

"The government's predominant interest . . . is preventing intimidation, threats and coercion against voters or persons urging or aiding persons to vote or attempt to vote," she said.

The front-line lawyers, however, lost the argument and were ordered to drop the case.

Bartle Bull, a civil rights activist who also was a poll watcher in Philadelphia, said after the complaint was dropped, he called Mr. Adams to find out why. He said he was told the decision "came as a surprise to all of us" and that the career lawyers working on the case feared that the failure to enforce the Voting Rights Act "would embolden other abuses in the future."

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KISSELL). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

HONORING BOB DEININGER

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

Mr. SESTAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a public servant, leader, son, husband and father of the first order, Mr. Robert Deininger, who on August 1, 2009, will complete 40 years of faithful and dedicated service to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the FDA.

Following his 1965 graduation from Upper Darby High School, Bob excelled at Grove City College, Grove City, Pennsylvania, graduating in 1969 with a bachelor of science degree in biology. He was quickly hired by the FDA as an investigator in the Philadelphia district office.

In 1977 Bob was selected to be a supervisor of the New Jersey District in Trenton, New Jersey. He later moved to Camden, New Jersey, where he supervised 10 investigators and covered southern New Jersey.

□ 1830

During 13 years in this position, he and his team were involved in many unique and interesting cases, including those involving food tampering, recalls and compliance actions.

In 1989, Bob was accepted into a government Executive Potential Program. In 1990, he was selected as Director of the Investigations Branch for the Dallas district and moved to Dallas, Texas. In this position, with nearly 100 employees and 13 satellite offices, he was responsible for domestic import inspection activities in Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas.

Bob's last position was that of District Director, Southwest Import District, SWID, in the FDA Office of Regulatory Affairs, FDA's regulatory field force. As District Director, Bob was responsible for all import operations in the 11-State Southwest Region and along the entire United States-Mexican border, from Brownsville, Texas, to San Diego, California.

Bob's contributions are too numerous to mention, but principal among them are his efforts to improve import coverage uniformity in applying FDA policies and procedures and his work to increase cooperative activities with Customs and Border Protection.

As the Nation has faced serious threats to the safety of its food supply, Bob significantly increased the number of import samples and product exams performed each year and contributed to updating the FDA import training program. Most importantly, Bob focused FDA/SWID outreach and education efforts to work with the Federal and State agencies on border health to improve the health of the population living along the United States and Mexican border.

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

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

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

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

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

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

NUMBER OF MARINE SUICIDES INCREASING

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

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

The article states, "At least seven Marines are believed to have killed

themselves so far in July, putting the Corps on a record pace despite broad-based efforts introduced to reduce suicides."

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

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

JULY SUICIDES PUSH CORPS TO RECORD PACE

(By Dan Lamothe, staff writer)

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

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

The statistics were discussed Monday at the Sergeants Major Symposium, an annual meeting of the Corps' top enlisted leaders in Washington. The 33 dead Marines put the Corps on pace for about 56 suicides in 2009, shattering a record set last year, when the Corps lost 42 Marines to confirmed or suspect suicides.

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

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

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

On Monday, senior enlisted leaders discussed a next wave of suicide-prevention training that has been in the works for months. Noncommissioned officers throughout the Corps will be trained to watch for suicide signs more carefully, with "master trainer" sergeants who went through 3½ days of training in July at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., now fanning out across the service to teach NCOs how they can be a better help to at-risk Marines.

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

"Peer groups have to recognize the signs at ankle level, not chest level," said Sgt. Maj. Michael Timmerman, the senior enlisted adviser with the Personal and Family Readiness Division at Marine Corps headquarters.

Kent said he wants NCOs to feel empowered to report that a Marine in turmoil may be considering suicide, but he believes senior enlisted leadership and officers also need to be actively involved.

"We still have to provide the guidance, oversight and support," he said of senior enlisted leadership. "We have to give [NCOs] the tools they need" to prevent suicides.

Unfortunately, the Army has reported a similar increase in suicides. The suicide rate among Army soldiers hit its highest level in three decades in 2008 when there were 128 confirmed suicides.

Yesterday, at a hearing of the Armed Services Subcommittee on Military Personnel, I was impressed with the comments by military leaders from each of the four services who described the steps they are taking to combat psychological stress among servicemembers. I was also pleased to read in the Marine Corps Times that the Corps has taken increased suicide rates seriously by rolling out a new suicide prevention program and implementing additional all-hands prevention training. However, I also believe that the policymakers in Washington have a role to play.

With Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune and Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point in my district, I am well aware of the strain that the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have placed on our Nation's marines and their families. Military officials have speculated that repeat combat deployments and the toll these deployments have taken on servicemembers' marriages and families have contributed to increased suicide rates.

