

leader, and a friend, John Robert "Bob" Slaughter.

On May 29, 2012, southwest Virginia lost one of its great American heroes. A passionate advocate for veterans and a driving force behind the National D-day Memorial in Bedford, it is only fitting that we honor Bob's memory as we mark the 68th anniversary of D-day this week.

Born on February 3, 1925 in Bristol, Tennessee, Bob's family later moved to Roanoke, Virginia. In 1941, at the age of 15, he joined the Virginia Army National Guard, Company D, 116th Infantry, 29th Division. A short time later, the United States was attacked at Pearl Harbor and entered the war. On September 27, 1942, the 29th Division set sail for England.

On D-day, June 6, 1944, Bob waded ashore to battle the foes of democracy at Omaha Beach. He was just 19 years old. His life was forever impacted by the memories of that day.

Mr. Speaker, I have stood on Omaha Beach in Normandy at low tide, which was the circumstances when these brave men landed there on June 6, 1944. The width of that beach, the distance that they had to come out of those landing boats through withering machine gun fire, bombs, and mines, is absolutely a remarkable demonstration of the courage of those men to liberate Europe.

Despite being wounded twice in combat following D-day, Bob remained in the field until the end of the war in 1945. After the war, Bob returned to Roanoke, where he had a long career with the Roanoke Times & World-News. He was dedicated to his family and was also active in the community, coaching a basketball team for local youth.

Bob showed great determination by working to ensure that there was a proper memorial to the countless men who took part in the D-day invasion. On June 6, 1994, the 50th anniversary of D-day, Bob walked Omaha Beach with President Bill Clinton. On June 6, 2001, Bob's dream became a reality when the National D-day Memorial in Bedford was dedicated by President George W. Bush.

Thanks in large part to his efforts, the National D-day Memorial now stands in Bedford, where it serves as a constant reminder of those who paid the ultimate price to protect the freedoms that we hold so dear.

The life of Bob Slaughter is a true testament to the "Greatest Generation." We are honored to have known Bob and pay tribute to this great man's many contributions. We pray for his family—his wife of 65 years, Margaret Leftwich Slaughter; his two sons; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren—during this difficult time. We join the entire community in mourning the loss of this American hero.

□ 1020

SEXUAL ASSAULT IN THE MILITARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I have now come to the floor some 21 times to tell the story of survivors of military sexual assault and the institution and culture that failed them. Some would tell you that the military has learned from their egregious mistakes and that they are largely now addressing this problem. The situation I'm describing to you today is happening right now and flies in the face of what we are being told by our military and the Members of Congress who believe that they have this problem under control.

Recently, a San Antonio newspaper began reporting on a scandal at Lackland Air Force Base that is growing by the day. So far, at least four Air Force instructors have been charged with sexual misconduct with at least 24 trainees. Like many cases of rape and sexual assault, the perpetrators are not denying that they engaged in sexual misconduct; they simply contend that the sex was consensual. It comes down to the words of the accused and the accuser—the instructor against the trainee. In the military, this usually means the perpetrator gets off or receives a disproportionately small punishment and the victim endures an arduous and humiliating legal process with little sense of justice at the end.

Two of the women that have come forward were called over an intercom 2 days after they graduated from basic training last fall and asked to leave their dorm and to meet their instructors. In a dimly lit supply room, the women said they had sexual relations with their instructor. "I was frozen," one of the women said, explaining that her mind was racing. "I tried to think." Both women said failure to follow orders could cause them to be retained in basic training under the very instructors that assaulted them.

While unnerved about the order to leave their dorms, they told themselves it had to be legitimate. From the day they entered the military, they had been trained—and required—to follow the orders of their instructors, even those that didn't make sense. This may be hard for some in the civilian world to relate to, but it is the constant reality within our Armed Forces. It is ingrained in our military servicemen and -women to follow the orders of their chain of command and never, ever disobey. The justice system is also beholden to this chain of command, but I will get to that a little bit later.

