



VETERANS FOR PEACE
HUMBOLDT BAY
CHAPTER 56

THE FOGHORN

VOL 11, ISSUE 10
FEBRUARY
2009

"Cutting Through the Fog of War"

Good Thinking From VFP 19 Down South.

By: *Jim Dixon*

HOW TO SPONSOR A PEACE DOVE

Saturday January 31 1:00 PM
Cathedral City CA

A 21-Gun RIFLE Salute Teaches Children Violence;
So we propose A 21-Peace Dove Tribute to Teach Children
Peace

Please help Veterans for Peace memorialize those killed in wars and killed by hate crimes by sponsoring a white peace dove. These trained doves (related to pigeons) will be released before taps at the Army PFC Ming Sun statue. They will fly in formation over the statue area three times and then return safely to their home in Highland CA.

Each sponsoring person(s) or organization can name their dove in memory of someone killed. You can hold the dove and be photographed with it. Then you help release the dove while "Amazing Grace" is played. COST: \$50

Checks payable to VFP
C/O Tom Swann, President
39360 Peterson Road Space 100
Rancho Mirage CA 92270

Contributions to VFP Chapter 19 (Riverside San Bernardino Veterans for Peace) are tax deductible.

Call Tom Swann at 760/324-5670 or e-mail: tomswann@earthlink.net to reserve your peace dove today.

(Send us your tribute story)

First of all I would like to thank you for your efforts to remember our fallen vets from the Vietnam War. As I am a schoolteacher, I cannot send you a check until next week when I will be paid.

My veteran's name is Johnny Allen Sigurdson (hometown: Seattle, Washington), 1LT Infantry, Charlie Co. 1/7 Cavalry. He was KIA on 17 November 1967 in Quang Nam. I came to know him when he was my neighbor in Columbia, SC while he was stationed at Ft. Jackson. We became very close and he was my surrogate 'big brother'. It took me ten years before I could visit the Vietnam War Memorial and make a rubbing of his name (Panel 29E, Line 102). I was overwhelmed with emotion by the power of 'the Wall' and how I felt when I touched his name; I felt his presence and that of all the other fallen vets.

I was told that he was leading a patrol when it was ambushed. Putting the welfare of his troops first, John went forward to retrieve the body of a fallen soldier but was hit by enemy fire. The incoming fire was so intense that their bodies had to be left behind for three days.

I am a veteran of the United States Marine Corps (1977-81) and have many friends who are Vietnam vets. John lives on in me every day and I try to live the life he would expect of me.

Thank you so very much for your efforts.

SUPPORT THE TROOPS.BRING THEM HOME!

Join VFP today. Dues are \$25. We accept non-veterans as associate members.

Membership application at:

<http://www.freewebs.com/ievets4peace/contactorjoin.htm>

Let there be peace on Earth
and let it begin with me

American veterans deserve the best
of whatever we have to give

Tom Swann
tomswann@earthlink.net



Olbermann | Bush Years: 8 in 8 Minutes

by: Keith Olbermann, MSNBC Countdown

The following article was written by Keith Olbermann, MSNBC, as a commentary on the Presidency of George Walker Bush. The punctuation, capitalization and spacing are his own, which I believe he did to give credence to the article.

The article is included to stimulate our members to possibly respond to what he had to say, include thoughts of their own, or rebut his premises. Needless to say there is a lot of information here worthy of review and comment. Comments need not be lengthy. They can be one sentence or a 250 response. Thanks for responding.

George Walker Bush 43rd president of the United States. first ever with a criminal record. His presidency: eight years in eight minutes.

Early in 2001 the U.S. fingered Al Qaeda for the bombing of the USS Cole Bush counterterrorism adviser Richard Clarke had a plan to take down Al Qaeda. Instead by February the NSC had already discussed invading Iraq, and had a plan for post-Saddam Iraq.

By March 5 Bush had a map ready for Iraqi oil exploration and a list of companies. Al Qaeda? Rice told Clarke not to give Bush a lot of long memos. Not a big reader.

August 6, 2001 a CIA analyst briefs Bush on vacation: "Bin Laden determined to strike in U.S." Bush takes no action tells the briefer - quote all right, you've covered your ass now. Next month Clarke requests using new predator drones to kill Bin Laden the Pentagon and CIA say no.

September 11th Bush remains seated for several minutes to

avoid scaring school children by getting up and leaving. He then flies around the country and promises quote a full scale investigation to find those folks who did it

Rumsfeld says Afghanistan does not have enough targets We've got to do Iraq. When the CIA traps Bin Laden at Tora Bora it asks for 800 rangers to cut off his escape Bush out sources the job to Pakistanis sympathetic to the Taliban Bin Laden gets away.

