

SUE MYRICK
8TH DISTRICT, NORTH CAROLINA

COMMITTEES:
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEES ON:
HEALTH
COMMERCE, TRADE, AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
ENERGY AND AIR QUALITY

FINANCIAL SERVICES
(ON LEAVE)

WEBSITE: <http://www.house.gov/myrick>



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

March 27, 2009

- 230 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20615
(202) 225-1976
FAX: (202) 225-3389
- DISTRICT OFFICES:
6525 MORRISON BOULEVARD
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CHARLOTTE, NC 28211
(704) 362-1060
FAX: (704) 367-0852
- 197 WEST MAIN AVENUE
GASTONIA, NC 28052
(704) 861-1976
FAX: (704) 864-2445

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
Office of the Secretary
United States Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1155

Secretary Gates:

I have been contacted by my constituent, (b)(6) about the investigation into the death of PFC LaVena Johnson in Iraq. (b)(6) put me in contact with Dr. John Johnson, PFC Johnson's father, who sent me the results of his continuing investigation into his daughter's death. I understand there have been some Congressional hearings on this case, but the family has a number of additional questions and concerns, as well as, evidence that this is not an "open and shut" case.

I am asking you to re-examine this case and take whatever investigative procedures necessary to help the Johnson family. I am enclosing a summary provided by Dr. Johnson along with our authorization/release form (so that pertinent information can be released to my office to share with the family). Thank you for your immediate attention to this serious matter, as we owe a complete accounting to this family.

Sincerely,

Sue Myrick
Member of Congress

SM/rb
Enclosures

OSD 03854-09



CASUALTY OF A COVERUP NOT COMBAT

There is a hole in my family and a hole in our hearts. On July 19, 2005 the Secretary of Defense sent his messenger to my door advising me that my 19-year-old daughter, LaVena L. Johnson was dead. Lavena was murdered in Balad, Iraq. Insurgents, a roadside bomb or mortar attack, didn't kill her. Her precious blood was shed and she was robbed of life by someone who possibly proudly stood and saluted the Stars and Stripes just like she did.

LaVena was stationed in Fort Campbell, Kentucky when she was told her unit was already in Iraq and that she was not needed over there. She was later told that the Major General in charge had ordered her to be sent there anyway. It is *standard procedure* for soldiers to be assigned a "Battle Buddy" as a way for soldiers to keep up with one another for safety purposes. LaVena was in Iraq for 10 weeks trying to do her job while her life was in danger.

LaVena was never assigned a Battle Buddy.

This was not an accident...

This was intentional,

Deliberate,

And the actions succeeding her death were designed to cover up a crime.

The investigation and conclusion reached by the military concludes my daughter committed suicide and that her injuries were self-inflicted. But these answers leave many questions... for example,

- * Why doesn't the bullet wound match the type of weapon issued to LaVena.
- * Why were there bruises, abrasions, broken teeth, and visible trauma to the vagina area evident on autopsy photos that was never addressed?
- * Why were there no vaginal swabs done to test for DNA?
- * Why did we receive her body with dress uniform gloves already *glued* to her hands?
- * Why was the tent that she was found in set on fire with her in it?
- * Why were their drops of blood found outside of the tent?
- * Why was there a pool of smeared blood with large footprints in it found inside the tent and yards from the body?

And how does someone who commits suicide accomplish all of this?

Okay although this is humanly impossible for someone to do, let's put the *physical evidence* aside for a moment and focus on the *emotional state* of my daughter, since suicide directly correlates to the mental and emotional state of an individual.

LaVena joined the Army because she wanted to serve her country, establish and secure dreams and goals for herself including paying for her education. *She had a financial goal set for this endeavor.*

LaVena had inquired about and asked for driving training as one of the skills that she wanted to learn while in the Army.

LaVena was an Honor Roll student who voluntarily repeated a single Geometry course until she got a grade she could be proud of.

She volunteered for the American Heart Association and she recruited and coached whomever she could to recycle.

She flew through boot camp with flying colors and mentionable commendations

***She laughed and talked on the phone with her mother the day before her death and relayed a reminder that she would be home for the holidays and *not to start decorating without her.*

A point to ponder

LaVena was assigned to non-combat detail. Since the age of 12 LaVena voluntarily declared herself a vegetarian for health and humanitarian reasons. She was a member of PETA, People for Ethical Treatment of Animals. (See enclosed documentation).

So how does someone who refrains from eating meats to spare the life of animals, commonly considered acceptable for consumption, turn a weapon on herself and take her own life?

Not only has a murder taken place, but LaVena is also a victim of character assassination.

A Life cut short...

As mourners, friends, family and strangers filed past pictures of my daughter displayed feet from LaVena's casket; a tragic reality set in. The pictures displayed were of a little girl, some a young lady. But sadly there were no wedding photos, no photos of LaVena's children, first car or her college graduation. No, the life that LaVena was shaping for herself was brutally taken away from her to cover up a crime that was committed by another. Was she raped? Did she see someone commit a crime? I don't know but I do know one thing for sure on July 28, 2005 I buried LaVena and all of her dreams and goals just a day after her 20th birthday. And the person or people responsible are still

out there enjoying all that life has to offer, after deciding LaVena's life was of no value.

Proceeding and following her death many errors occurred.

It is standard procedure for soldiers to be assigned a "combat buddy" someone who can give an account for you and your whereabouts at any given time. LaVena did not have a combat buddy. When a crime is committed or an investigation is implemented a base camp goes into "lockdown" status where movement is restricted including destroying trash, taking baths until the necessary evidence is collected. There is no indication that this was done even with the evidence pointing to assault and murder, LaVena's death was still ruled a suicide.

More disturbing and unexplained facts...

LaVena lived in the barracks with fellow soldiers but officials kept referring to the empty, abandoned, isolated tent where her body was found as "Her tent".

No explanation was ever given to explain the bruises, abrasions, and inconsistency of the bullet wound with the type of weapon issued to LaVena.

LaVena's arm length Vs the length of the weapon and the point and angle of the entry wound. (Physically impossible)

The placement or positioning of the body when found, not consistent with the force of the impact. (Indicates body was moved prior to being discovered)

Autopsy photos indicate evidence has been tampered with. On the photos of LaVena's body it shows her tennis shoes on the correct feet, then on the wrong feet, then back on the correct feet. Why?

Military officials terminated all inquiries of fellow soldiers in regard to LaVena's death.