Staff Sergeant Luis Walker, a military instructor, is charged with sexually assaulting 10 women, including sodomy and rape. Staff Sergeant Kwinton Estacio is charged with sexual misconduct with one woman, violating a no-contact order, and obstruction of justice. Staff Sergeant Craig LeBlanc

is charged with sexual misconduct of two women trainees. Staff Sergeant Peter Vega-Maldonado has been charged and convicted of sexual misconduct with one woman.

Staff Sergeant Vega admitted in a plea bargain to having sex with one woman. His punishment? Ninety days in jail, 30 days of hard labor, reduction in rank, and forfeiture of \$500 a month in pay for 4 months. After striking the deal with prosecutors, Vega admitted that he actually had improper contact with 10 trainees.

Now, mind you, we are not firing these people. They continue to serve in the military. Vega is not immune to further prosecution, but his admission of guilt cannot be used against him in future procedures. Each victim will have to come forward and the prosecution will have to start from scratch. Vega will be forced to leave the Air Force, but without a bad conduct discharge. Imagine that, without a bad conduct discharge.

If the military is as vigilant as they say they are, how could such a repetitive, widespread, and sickening behavior still be occurring? What is being uncovered at Lackland flies in the face of what we are being told by our military. Is this what zero tolerance means in the military?

Former Air Force Secretary Whitten was quoted in the newspaper saying:

The age-old problem is that you're putting very smart, attractive people, marrying age, together in close quarters. It's a circumstance that is difficult and really requires restraint. Sometimes restraint is very difficult.

Secretary Whitten doesn't get it. The age-old problem in the military is attitudes like this. The age-old problem in the military is a broken justice system that delivers weak sentences, if any. The age-old problem in the military is that nine out of 10 women Staff Sergeant Vega has now admitted to committing sexual misconduct with have not come forward because they know that the odds of getting justice are slight and the odds of their careers being finished are great.

What is happening at Lackland Air Force Base should and needs to be a wake-up call. This problem is happening now, and it is systemic.

Victims are still not coming forward because of what keeps happening—backwards attitudes of blaming the victim, and disproportionately weak sentences. Writing off survivors as women who had consensual sex and now have regrets is insulting and I'm afraid how many in our military see this problem.

The Department of Defense has so far been unable to appropriately address this problem—and Lackland is proof of that.

We—Congress—need to act to circumvent the chain of command and give discretion to an impartial office to determine and facilitate the appropriate path for perpetrators and victims. We need to fix the system that

survivors who report are now facing, right the injustices suffered by those that have already gone through this system and provide the care, resources and understanding for these survivors to get better.

OBAMACARE, MEDICAL DEVICE, MEDICINE CABINET TAX REPEALS, AND FSA IMPROVEMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACK) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, as one of the most outspoken opponents of ObamaCare, I hope that in the coming weeks the Supreme Court strikes down this disastrous piece of legislation. But the fact is no matter what the Supreme Court decides about ObamaCare, it does not change the reality that this law is horrible policy.

In just 3 short years, ObamaCare has already resulted in fewer jobs, higher health care costs, and more debt. That's why I have voted more than a dozen times to either defund or repeal ObamaCare since being elected to Congress. For instance, last November, my legislation that closed a loophole in the health care law and saved taxpayers \$13 billion was signed into law.

Today, the House will vote on legislation to repeal two of the ObamaCare law's most egregious job-killing taxes in this law: one, the medical device manufacturing tax; and, two, the medicine cabinet tax.

According to the Joint Tax Committee, the medical device tax increase will take away \$29 billion from job creators over the next decade. These higher costs will be passed along to consumers, like veterans with prosthetics and seniors with pacemakers and hip replacements.

This bill will also repeal the medicine cabinet tax increase, which prevents owners of health savings accounts, or HSAs, or flexible spending accounts, FSAs, from using these accounts to purchase nonprescription, over-the-counter medications. ObamaCare's limitation on purchasing over-the-counter medications will result in longer wait times for those who truly need the care and will also drive up health care costs.