In February General Tommy Franks tells a visiting Senator Bush is moving equipment out of Afghanistan so he can invade Iraq. one of the men who prepped Rice for her testimony that Bush did not ignore pre 9-11 warning later explains quote we cherry picked things to make it look like the president had been actually concerned about Al Qaeda they didn't give a bleep about Al Qaeda.

July and Britain's intel chief says Bush is fixing intelligence and facts around the policy to take out Saddam January 03 Bush and Blair agree to invade in March Mr. Bush still telling us he has not decided telling Blair they should paint an airplane in UN colors fly it over Iraq and provoke a response a pretext for invasion the man who said it would take several hundred thousand troops fired the man who said it would cost more than a hundred billion fired the man who revealed Bush's yellowcake lie smeared his wife's covert status exposed the White House liars who did it and covered it up not fired one convicted Bush commutes his sentence.

Then in Iraq, stuff happens: Iraq's army, disbanded the government de-Baathified 200,000 weapons, billions of dollars just lost foreign mercenaries immunized from justice political hacks run the Green Zone religious cleansing forcing one out of six Iraqis from their homes.

Abu Ghraib. The insurgency Al Qaeda in Iraq other stuff does not happen: WMD post-war planning body armor vehicular armor the payoff? Oil and billions for Halliburton, Blackwater and other companies while Mr. Bush denies VA health care to 450,000 veteran tries to raise their health care fees blocks the new G.I. Bill and increases his own power with the USA PATRIOT Act with the Military Commissions Act public orders exempting himself from a thousand law and secretly from the Presidential Records Act The Geneva Convention FISA sparking a mass rebellion at the Justice Department secret star chambers for terrorism suspects, overturned by Hamdan v Rumsfeld. Denying habeas corpus, overturned by Boumediene v Bush. 200 renditioning sleep deprivation abuse Rumsfeld warned in 2002 that he was torturing that it would jeopardize convictions out of 550 at Gitmo hundreds ultimately go free with no charge dozens are tortured eight fatally three are convicted on U.S. soil twelve hundred immigrants rounded up

Without due process without bail without court date without a single charge of terrorism. It wasn't just Mr. Bush no longer subject to the rule of law he slashed regulations on everyone from banks to mining companies appointed 98 lobbyists to over-

**NEXT VFP 56
MEETING IS
SCHEDULED FOR
FEBRUARY 8,
2009, 7:00 PM AT
THE LABOR TEM-
PLE IN EUREKA,
843 E ST.**



Olbermann: Continued From Page 2

see their own industries weakening emission standards for mercury and 650 different toxic chemicals regulators shared drugs and their beds with industry reps the Crandall Canyon mine owner told inspectors to back up because his buddy, Republican Mitch McConnell was sleeping with their boss McConnell's wife is Bush Labor Secretary Elaine Chao her agency overruled engineer concerns about Crandall Canyon and was found negligent after nine miners died in the collapse there

Mr. Bush's hands off as Enron blacks out California doubling electric bills after months of rejecting price caps Mr. Bush bows to pressure the blackouts end. Mr. Bush further deregulates commodity futures midwifing the birth of unregulated oil markets which just like Enron jack up prices to an all time high until Congress and both presidential candidates call for regulations and the prices fall deregulating financial services and lax enforcement of remaining rules created a housing bubble creating the mortgage crisis creating then a credit crisis devastating industries that rely on credit from student loans to car dealers firms that had survived the Great Depression could not survive Bush those that did got seven hundred billion dollars no strings, no transparency no idea whether it worked unlike the auto bailout which cut workers' salaries. a GOP memo called it a chance to punish unions but Bush failed even when his party and his patrons did not stand to profit investigators blamed management cost cutting communication for missed warnings about Columbia.

Bush administration convicts include sex offenders at Homeland Security convicted liars every kind of thief in the calendar and if you count things that were not prosecuted the vice president of the United States actually shot a man in the face the man apologized.

Mr. Bush faked the truth with paid propaganda in Ira on his education policy tried to silence the truth about global warming rocket fuel in our water industry influence on energy policy politicized the truth of science at NASA, the EPA, the National Cancer Institute, Fish and Wildlife and the FDA.

His lies exposed by whistle-blowers from the cabinet down "complete BS" the treasury secretary said of Mr. Bush on his tax cuts. Rice's mushroom cloud Powell's mobile labs Iraq and 9-11 Jack Abramoff Jessica Lynch Pat Tillman Pat Tillman again Pat Tillman, again the air at Ground Zero most responders still suffering respiratory problems.global warming carbon emissions a Clear Skies initiative lowering air quality standards the Healthy Forests initiative increasing logging faith based initiatives the cost of medicare reform fired US attorneys politically synchronized terror alerts the surge causing insurgents to switch sides that abortion causes breast cancer that his first recession began under Clinton that he did not wiretap without warrants that we do not torture.