Many soldiers have returned home casualties of this war. And while you can try to brace yourself for bad news; insurgents, roadside bombs nor mortar attacks took my daughter's life. Her killer was quite possibly dressed in a US soldiers uniform. Right now I am in the process of exhuming my daughter's body in a quest for the truth because although we laid her to rest, our family cannot rest until the person responsible for taking her life is caught. She deserves justice and maybe another soldier's life can be spared.

**CONFUSION AMONG MILITARY PERSONNEL FURTHER
INDICATES AN ATTEMPT TO COVER UP A MURDER.**

The original indication that LaVena was found dead in her barracks from a gun shot would to the head, has been changed to imply she was found dead in her tent.

Article from the St. Louis Post Dispatch indicate that the Public Affairs officer told the news media that LaVena died from a gun shot would to the head. Then later stated, he did not know how she died.

An Army representative told the Johnson family that LaVena's death was under a Criminal Investigation. In that same article, an Army spokes person said, "while a criminal investigation unit was performing the investigation, it did not mean that a crime was committed."

What the spokes person didn't clear up was:

{WHY A CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION UNIT WAS CONDUCTING AN INVESTIGATION TO CREATE A SUICIDE SCENARIO RATHER THEN PURSUING AND FOLLOWING UP ON THE PHYSICAL EVIDENCE THEY SAW AND PHOTOGRAPHED WHILE THEY WALKED THEIR CRIMINAL GRID INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF THE LOCATION WHERE THE BODY WAS FOUND.}

The physical evidence can be seen on the CD included in the information package.

(b)(6) the Military Pathology who did LaVena's autopsy at the Armed Forces Institute Of Pathology, is indicated as being an expert in the functions of the M16 rifle. But in his Autopsy, he seemed too timid to be firm in his decision the physical evidence confirmed that LaVena committed suicide. He therefore based his decision that the cause of death was a suicide based on the information he obtained from the criminal investigation unit's report, which was bias and created to cover up for a murder. (See FINAL AUTOPSY EXAMINATION REPORT).

The Criminal Investigation Unit said the witnesses said LaVena said she hated her life and when she was home, she said she wanted to hurt herself.

A number of articles done on our family, supports we are real close family and that LaVena knew she had a family which supported her even her decision to go into the Army which my wife and I never agreed she should do. Also LaVena worked in the telecommunications room and had access to telephone. She called home almost everyday and talked to her mother, and occasionally with me. She and I wrote letters, so my wife and I agreed they should talk most of the time because of their closeness as mother and daughter.

Also, LaVena was most noticed for being a positive person, even by people who didn't know her. Personally. It is also noted that fellow soldiers who trained with her talked about the strengths she had and how she always motivated them. (See some of those comments attached.)

Her Basic training drill sergeant talked about how mentally tough she was. Her Principle from high school talked about when she walked into a room, her smile would light up the room. Ironically, the same sentiment was expressed by her company commander in Iraq, ^{(b)(6)} Read his letter dated 20 July 2005 as attached.

On July 17, 2008, I traveled to Washington D.C, and had an interaction concerning her death with six official from the Army. When I showed them the document marked, ROUGH SKETCH DEPICTING CRIME SCENE, and asked about the multi pools of blood located in and out of the tent where LaVena body was found, Army Officials could not give a satisfactory explanation and even denied that what they saw on the pictures was blood. When asked why LaVena's weapon was located so far from her body, the explanation given by Army officials was that a medic removed it to perform CPR and before CID was able to get a picture with her rifle lying on or near her body. However, when asked how a medic was able to perform CPR while LaVena's arm was over her face, it was not explained and Army Officials refused to comment on the two fires that were located inside the tent where her body was found. When asked about the foot print as indicated as D, on SKETCH, Army officials had no explanation for it.

Read on to see other reasons why this case is riddle with inconsistencies and confusion, which spells COVER_UP.

QUESTIONS TO ASK:

Who ordered CID to over look their own physical evidence and pursue a suicide scenario?

CID documents reflecting the response from witnesses, says LaVena did not talk about committing suicide. Then they came up with documents which said she did. When I talked to CID Official on 17 July, and accused them of making up documents to suicide, why did CID refused to answer?

Army Officials were not honest on the 17th and they were not honest with Congress when asked about her death during a Congressional inquiry. (See attached letter.)

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX,

This letter is in response to the e-mail and subsequent dialogue that we have had. I am aware of the case of XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX died in Afghanistan and was found with a single bullet in her head on a *secure military base*. I read in the Boston Globe that this "non combat" related incident is now under investigation. I also noted that her family is searching for answers and bracing themselves for the possibility that XXXXXXXX was killed by a fellow soldier, and they are confident that she did not commit suicide.

Unfortunately this case is eerily and tragically similar to the case involving my daughter Pfc. LaVena Lynn Johnson. On July 19, 2005 I was contacted by The Secretary of Defense informing me that my 19-year daughter had been killed in Balad, Iraq. Before her deployment LaVena was stationed in Fort Campbell, Kentucky and was told that she was not needed over there (her unit was already in Iraq). She was later informed that the Major General in charge had ordered her to be sent there anyway. Upon arriving in Iraq LaVena was not assigned a "Battle Buddy". This is *standard procedure* and a paramount priority when soldiers are overseas and stationed in a war zone. A battle or combat buddy is someone who can give an account for you and your whereabouts at any given time. LaVena was never assigned a "battle buddy" and for the 8 weeks until the day she was killed in Iraq LaVena carried out her duties without a "battle buddy".

But the *errors* and *deliberate deception* didn't end with the death of my daughter it has been a consistent presence throughout my quest in finding out the truth about what happened to my daughter and why.

Inconsistencies

The investigation and conclusion reached by the military concludes that my daughter committed suicide and that the injuries were self inflicted. The bullet wound does not match the weapon issued to LaVena nor would she have physically been able to shoot herself @ the angle at which the bullet entered her head.

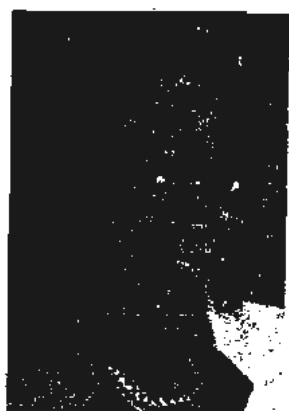
I was informed by military personnel that LaVena was found in "her tent"; when in fact she was found in an empty/abandoned tent. It has been implied that this was a tent used by civilian contractors.

