota, who was on Prozac when he went on a rampage, killing his grandfather first, and then fellow students and teachers at his school, before committing suicide with the same gun.

In a press release, Ablechild expressed outrage and frustration with the FDA for “continuing to turn a blind eye to the all so obvious link to violence and mania that these drugs are having on our youth, and even more, their deadly link to uncontrolled school terror that has occurred from coast to coast.”

In October 2005, Sheila issued a statement from Ablechild strongly opposing TeenScreen, a program aimed at screening kids for mental illness in schools. “TeenScreen is nothing more than the bio-behavioral health industry’s attempt to garnish big government funding for useless programs that profitably promote a course of recommended psychotropic drug “treatment” which has been clearly linked to suicide and violent behavior,” she warned.

In October 2006, Sheila appeared on The Big Story with John Gibson on Fox, in a segment titled “Investigating the Link: Antidepressants & Violence,” based on recent school shootings in Pennsylvania and Colorado, and spoke of the need to investigate the correlation between psychiatric drugs and school shooters, and toxicology tests to determine whether shooters were on drugs. As the founders of Ablechild, parents came to them all the time, Sheila said. “Their children are committing suicide on these drugs and we’re very concerned.”

At the end of the show, the reporter noted particular concern about the fact that 30 million Americans were taking antidepressants, and being that 5% would develop mania, there could be “a million and a half potential maniacs waiting to explode.”

Focus On Drug Side Effects

Over the years, Ablechild has also focused on educating the public on drug side effects and MedWatch, the FDA's adverse drug reaction reporting system. On December 13, 2006, Sheila testified at the FDA advisory hearing on the risk of suicide with adults on SSRIs and presented the results of two surveys showing a lack of public knowledge about Medwatch, and asked the FDA to initiate campaigns to let consumers know where and how to report ADRs, as consumers detect adverse effects sooner than providers.

In June 2007, Shelia, along with two CCHR representatives, met with Washington lawmakers regarding the renewal of the "Prescription Drug User Fee Act." The new Act was signed into law in September 2007, with key measures to help increase public knowledge about prescription drug risks, as well as better safety monitoring by the FDA.

On November 6, 2007, Ablechild issued a news alert to warn that despite the black box warnings, the mental health industry was continuing to downplay the suicide risk of antidepressants. Based on information posted within the MedWatch system, "an estimated 63,000 suicides have been committed by people under the influence of antidepressants," the alert reported.

It also noted that most parents were not aware that at least eight school shooters "were under the influence of antidepressants documented to cause not only suicidal ideation but also mania, psychosis, hostility, hallucinations and even 'homicidal behavior.'"

With 1.5 million children on antidepressants in the US alone, "Ablechild is deeply concerned about the number of children being prescribed the powerful and potentially lethal drugs," the alert stated.

In December 2007, Sheila called into a National Public Radio program, when the topic was the recently passed FDA reform bill, and discussed a new requirement that all print ads include an 800 number and information on reporting side effects to MedWatch. She also noted the importance of the new clinical drug trial registry that would be available on the internet, and the elimination of conflicts of interest on FDA advisory committees.

Protect Youngest Victims

In 2008, Ablechild teamed up with Amy Philo's "Unite for Life" coalition of advocacy groups in efforts to protect unborn children and nursing infants from forced drugging through their mothers' ingestion of drugs, by lobbying against a bill called the "Mothers Act," for short, aimed at screening pregnant women and new mothers for mental illness.

The Act "quite simply is a feeder line for the psycho-pharmaceutical industry and will result in more mothers and infants being put at risk for being prescribed antidepressants and other dangerous psychiatric drugs," AbleChild warned in a letter made available on its website for persons to sign and send to members of Congress.

In April 2008, Patty, Amy Philo, Marla Fidili from CCHR, Mathy Downing, whose 12-year-old daughter committed suicide after being given Zoloft off-label for test anxiety, and about 40 more advocacy allies, went to Washington to lobby against the Mother's Act.

The latest evidence of infants being harmed by psychiatric drugs ingested by their mothers was reported on July 2, 2010, with a Medscape Today headline,

“Psychotropic Medications Linked to Serious Adverse Drug Reactions in Children,” for a study by Danish researchers of 4,500 adverse drug reactions (ADRs), in children younger than 17, listed in the national Danish ADR database between 1998 and 2007.

The results showed 429 reports were from psychotropic drugs, with the largest share from stimulants at 42%, followed by antidepressants with 31%, and antipsychotics at 24.5%.

Almost 19%, or 80 of the ADRs, were for children between the age of birth and 2. All but one was serious, with two deaths associated with the SSRIs Celexa and Prozac. These findings were “probably due to the mothers’ intake of psychotropic medicine, primarily antidepressants and antipsychotics, during pregnancy,” the study authors wrote.

Sheila and Patty, along with Amy Philo, Mathy Downing, and Vicky Dunkle, received an “Outstanding Achievement Award for Children’s Rights,” in February 2009, at CCHR’s annual banquet, highlighted by a video tribute featuring much of their work.

“Imagine how much easier it will be to drug children against their parents’ wishes if a federally-funded mental-health screener makes the recommendation,” he said.

Million Kids Misdiagnosed With ADHD

After a decade of work by Sheila and Patty to expose the fraud behind labeling kids with ADHD, on August 17, 2010, USA Today reported that a new study from Michigan State University found nearly 1 million children may have been misdiagnosed with ADHD, not because of any real behavioral problems, but because they were the youngest in the class.

Children who are the youngest in their grades are 60% more likely to be diagnosed with ADHD than the oldest kids, according to the study published in the Journal of Health Economics.

In fifth and eighth grade, the youngest children were more than two times as likely to be on Ritalin compared with the oldest students, the study found.

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