That American citizen John Walker Lindh's rights were not violated that he refused the right to counsel heckuva job Brownie some survivors still in trailers New Orleans still at just two-thirds

its usual population the lie that no one could have predicted the economic crisis except the economists who did no one could have predicted 9-11 except one ass-covering CIA analyst or thirty no one could have predicted the levee breach except literally Mr. Bill in a PSA that aired on TV a year before Katrina Bush actually admitted that he lied about not firing Rumsfeld because he did not want to tell the truth, look it up.

All of it all of it and more leaving us with ten trillion in debt to pay for 31% more in discretionary spending the Iraq War a 1.3 trillion dollar tax cut median income down two thousand dollars three-quarters of all income gains under Bush going to the richest one percent unemployment up from 4.2 to 7.2 percent the Dow, down from ten thousand five hundred eighty seven to eighty two hundred seventy seven six million now more in poverty seven million more now without health care buying toxic goods from China deadly crib outsourcing security to Dubai still unsecure in our port and at our nuclear plant more dependent on foreign on out of the international criminal court off the anti ballistic missile treaty military readiness and standards down with two unfinished wars a nuclear North Korea disengaged from the Palestinian problem destabilizing eastern European diplomacy with anti missile plans and unable to keep Russia out of Georgia 2000 miles of Appalachian streams destroyed by rubble from mountaintop mining at his last G-8 summit, he actually bid farewell to other world leader saying quote - goodbye from the world's greatest polluter consistently undermining historic American reverence for the institutions that empower education, now "academic elites" and the law, "activist judges" capping jury awards.

And Bin Laden? Living today unmolested in a Pakistani safe haven created by a truce endorsed and defended by George W. Bush and among all the gifts he gave to Bin Laden the most awful, the most damaging not just to America but to the American ideal was to further Bin Laden's goal by making us act out of fear rather than fortitude leaving us with precious little to cling to tonight save the one thing that might yet suffice: hope.

"Local VFP Members Charged With Concealing Exciting Stories"

By: Mashaw McGuinnis

A VFP member recently expressed dissatisfaction to me about the lack of local material in the Foghorn. Tired of reading stuff they had already seen on "Democracy Now!" and commondreams.org, they asked if I had read "The Shock Doctrine" by Naomi Klein or Seymour Hirsch's latest best-seller. Both of these books I was told, were "fascinating, nail-biters", real page-turners that "revealed shocking truths about our messed up political system"! I'm not really directly quoting the book reader (I'm paraphrasing for effect)

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Local VFP Member Charged; Continued from Page 3

but after the conversation my enthusiasm for cranking out another Foghorn article withered up and I found myself wondering if Northtown Books was still open at that hour...

Being a student living on a student's budget combined with little free time pretty much guarantees I won't be reading any of those nail-biters before summer comes. But I did enjoy that conversation, because the person who recommended them is well-informed and offered me some perspective. I like hearing highlights from things like that because I don't have time to read them myself.

So I posed a challenge to the book lover. "Why don't you choose one of those books and write a few paragraphs about the best parts"? I asked. "We can print it the Foghorn and it could lead to some stimulating discussions among the members". The words had escaped from my mouth before I had a chance to really think about the idea. But why not? While Hirsch and Klein have yet to expose our Reggae on the River chili sales conflict the subjects they do write about are just as pertinent to issues our chapter addresses. And if my interest was piqued just by hearing about these books, then surely other members would also be.

And what about movies? I know at least a handful of members who go see, and rent, movies regularly. There's always at least one current movie with political or social commentary that could warrant a short piece in the Foghorn. Did any of you go see "Stop Loss" last year? I missed it, but I would enjoy reading about it. How about at Clint Eastwood's latest film "Gran Torino". A leathery-faced Korean war vet who wants to isolate himself from society and comes to grip with his racism when a Hmong family next door embraces him as a hero and mentor to their eldest son. Anyone see that?

Lets say you're not a movie buff and you don't read much. Maybe you just sit on the couch every day with a bag of Kettle chips watching Amy Goodman on Free Speech T.V. I'll bet you still have at least one friend in our community of activists who once told you a story that held you captivated. An elder who marched in the civil rights movement, a veteran who returned from the war with a life changing epiphany, or someone got arrested for protesting nuclear weapons and it made the front page in their home town.