On the medical report the coroner concluded that LaVena died from a gunshot wound to the head, a (b)(6) later scratched out this finding and recorded the cause of death as a suicide.

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THE PFC. LAVENA JOHNSON PETITION

Asking Congress to compel the Army to reopen the investigation of a young soldier's death in Iraq



Introduction to LaVena's Story

For background information, please read the [original post](#) on the LaVena Johnson investigation and view the [KMOV-TV news report](#) from 02.21.07.

Spreading the Word

[Waveflux](#)
[AlterNet](#)
[Shakesville](#)
[Veterans for Peace](#)
[Truthout](#)

Tuesday, October 2, 2007

National Guardsman's death in Afghanistan troublingly familiar

Someone familiar with the story of LaVena Johnson forwarded to me a *Boston Globe* story by Noah Bierman that is hauntingly familiar:

Mystery surrounds death of soldier

Quincy woman is called a noncombat casualty

The Massachusetts National Guard soldier from Quincy who died in Afghanistan Friday was found with a single bullet in her head lying near her church on a secure military base, her family said yesterday after a briefing from Army officials.

The Department of Defense said in a statement yesterday that Ciara Durkin's injuries came from a "non-combat related incident" that is under investigation. The statement contradicts a Sunday statement from the Massachusetts Army National Guard that said Durkin, an Army specialist, was killed in action. A guard

In addition to a gunshot wound to the head LaVena suffered bruises, abrasions, a dislocated shoulder, broken teeth, and some type of sexual assault, her body and the tent were set on fire (see enclosed packet). Although these injuries were clearly visible the military never addressed or gave an explanation for them.

When a crime is committed on a military base standard procedure is for a base camp to go into "lockdown" status where movement is restricted including destroying trash, taking baths until thorough inspections are done and essential evidence is collected. In the case of my daughter not only was this procedure not implemented but also military officials terminated all inquiries of fellow soldiers in regards to LaVena's death in the primary hours following her death.

There were drops of blood found outside the tent, a can of accelerant, and a pool of smeared blood feet from the body with large footprint impressions in it, and when we received my daughter's body she was in her dress uniform but her gloves had been *glued* to her hands.

The military concluded that LaVena committed suicide but a written statement by her Company Commander (see documents) states that "This soldier was clearly happy and seemingly very healthy physically and emotionally". Other comments by the Commanding Captain (see documentation) "We remember how she would brighten everyone's day with her smile and warm personality...". La Vena flew through boot camp with flying colors and notable commendations. She voluntarily became a vegetarian at the age of 12 for health and humanitarian reasons. She volunteered for the American Heart Association, and was an avid supporter for recycling. LaVena was an Honor Roll student and joined the Army after September 11th, because she wanted to serve her country, establish and secure dreams and goals for herself including paying for her college education. LaVena talked and laughed on the phone with her mother just a day before her death a relayed a reminder that she would be home for the holidays and *not to start decorating without her*.

Although it is clear that my daughter did not kill herself the quest for truth and justice has been daunting. After the military concluded their investigation into my daughter's death I was sent a packet from The Department of the Army from the base in Fort Sam in Houston, Texas. Enclosed were black and white xeroxed copies of photos detailing the injuries that my daughter sustained, and although they were poor quality and partially concealed the extent of the trauma my team was still able to determined that she was brutally attacked and murdered. Fortunately *someone* enclosed a photograph of a CD ROM disc that was not included in the packet. After a request from Congressman Clay the Army released that CD-ROM which is included in your packet.

In an attempt to satisfy the impending doubt of some, in collaboration with the media I ordered that my daughter's body be exhumed and an independent autopsy be done. I was given a three day schedule for this process, her body was to be exhumed and transported to the medical facility on Wednesday April 25th, the autopsy was to be performed on Thursday, April the 26th, and she was suppose to be returned to Jefferson National Cemetery on Friday the 27th. LaVena's body was not returned to Jefferson National Cemetery until May 15th three weeks later?

The two pathologists chosen were (b)(6) the county medical examiner and (b)(6) (b)(6) the city medical examiner. I hired (b)(6) and CBS hired (b)(6) (b)(6) The two had worked together before and (b)(6) recommended that (b)(6)

be the primary on this case because of his expertise in firearms and gunshot wounds. Prior to the autopsy I was informed by (b)(6) that he was a very good friend of one of the pathologists who signed the medical autopsy, I then asked him if he felt that this "friendship" would compromise his ability to accurately perform his duties in an unbiased manner and he assured me that it would not. To date I still have not received written documentation of (b)(6) findings and I was told that (b)(6) did not return calls and inquiries made by CBS. However (b)(6) has requested a copy of the CD-ROM that Congressman Clay requested from the military. I have declined this request on several basis. First we delivered a complete packet to (b)(6) prior to the autopsy with key points indicated. He had first hand access to LaVena, the condition of her body and any injuries that she sustained during the autopsy. And finally Clay ordered the military to turn over the CD after the autopsy was complete. It was neither vital nor essential for the task that he was employed to do and relatively speaking his findings should have preceding the arrival of the CD-ROM. After waiting 6 months to hear from him, my attorney and I agreed that I should contact him and request his bill for his services, we have sent a notarized letter to this effect; to date we are still waiting for a response.

There are other disturbing factors surrounding my daughter's murder and investigation, there have been stories that have surfaced in a possible attempt to thwart our efforts. Additional contact has been made from credible but undisclosed sources confirming that my daughter was murdered (we can discuss @ a later time). Needless to say we will not stop our efforts to find the truth and get justice for my daughter. Unfortunately in an attempt to do just that we have found several more similar cases on the Internet. I have enclosed the soldier's profiles and stories in this packet.

There is also a petition on the internet with comments and signatures urging the Armed Services Committees in Congress to reopen this case our goal is 10-thousand signatures to date we are less than 5-hundred signatures away.

With the information that I have provided there are other details that I can give you, but this should provide you with enough back round to give you some insight into my daughter's case. I would appreciate any assistance that you can give us.

Respectfully yours,

Dr. John Johnson

CONSENT FOR RELEASE OF PERSONAL RECORDS
BY EXECUTIVE AGENCIES

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

(b)(6)

I have sought assistance from Congresswoman Sue Myrick on a matter which may require the release of information maintained by your agency and which you may be prohibited from disseminating under the "Privacy Act of 1974."

I hereby authorize you to release all relevant portions of my records or to discuss problems involved in this case with Congresswoman Myrick or any authorized member of her staff until this matter is resolved.