Mr. Speaker, I also believe that continuous war without a clearly defined goal is contributing to anxiety and depression among some of the members of our military.

In recent days, I have come to the House floor to talk about our Nation's military involvement in Afghanistan and the importance of knowing the end point to our war strategy. After nearly 8 years in Afghanistan, President Obama's order for a surge of additional troops will certainly lead to more killed and wounded, more frequent deployments and more stress on our military and their families. That is the price of war.

While American military personnel faithfully conduct their missions abroad, elected officials here in Washington also need to take seriously their responsibility to develop a viable, long-term strategy for these operations.

I have spoken to many in the Army and Marine Corps who say our Nation needs an end point to its war strategy. Many servicemembers have gone to Iraq and Afghanistan more than once, and their desire to serve this Nation is greater than ever, but the stress placed on our all-volunteer forces cannot continue forever.

That is why I will continue to urge the President to work with his military commanders and the Congress to articulate to our men and women in uniform what is to be achieved and to develop the best possible strategy for achieving our goals and wrapping up our military commitment in Afghanistan. I will also continue to work with my colleagues in Congress to ensure adequate funding for mental health programs for servicemembers and veterans.

Before closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Department of Defense and our military leaders who are doing everything possible to help servicemembers who suffer from anxiety and depression.

Mr. Speaker, as I do just about every night that I come to the floor of the House, I have to close this way, because I regret that I voted to send our troops to Iraq. I have signed over 8,000 letters to the families and extended families so that I could say to God, forgive me for making that decision.

So my close will be this. God, please bless our men and women in uniform. God, please bless the families of our men and women in uniform. God, in Your loving arms, hold the families who have given a child dying for freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq.

And, dear God, because America is in so much trouble, I will close three times by asking, God please, God please, God please continue to bless America.

THE COST OF AFGHANISTAN AND IRAQ SOON TO BE \$1 TRILLION

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Congressman WALTER JONES for his 5-minute speech. That was a perfect lead-in to my remarks tonight.

Mr. Speaker, last week I stood in the House to mark two tragic milestones. I said that July had become the deadliest month for our soldiers in Afghanistan since the conflict began, and I reported that the number of American troops who have died in Afghanistan and Iraq had gone over the 5,000 mark.

Today, I rise to warn the House that a third tragic milestone is coming up. According to a report by the Congressional Research Service, Congress has approved \$941 billion in war-related spending since 9/11. If Congress approves the administration's request for the next fiscal year, funding for Afghanistan and Iraq will go over the \$1 trillion mark. And that is just for direct military operations, Mr. Speaker. The \$1 trillion figure doesn't include the indirect costs, such as health care for our wounded veterans. Many of our veterans will need care for the rest of their lives. Joseph Stiglitz, the Nobel-winning economist, has estimated that when you add it all up, the occupation of Iraq alone will cost us over \$3 trillion.

Tragically, all that spending has not made us any safer. Violent extremists have launched more attacks around the world since 9/11 than before 9/11. The war spending hasn't made us any richer either. It has contributed to our economic crisis, exploded the lid off our national debt, and diverted funds from desperately needed domestic priorities.

Besides Iraq and Afghanistan, Congress has also approved spending for a

third war called the global war on terror. That war has been a big mistake, too. As the Rand Corporation has pointed out, when you use the word "terrorist," you elevate them. You elevate them to the status of holy warriors and it encourages them to conduct holy war against the United States.

We need to call terrorists what they really are, criminals and violent extremists. To stop them, we need good intelligence and good police work in the communities where they hide, not massive military occupations that don't get the job done and bleed our Treasury dry.

I am glad that President Obama and Secretary of State Clinton have stopped using the phrase "war on terror." That is a good first step. But now we need to take several more steps. We must speed up the withdrawal of our troops and military contractors from Iraq. We must change our mission in Afghanistan to emphasize economic development, humanitarian aid, education, jobs, and better government.

This is the kind of help that the people of Afghanistan want and need from the United States. This is the kind of help that will give the Afghan people real hope for the future and a reason to reject extremism.

And throughout the world, we must replace military power with the tools of smart power, such as diplomacy, multilateral action, and nuclear non-proliferation. I have offered a "SMART Security Platform for the 21st Century" which could put these tools to work and make the world a safer place.

Mr. Speaker, America cannot afford to keep using military power as our only option. It is dumb foreign policy, dumb military policy, and dumb fiscal policy. Smart power will save lives and money and build a more peaceful world for our children and their children.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. TITUS addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

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

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING WORK OF TAKE STOCK IN CHILDREN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to recognize the outstanding work of Take Stock in Children, an amazing program throughout