In addition to repealing these disastrous tax hikes, the bill also improves the flexible spending accounts by allowing participants to get back unused FSA dollars, up to \$500, as taxable wages in the subsequent year. Under current law, any unused balance goes back to the employer and is lost by the employee. This reform to the FSA accounts rewards, rather than penalizes, consumers for being healthy and saving their money.

Before coming to Congress, I worked in health care as a registered nurse for more than 40 years. I have seen firsthand the problems and obstacles patients and health care providers face. But ObamaCare is only serving to exacerbate the current problems and creates entirely new problems.

Our health care system desperately needs market-based and patient-centered reform, not a government takeover. It is critical that the House continue to fight against ObamaCare until either the Supreme Court overturns the law in its entirety or until we have willing partners in the Senate and in the White House.

BROADCAST WARNINGS THROUGH MOBILE DEVICES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CLARKE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CLARKE of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Homeland Security, I'd like to thank our broadcasters for providing free radio and television broadcasting and warnings to our public that protects our families from impending disasters.

And to better warn our public in future emergencies, I ask this Congress to consider how we can make local free radio broadcasting available on all of our cell phones. You see, providing these broadcast warnings through our mobile devices could be the most effective way that we can protect our families when disaster hits.

MAINTAINING INTEGRITY IN ELECTIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. NUGENT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, I think we can all agree that the integrity of our elections is of fundamental importance to our democracy. We need to ensure that everyone who is eligible to vote has the ability to vote, and those that are ineligible to vote are stopped from voting in our elections.

We also have the responsibility to ensure that this responsibility falls largely on the States to ensure that voters have the right to vote that are eligible to. They do this by making sure that their voter rolls are clean, that their voter rolls are accurate. It's important that States have the ability to do that.

In my own State of Florida and others throughout this country, the Federal Government is being asked to help.

□ 1030

The Department of Homeland Security, in particular, has been unwilling to help those States that are asking for it.

Mr. Speaker, DHS is denying Florida the process to access what is called the Systematic Alienation Verification Entitlement database, or SAVE, as it's commonly referred to. SAVE undoubtedly is the best database for the States to use to cross-reference and cross-check their voter rolls for eligible or ineligible voters.

DHS is denying us access to this database, despite its own documents and regulations clearly stating that

SAVE, for voter registration purposes, is one of the permissible uses. This is within their own documents as it relates to the operation of DHS. By denying access to the SAVE database, DHS is preventing States from ensuring to the best of their ability that the integrity of our elections is saved and preserved.

As we move forward with appropriations for Homeland Security, I feel we need to acknowledge the DHS refusal to meet this basic need and a basic request of our States. DHS' stonewalling is not something the people of Florida deserve, and it certainly isn't something that elected officials should tolerate.

Mr. Speaker, Floridians should not be denied the right to the fairest and most accurate elections possible. Floridians' votes should not be diminished because of political maneuvering by a Federal agency. No vote should be counted when it's cast by someone who is not eligible to vote in the United States, vis-a-vis, they're not a citizen of this country.

DHS, through their SAVE program, has the ability to pass that information on to States. Florida is not the only State that has requested this information from DHS. DHS has, I believe, an ethical responsibility to provide that information because it's contained within their own bylaws and operation procedures within the Department of Homeland Security; and they have just stonewalled the States in regard to them trying to make sure their voter rolls are the most accurate possible.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that they are doing a disservice to the American public. Every vote should count. Every vote should count, and DHS should be required to submit the information to the States so they can make sure that their voter rolls are as accurate as possible.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF DR. AL MANN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, there are many heroic people among us who have been involved in making our quality of life in America the best the world has ever seen and, at the same time, uplifting all of humankind. While we oftentimes focus our gratitude and our adoration on politicians and athletes and movie stars, we need to acknowledge the many innovators, inventors, and technology entrepreneurs who have played a significant role in overcoming the many challenges we humans face together, challenges to our health and limitations to our physical well-being.

One of the most heroic of these special people is Dr. Al Mann. He flew in B-29s during World War II; and upon his return home, Al decided, instead of