I also hereby authorize the Department of Veterans Affairs' to release any information pertaining to past, present, and future VA claims and issues. Also any claims that deal with issues related to Title 38 > Part V > Chapter 73 > Subchapter III > § 7332 and Title 38 > Part IV > Chapter 57 > Subchapter I > § 5701.

Dr. JOHN H. JOHNSON ON BEHALF OF LAVENA LYNN JOHNSON

Name (please print)

(b)(6)

Current address

(b)(6)

City

(b)(6)

State

Zip Code

(b)(6)

Home Telephone

Work Telephone:

(b)(6)

E-mail Address

Please check the space to the left if you would like to receive Sue's newsletter.

JULY 27, 1985
Date of Birth

FLORISSANT, MD. (ST. LOUIS COUNTY)
Place of Birth

498-04-0826
Social Security Number

US ARMY
Branch of Service

POSTHUMOUS PROMOTED PFC
Military Rank (if applicable)

NIA
Military Serial Number (if applicable)

HHD, 129TH COMBAT SUPPORT BATTALION,
101ST ABN DIV. (MNC-1) FORT CAMPBELL, KY
Military Address (if applicable)

DIED JULY 18, 2005

SEPTEMBER 2004
Date & Place of Entry in Military

REPORTED DIED JULY 19, 2005
Date and Place of Discharge

VA Claim Number

John H. Johnson
Your Signature

March, 6, 2005
Date

Return to: Representative Sue Myrick
197 West Main Avenue
Gastonia, N. C. 28052



U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ROBERT BECKER
MILITARY AND VETERANS SPECIALIST

(b)(6)

From: Incoming NC09
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 12:29 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: FW: Thank you for writing

Have a Great Day!

(b)(6)

Research Assistant for Representative Sue Myrick

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, January 23, 2009 4:41 AM
To: Incoming NC09
Subject: Thank you for writing

<WRP>

(b)(6)

**ORIGINAL
E-MAIL
FROM
OUR
COMMITMENT**

<MSG>Dear Representative Myric,

I am writing you on behalf the family of PFC. LaVena Johnson. If you have not heard about her tragic case because of a mainstream media blackout, you can find information on her case by going to www.lavenajohnson.com or <http://lavenajohnson.ning.com>. Those websites include articles, videos and audio interviews from alternative news sources and some mainstream outlets.

PFC. LaVena Johnson was killed in Iraq in 2005. Her case has been shrouded in mystery and there is strong, very strong physical evidence that she was sexually assaulted, beaten severely, shot in the head on her left side and then set on fire. Despite the physical evidence, which include photographs of her injuries and conflicting information given out by the U.S. Army, the CID continues to insist she committed suicide. PFC. The forensic evidence do not support the theory put forth by the military's CID command. PFC. Johnson's father, Dr. John Johnson, a veteran who worked for the DOD for over 25 years, was trained to look for signs of suicide in troops and he detected none of the symptoms in his daughter. Her company commander did not detect these symptoms either as well as her fellow soldiers who said PFC. Johnson did not talk like that.

This is a grave injustice among other cases of suspicious deaths of soldiers in Afghanistan and Iraq. While PFC. Johnson is not in your district, I strongly urge you to use whatever influence you have to bring about a re-opening of her case and a proper investigation completed. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere and therefore a threat to troops serving from your district.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Best Regards,

REPLY TO:

- 135 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1501
(202) 224-3744
TTY: (202) 224-4479
e-mail: chuck_grassley@grassley.senate.gov
- 721 FEDERAL BUILDING
210 WALNUT STREET
DES MOINES, IA 50309-2140
(515) 288-1145
- 205 FEDERAL BUILDING
101 1ST STREET SE
CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 52401-1227
(319) 363-6832

REPLY TO:

- 103 FEDERAL COURTHOUSE BUILDING
320 6TH STREET
SIOUX CITY, IA 51101-1244
(712) 233-1860
- 210 WATERLOO BUILDING
531 COMMERCIAL STREET
WATERLOO, IA 50701-5497
(319) 232-6657
- 131 WEST 3RD STREET
SUITE 180
DAVENPORT, IA 52801-1419
(563) 322-6337
- 307 FEDERAL BUILDING
8 SOUTH 6TH STREET
COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA 51501-4204
(712) 322-7103

United States Senate

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1501

July 21, 2008

The Honorable Robert Wilkie
Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Mr. Wilkie:

Enclosed please find a communication from (b)(6) regarding (b)(6) concerns about the death of Pfc. LaVena Johnson.

I would appreciate any assistance you could provide pertaining to this matter. Please mark your return correspondence to the attention of Karen Duquette when responding to my office.

Thank you for your attention to my request.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator

CEG/kd
Enclosure

OSD 10163-08



RANKING MEMBER,
FINANCE

Committee Assignments:

BUDGET
JUDICIARY
AGRICULTURE

Co-CHAIRMAN,
INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS
CONTROL CAUCUS

Snapshot Report: Incoming Constituent Message

Report Date: 7/14/2008

Staff: sa
Address To: General
Name: Ms. (b)(6) (b)(6)
Address: (b)(6)
Des Moines IA 50315 USA
Email: (b)(6) URL:
Home Phone: Cell Phone:
Work Phone: Fax:
Salutation: Dear (b)(6) In Type: EML Polling:
Interest: IA-05 Organization: Reply Ltr:
Classification: Personal: Letter:
Workflow: Reference #: Title:
Group: W080714

Message Body:

Date Received: 7/12/2008 4:02:07 PM
Topic/Subject Desc: Other
Senator Grassley.

Have you heard of LaVena Johnson?

LaVena Johnson was a young woman from a St. Louis suburb who joined the army upon graduating from high school. She was stationed in Iraq.

On July 19, 2005, just eight days shy of her twentieth birthday, LaVena Johnson died. Her family was told she died of self-inflicted injuries. However, her parents learned upon further investigation that there was some suspicious activity and now they, and I, and other, believe LaVena was raped and murdered and that the Army covered up this crime by calling it suicide.

I am disgusted that our government would condone such action, as a feminist, as an American, as a woman, and as a human being.

I urge you to take action. Please.

Thank you for your time Senator Grassley.

(b)(6)

CHRISTOPHER P. CARNEY
10TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

416 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3731



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3810

COMMITTEES:
HOMELAND SECURITY
CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
MANAGEMENT, INVESTIGATION
AND OVERSIGHT
TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE
VICE CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE
ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
PUBLIC BUILDINGS, AND
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

August 13, 2008

Hon. Robert Wilkie
Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

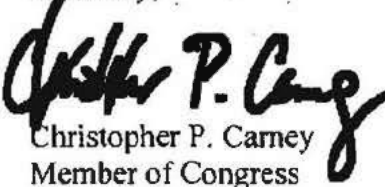
Dear Mr. Wilkie,

Attached please find an email from (b)(6) from Northumberland, PA, which is located in my Congressional district. She is writing in regards to the investigation of the death of LaVena Johnson.

I would appreciate if you could contact (b)(6) directly regarding the specific concerns addressed in her message, and please send a copy of the response to my office. Please contact Graham Mason in my Washington, DC office at 202-225-3731 if you have further questions or require more information.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,


Christopher P. Carney
Member of Congress

233 NORTHERN BOULEVARD
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(886) 846-8124

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PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER



521 FRANKLIN STREET
P.O. Box 397
SHAMOKIN, PA 17872
(570) 844-1682

The death in Iraq of LaVena Johnson, described by the Army as a suicide, highlights the need for far greater openness, both on her case and on the many other attacks on female soldiers in the Army. The Army's actions appear secretive and suspicious.

Photos reluctantly released by the Army suggest murder rather than suicide of this talented, bright young soldier. If the Army will not perform a full and open investigation, Congress should demand it.

Representative Carney, please ask Secretary Gates for a full, open investigation of LaVena Johnson's tragic death.

(b)(6)



COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

SUBCOMMITTEES:
HEALTH
OVERSIGHT
SOCIAL SECURITY

CHAIRWOMAN
COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS
OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT (ETHICS)



Stephanie Tubbs Jones
Congress of the United States
11th District, Ohio

WASHINGTON OFFICE
 1009 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-7032
FAX: (202) 225-1339

DISTRICT OFFICE
 3645 WARRENSVILLE CENTER ROAD
SUITE 204
SHAKER HEIGHTS, OH 44122
(216) 522-4900
FAX: (216) 522-4908

Web site: www.house.gov/tubbsjones

August 6, 2008

Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon #3E966
Washington, DC 20310-0001

Dear Legislative Liaison Officer:

My constituent, (b)(6) has requested my assistance regarding the death of Pvt. LaVena Lynn Johnson. Specifically, I request information regarding the differences between the stated cause of death and results of an autopsy. Enclosed, please find information which explains the situation.

I would appreciate it if you would investigate and comment on these concerns at your earliest opportunity. Please forward your correspondence in care of , Aaron Wasserman, in my office at 3646 Warrensville Center Road Suite 204, Shaker Heights, OH, 4122

Thank you for your kind assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Tubbs Jones
Member of Congress

STJ:aw
Enclosure

OSD 10953-08



Ms. LaVena Johnson, following her family's military tradition, joined the Army immediately after finishing high school as an honor roll student.

In July 2005, Ms. Johnson was found dead in a military army base in Iraq. The military ruled her death as a suicide. There was evidence found on her body however of a physical struggle consisting of two loose front teeth and a bruised lip which had to be corrected at the funeral home.

Despite her father, Dr. John Johnson's inquires into her body's physical condition, the army responded that the case was closed.

More evidence that did not support the military's ruling of Ms. Johnson's death was a suicide was revealed by a local Missouri news network. Ms. Johnson's mental state was quite stable according to reports before her death, there was a trail of blood leading to the barracks where her body was found as well as evidence that a perpetrator attempted to set her body on fire.

Despite years of Mr. John Johnson's dedicated efforts to have the army reopen the case, they continue to refuse.

Philip Barron, an independent activist, dedicated his effort toward military justice and full disclosure with the website <http://www.lavenajohnson.com/> and also started a petition that has recently expired which targeted the Armed Services Committees of the Senate and the House.

There is a renewed interest surrounding the call for justice for LaVena Johnson with more and more people becoming educated of the facts.

Let us utilize this renewed interest and demand our Congress to call for investigations, and full disclosure of the events surrounding the death of such a beautiful soul.

Ms. LaVena Johnson, following her family's military tradition, joined the Army immediately after finishing high school as an honor roll student.

In July 2005, Ms. Johnson was found dead in a military army base in Iraq. The military ruled her death as a suicide. There was evidence found on her body however of a physical struggle consisting of two loose front teeth and a bruised lip which had to be corrected at the funeral home.

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There is a renewed interest surrounding the call for justice for LaVena Johnson with more and more people becoming educated of the facts.

Let us utilize this renewed interest and demand our Congress to call for investigations, and full disclosure of the events surrounding the death of such a beautiful soul.

We the undersigned, urge you to reopen an investigation on the death of Ms. LaVena Johnson. Ms. Johnson, a 19 year old private stationed in Iraq died in July of 2005. Upon her death, the army declared that Ms. Johnson's death was self inflicted.

Due to the dedicated investigation of Dr. J. Johnson, further evidence has been found from the autopsy of Ms. Johnson's body and from the barracks where her body was found.

This evidence includes a blood trail leading toward where her body was found, signs that a perpetrator attempted to burn both the barracks and her body, signs of physical struggle in the form of two loose front teeth as well as a bruised lip which had to be reconstructed by the funeral home which attended to her body.

When Dr. J. Johnson presented this new evidence the response he received from the military is that the case is closed.

We urge you, in the name of democracy, in the name of justice, in the name of civic honor to reopen the investigation of Ms. Johnson's death and fully disclose all findings.

Ms. Johnson was an honor roll student, who straight from high school enlisted herself voluntarily into the army. If her sacrifice is to be honored in action, her death must be thoroughly investigated and if it is found that Ms. Johnson was murdered that the perpetrator be punished to the fullest extent of the law.

Rebuilding the morale of our military, of our citizens and our country demands real answers.

We thank you, in advance, for your focused consideration and commitment to justice.

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-5005

August 13, 2008

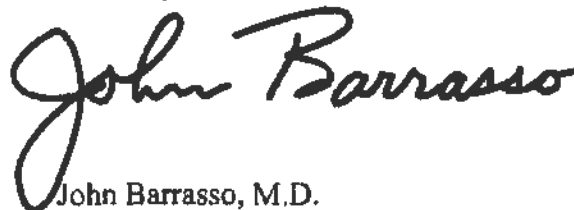
The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Secretary Gates,

Please see the enclosed correspondence from my constituent regarding the death of Army Private First Class LaVena Johnson on July 19, 2005, while serving in Iraq. I would appreciate your assistance in responding to these concerns. I look forward to your expeditious response.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



John Barrasso, M.D.
United States Senator

JB: mmm
Enclosure

OSD 11113-08



<ISSUE>Crime</ISSUE>

<MSG>The death in Iraq of LaVena Johnson, described by the Army as a suicide, highlights the need for far greater openness, both on her case and on the many other attacks on female soldiers in the Army. The Army's actions appear secretive and suspicious.

Photos reluctantly released by the Army suggest murder rather than suicide of this talented, bright young soldier. If the Army will not perform a full and open investigation, Congress should demand it.

Senator Barrasso, please ask Secretary Gates for a full, open investigation of LaVena Johnson's tragic death.</MSG>
</APP>

United States Senate

August 27, 2008

The Hon. Robert Wilkie
Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense
For Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear The Hon. Wilkie:

I received the enclosed letter from (b)(6) regarding an investigation into the death of LaVena Johnson. I would appreciate your assistance in responding to my constituent's concerns. Please respond directly to my constituent and provide Alison Morgado in my office with a copy of your response.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jeff Bingaman
United States Senator

JB/am

OSD 11609-08



From: (b)(6)

Date: 8/9/2008 4:45:55 PM

To: senator_bingaman@bingaman.senate.gov

Subject: Army investigate LaVena Johnson death

The death in Iraq of LaVena Johnson, described by the Army as a suicide, highlights the need for far greater openness, both on her case and on the many other attacks on female soldiers in the Army. The Army's actions appear secretive and suspicious.

Photos reluctantly released by the Army suggest murder rather than suicide of this talented, bright young soldier. If the Army will not perform a full and open investigation, Congress should demand it.

Senator Bingaman, please ask Secretary Gates for a full, open investigation of LaVena Johnson's tragic death.

RON WYDEN
OREGON

223 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-5244
(202) 224-1280 (TDD)

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3703

COMMITTEES:
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS AND FORESTS
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

September 2, 2008

Robert M. Gates
Secretary
Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Secretary Gates:

Enclosed please find correspondence I received from my constituent, (b)(6). He is concerned about the possible mischaracterization of Lavena Johnson's death.

I would greatly appreciate your addressing my constituent's concerns and responding directly to him. Please also send a copy to my Washington D.C. office, attention Laura Hatalsky, as I am interested in your response. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden
United States Senator

OSD 12026-08



1220 SW 3RD AVE
SUITE 585
PORTLAND, OR 97204
(503) 325-7525

405 EAST 8TH AVE
SUITE 2020
EUGENE, OR 97401
(541) 431-0229

SAC ANNEX BUILDING
105 FIR ST
SUITE 201
LA GRANDE, OR 97850
(541) 962-7691

U.S. COURTHOUSE
310 WEST 6TH ST
ROOM 118
MEDFORD, OR 97501
(541) 858-5122

THE JAMISON BUILDING
131 NW HAWTHORNE AVE
SUITE 107
BEND, OR 97701
(541) 330-9142

707 13TH ST, SE
SUITE 285
SALEM, OR 97301
(503) 589-4565

[HTTP://WYDEN.SENATE.GOV](http://wyden.senate.gov)

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

(b)(6)

Email: (b)(6)

Portland, OR 97214
Multnomah County

Web Mail Subject: WEBMAILnov10

Dear Sen. Wyden, Have you seen this or heard about this?

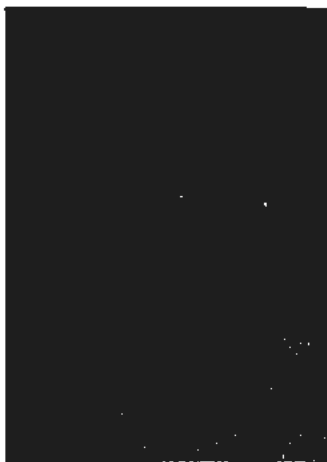
<http://firedoglake.com/2008/07/28/rape-victims-death-ruled-suicide-by-army-henry-waxman-where-are-you/> What are you going to do about this? This cannot stand, if true. If we are doing this to our own, imagine what we are doing to the Iraqis!!! Parents have lost their daughter and the Army said it was suicide. Blew her head off after hitting herself in the face with her own rifle, setting her hand on fire, and giving her genitals a chemical burn. Right. The Army investigators need to be investigated by the FBI and brought up on charges. As well as the individual(s) involved. Respectfully,

(b)(6)

Rape Victim's Death Ruled "Suicide" By Army — Henry Waxman, Where Are You?

diggs
digg
it

By: Jane Hamsher Monday July 28, 2008 11:57 am



The Jamie Leigh Jones-Halliburton rape case was horrific, but what happened to PFC Lavena Johnson in Iraq in 2005 was many orders of magnitudes worse.

The parents of the young Missouri woman were told that she died of self-inflicted gunshot wounds, and her death was ruled a suicide. But her physician father became suspicious after looking at injuries to the body:

After two years of requesting documents, one set of papers provided by the Army included a xerox copy of a CD. Wondering why the xerox copy was in the documents, Dr. Johnson requested the CD itself. With help from his local Congressional representative, the US Army finally complied. When Dr. Johnson viewed the CD, he was shocked to see photographs taken by Army investigators of his daughter's body as it lay where her body had been found, as well as other photographs of her disrobed body taken during the investigation.

The photographs revealed that Lavena, a small woman, barely 5 feet tall and weighing less than 100 pounds, had been struck in the face with a blunt instrument, perhaps a weapon stock. Her nose was broken and her teeth knocked backwards. One elbow was distended. The back of her clothes had debris on them indicating she had been dragged from one location to another. The photographs of her disrobed body showed bruises, scratch marks and teeth imprints on the upper part of her body. The right side of her back as well as her right hand had been burned apparently from a flammable liquid poured on her and then lighted. The photographs of her genital area revealed massive bruising and lacerations. A corrosive liquid had been poured into her genital area, probably to destroy DNA evidence of sexual assault.

Despite the bruises, scratches, teeth imprints and burns on her body, Lavena was found completely dressed in the burning tent. There was a blood trail from outside a contractor's tent to inside the tent. She apparently had been dressed after the attack and her attacker placed her body into the tent and set it on fire.

The Electronic Village has been working hard to draw attention to this tragedy. Color of Change has now joined the battle and is asking people to contact Henry Waxman and ask him to conduct hearings

as chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

Amy Goodman had an interview with Lavena's parents you can [listen to here](#). Just heartbreaking.

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CAPITAL MARKETS,
INSURANCE AND GOVERNMENT
SPONSORED ENTERPRISES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
AND CONSUMER CREDIT

SUBCOMMITTEE ON DOMESTIC AND
INTERNATIONAL MONETARY POLICY,
TRADE AND TECHNOLOGY

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS
(on leave of absence, 110th Congress)

**Congress of the United States
House of Representatives**

DENNIS MOORE
Third District, Kansas
<http://moore.house.gov>

August 25, 2008

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-0001


Dear Secretary Gates:

I recently received the enclosed communication from a resident of my congressional district.

I would very much appreciate receiving from your staff a response to the issues raised by my constituent. I will, of course, forward a copy of your response to my constituent.

Thank you very much for your prompt attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,



DENNIS MOORE
Member of Congress

DM: bn

P.S. Please sign up for my e-mail newsletter to receive periodic updates on federal legislation at my Web site: <http://www.moore.house.gov>.

1727 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-1603

PHONE: 202-225-2866
FAX: 202-225-2807

8417 SANTA FE DRIVE, #101
OVERLAND PARK, KS 66212
PHONE: 913-393-2013
FAX: 913-383-2068

600 STATE AVENUE, #178
KANSAS CITY, KS 68101
PHONE: 913-621-0832
FAX: 913-621-1533

901 KENTUCKY STREET, #205
LAWRENCE, KS 66044
PHONE: 785-843-3289
FAX: 785-843-3289

TDD: (hearing/speech impaired constituents)
1-800-768-3777

OSD 12091-08



DATE: August 9, 2008 8:25 PM

NAME: (b)(6)

ADDR1:

ADDR2:

ADDR3:

CITY: Lawrence

STATE: Kansas

ZIP: 66044-1067

PHONE: (b)(6)

EMAIL:

msg:

The death in Iraq of LaVena Johnson, described by the Army as a suicide, highlights the need for far greater openness, both on her case and on the many other attacks on female soldiers in the Army. The Army's actions appear secretive and suspicious.

Photos reluctantly released by the Army suggest murder rather than suicide of this talented, bright young soldier. If the Army will not perform a full and open investigation, Congress should demand it.

Representative Moore, please ask Secretary Gates for a full, open investigation of LaVena Johnson's tragic death.

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CAPITAL MARKETS,
INSURANCE AND GOVERNMENT
SPONSORED ENTERPRISES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
AND CONSUMER CREDIT

SUBCOMMITTEE ON DOMESTIC AND
INTERNATIONAL MONETARY POLICY,
TRADE AND TECHNOLOGY

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS
(on leave of absence, 110th Congress)

**Congress of the United States
House of Representatives**

DENNIS MOORE
Third District, Kansas
<http://moore.house.gov>

August 25, 2008

1727 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-1999

PHONE: 202-225-2886
FAX: 202-225-2807

8417 SANTA FE DRIVE, #101
OVERLAND PARK, KS 66212
PHONE: 913-883-2013
FAX: 913-883-2088

500 STATE AVENUE, #176
KANSAS CITY, KS 66101
PHONE: 913-621-0632
FAX: 913-621-1533

801 KENTUCKY STREET, #206
LAWRENCE, KS 66044
PHONE: 785-842-8313
FAX: 785-843-3288

TDD: (hearing/speech impaired constituents)
1-800-768-3777

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-0001


Dear Secretary Gates:

I recently received the enclosed communication from a resident of my congressional district.

I would very much appreciate receiving from your staff a response to the issues raised by my constituent. I will, of course, forward a copy of your response to my constituent.

Thank you very much for your prompt attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,



DENNIS MOORE
Member of Congress

DM: bn

P.S. Please sign up for my e-mail newsletter to receive periodic updates on federal legislation at my Web site: <http://www.moore.house.gov>.

OSD 12150-08



DATE: August 12, 2008 09:46 AM

NAME: (b)(6)

ADDR1

ADDR2:

ADDR3:

CITY: Shawnee

STATE: Kansas

ZIP: 66203-1175

PHONE: (b)(6)

EMAIL:

msg:

The death in Iraq of LaVena Johnson, described by the Army as a suicide, highlights the need for far greater openness, both on her case and on the many other attacks on female soldiers in the Army. The Army's actions appear secretive and suspicious.

Photos reluctantly released by the Army suggest murder rather than suicide of this talented, bright young soldier. If the Army will not perform a full and open investigation, Congress should demand it.

There must be a full, open investigation of LaVena Johnson's tragic death.

WALLY HERGER

2ND DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

PLEASE REPLY TO:

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2268 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
(202) 225-3078

DISTRICT OFFICES:

55 INDEPENDENCE CIRCLE, SUITE 104
CHICO, CA 95973
(530) 893-8363

410 HEMSTED DRIVE, SUITE 115
REDDING, CA 96002
(530) 223-5898

www.house.gov/herger



COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

SUBCOMMITTEES:

RANKING MEMBER
TRADE

HUMAN RESOURCES

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-0502

September 12, 2008

Secretary Robert M. Gates
Department of Defense
Pentagon #3E966
Washington, DC 20301-0001

Dear Secretary Gates,

I recently received the attached correspondence from (b)(6) a constituent of mine, concerning the circumstances surrounding the death of PFC LaVena Johnson. I am requesting your review of (b)(6) concerns, and a thorough response, consisting of publicly-available information that discusses the Army's conclusions in this matter and addresses concerns that her death was the result of homicide rather than suicide. I would appreciate your response at the earliest of your convenience.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

WALLY HERGER
Member of Congress

WH: jr

OSD 12210-08



E-Mail Viewer

Message	Details	Attachments	Headers	Source
---------	---------	-------------	---------	--------

HTML

From: (b)(6)
Date: 8/9/2008 6:35:12 PM
To: "ca02ima@mail.house.gov" <ca02ima@mail.house.gov>
Cc:
Subject: Contact form Yes-response

Dear Congressman Herger,

This email is about yet another horrendous case of a woman in the armed services who has apparently been murdered. In this case, however, the Army has chosen to declare night as day. Below is the information I have found:

Three years ago, on July 19, 2005, Army Private First Class LaVena Johnson was found dead in Balad, Iraq. Her body was found in a tent belonging to the private military contractor KBR. She had abrasions all over her body, a broken nose, a black eye, burned hands, loose teeth, acid burns on her genitals, and a bullet hole in her head. The Army labeled Johnson's death a suicide. But her parents never believed that story. They think she was raped and murdered and are now demanding a full congressional investigation into their daughter's death.

I am asking that you put your considerable clout to calling for a congressional investigation in this matter. An investigation could very well throw some light on the other apparent murder cases. It seems to me, that this would be truly "Support Our Troops."

Sincerely,
(b)(6)

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CAPITAL MARKET
INSURANCE AND GOVERNMENT
SPONSORED ENTERPRISES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
AND CONSUMER CREDIT

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND
INVESTIGATIONS

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON RESEARCH

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS
(on leave of absence, 108th Congress)

Congress of the United States House of Representatives

DENNIS MOORE

Third District, Kansas
<http://moore.house.gov>

September 19, 2008

1727 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-1603
PHONE: 202-225-2885
FAX: 202-225-2807

8417 SANTA FE DRIVE, #101
OVERLAND PARK, KS 66212
PHONE: 913-383-2013
FAX: 913-383-2088

590 STATE AVENUE, #176
KANSAS CITY, KS 66101
PHONE: 913-621-0832
FAX: 913-621-1533

901 KENTUCKY STREET, #206
LAWRENCE, KS 66044
PHONE: 785-842-9313
FAX: 785-843-3289

TDD: (hearing/speech impaired constituents)
1-800-796-3777

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-0001

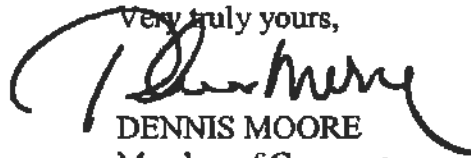
Dear Secretary Gates:

I recently received the enclosed communication from a resident of my congressional district.

I would very much appreciate receiving from your staff a response to the issues raised by my constituent. I will, of course, forward a copy of your response to my constituent.

Thank you very much for your prompt attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,



DENNIS MOORE
Member of Congress

DM: bn

P.S. Please sign up for my e-mail newsletter to receive periodic updates on federal legislation at my Web site: <http://www.moore.house.gov>.

OSD 12686-08



DATE: August 31, 2008 05:41 AM

NAME: (b)(6)

ADDR1:

ADDR2:

ADDR3:

CITY: Lawrence

STATE: Kansas

ZIP: 66044-3725

PHONE: (b)(6)

EMAIL:

msg:

The death in Iraq of LaVena Johnson, described by the Army as a suicide, highlights the need for far greater openness, both on her case and on the many other attacks on female soldiers in the Army. The Army's actions appear secretive and suspicious.

Photos reluctantly released by the Army suggest murder rather than suicide of this talented, bright young soldier. If the Army will not perform a full and open investigation, Congress should demand it.

Representative Moore, please ask Secretary Gates for a full, open investigation of LaVena Johnson's tragic death.

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CAPITAL MARKET
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
AND CONSUMER CREDIT

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND
INVESTIGATIONS

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON RESEARCH

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

(on leave of absence, 109th Congress)

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

DENNIS MOORE

Third District, Kansas

<http://moore.house.gov>

September 19, 2008

1727 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-1803

PHONE: 202-225-2865

FAX: 202-225-2807

8417 SANTA FE DRIVE, #101

OVERLAND PARK, KS 66212

PHONE: 913-383-2013

FAX: 913-383-2088

500 STATE AVENUE, #178

KANSAS CITY, KS 66101

PHONE: 913-621-0832

FAX: 913-621-1533

801 KENTUCKY STREET, #205

LAWRENCE, KS 66044

PHONE: 785-842-9313

FAX: 785-843-3289

TDD: (hearing/speech impaired constituents)

1-800-765-5777

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-0001


Dear Secretary Gates:

I recently received the enclosed communication from a resident of my congressional district.

I would very much appreciate receiving from your staff a response to the issues raised by my constituent. I will, of course, forward a copy of your response to my constituent.

Thank you very much for your prompt attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,



DENNIS MOORE
Member of Congress

DM: bn

P.S. Please sign up for my e-mail newsletter to receive periodic updates on federal legislation at my Web site: <http://www.moore.house.gov>.

OSD 12687-08



DATE: August 31, 2008 4:51 PM

NAME: (b)(6)

ADDR1:

ADDR2:

ADDR3:

CITY: Mission

STATE: Kansas

ZIP: 66202-4208

PHONE: (b)(6)

EMAIL:

msg:

The death in Iraq of LaVena Johnson, described by the Army as a suicide, highlights the need for far greater openness, both on her case and on the many other attacks on female soldiers in the Army. The Army's actions appear secretive and suspicious.

Photos reluctantly released by the Army suggest murder rather than suicide of this talented, bright young soldier. If the Army will not perform a full and open investigation, Congress should demand it.

Representative Moore, please ask Secretary Gates for a full, open investigation of LaVena Johnson's tragic death.

JIM WEBB
VIRGINIA

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-4024

COMMITTEE ON
ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON
FOREIGN RELATIONS
COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS' AFFAIRS
JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4605

Hon. Robert Wilkie
Assistant Secretary of Defense
for Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Assistant Secretary Wilkie:

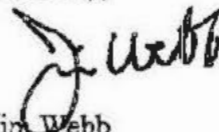
I am referring the enclosed inquiry from my constituents, (b)(6)
(b)(6) regarding the death of PFC LaVena Johnson, to your office.

My constituent would appreciate your careful consideration of these remarks, and your thoughts on what remedies there are for this situation. Please respond directly to them and send a copy to me.

The Honorable Jim Webb
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
Attention: Nadia Naviwala

I thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jim Webb
United States Senator

JHW/nsn

OSD 13549-07



8/22/2007 11:36:49 AM

(b)(6)

February 28, 2007

The Honorable James Webb
United States Senate
C1 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-4604

Re: The Death of PFC LaVena Johnson

Senator Webb:

About 18 months ago, PFC LaVena Johnson was killed in Iraq. There was substantial confusion initially in reports about the cause of her death in a combat zone. The Department of Defense finally settled on suicide as the cause despite any history of depression or indication to friends or family. There are now substantial reasons to question that finding, but the DOD has closed the case. At least one independent expert believes that the PFC was raped, beaten and burned in addition to being shot. Her family is distraught.

The issues remain unresolved. This was extensively reported on by KMOV in St Louis where we have friends. The US and her family can't afford another Pat Tillman case dragging out for years.

Please require the DOD to reopen the case and resolve the outstanding questions surrounding PFC Johnson's death. An American soldier and her family deserve no less.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)