The point I'm trying to make is this: You don't have to be Seymour Hirsch or Naomi Klein to validate your experience or opinion in the Foghorn. I'm no Pulitzer prize winner, I'm still working on a Bachelor's degree for cryin' out loud! This newsletter is for us to share and communicate with each other every month. Not just when the local chapter has a fundraiser or participates in a peace rally. The Foghorn cannot really exist without input from you. If our membership is dissatisfied reading old stuff we've already seen on the internet, maybe we should look inside ourselves for a personal story worth sharing.

Postscript: I too have been preaching to the member-

ship about contributions to the Foghorn, but to no avail. Our publication is only as good as we wish it to be. Without material from our members we have no recourse but to go on the internet for filler. It would be so much better to have original articles from VFP 56. Your articles do not have to be long. A one or two sentence comment on what might be bothering you could result in other articles from members bothered by the same issue. I urgently request that more of our members get involved with the writing process or the Foghorn will go by the way of the Passenger Pigeon .

This can be a discussion item for our February meeting. Possibly members do not want the Foghorn to be a part of Chapter 56 anymore. We shall see!

Submitted by Jim Sorter

Hi All

by Marc Knipper

Happy New Year, the Chinese year of the Ox, is supposed to bring an honest, candid and open natured year ahead.

We had our first, getting there, board meeting for Incopah Retreat and Wellness Center, of which a yet to be named Veterans component, under the Patrick McCaffrey Foundation umbrella, will play a large part. Explanation to follow in this report.

I would appreciate an acknowledgment from each of you on this e-mail list that you continue to be interested and on board for the formerly know as Veterans Village Humboldt committee.

We have created a board in order for Incopah to move forward in acquiring non profit status. The Veterans component will be a separate entity, (please see attached Veterans proposed agreement with Incopah), on a 25 year work trade lease. The Veterans component intends to have a committee, that's you, of interested and supportive parties that will work under the umbrella of the Patrick McCaffrey Foundation board. I am a member of both boards, I know I find it hard to believe as well.

Many of you may already be aware that we cannot use the Veterans Village name due to threats of litigation regarding patent rights to the name. Therefore we are in the midst of a name change with the same VV initials/logo and are now formerly Veterans Village Humboldt.

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Hi All: Continued from Page 4

We will be having a booth for Incopah and the Veterans component Saturday January 17th, at the Crab Festival in Willow Creek. We are doing this event and personalized outreach to the local community, veterans organizations, organic farmers and tribal members.

We have scheduled two work parties to begin the year. We need trucks and trailers to haul mucho trash to the coast, (please see attached cost estimate) it is the most cost effective for us to get volunteers to sort and load the trash into trucks and trailers that folks can donate the use of and their time to haul to the coast. Lunch, gas and dump charges will be provided.

Work party number one will be on Saturday, January 31st, from 10am until 4pm, at the Incopah site off 299 2.5 miles West of Willow Creek, Ca. Between the State campgrounds, after the Incopah highway cleanup sign on the right you will see Incopah over the gate and it will be otherwise clearly marked. The second work party will be held on Saturday, February 21st time TBA, please contact Jeff Karr, coordinator at (707) 502-5291.

Our next Incopah board mtg will be February 7th at noon, on the coast if we can get a location.

We have some other brass tacks kinds of things to iron out, bank account for Veterans component, lease agreements, budget development, treasury for the Veterans component, housing arrangements, clothing and food provisions, off site interview space, and more.

Our first priority is obvious, clean the place up and do fire suppression, trail building and dome site preparation. And bring in money.

Which brings me to the final portion of this report. I want to personally thank all of you who have contributed financially to the formerly known as Veterans Village Humboldt cause. Thank You, Thank You, Thank You !!!

It will be put to good use. To those of you who have written checks please note that they will be deposited by the end of the month, getting the account set up and finding a cosigner, and yes procrastination, were the holdup.

I also want to thank all of you for your continued interest and support for our veterans respite, health and wellness project here in Humboldt. I see each of you as full filling the roles you have articulated to me or filling in as you are able. We are ready, Now is the time, the here and now, the only time that truly counts.

Again, thank you so very much from the bottom of my heart. This Veterans space at Incopah will be realized no matter what, there are no barriers that can stand between a person, a community of folk, possessed with a vision.

I am truly blessed to have fabulous friends and colleagues such as all of you.

Vets Ville Humboldt

By Marc Knipper

Veterans Ville Humboldt will provide respite and space for our returning warriors from Afghanistan and Iraq, and those yet to heal from previous wars and conflicts, to come together and find healing and a way to manage their traumas.

The concepts of alternative cognitive behavioral therapies will be used with the support of the Patrick McCaffrey Foundation psychiatrists and under the direct supervision of at least two local LCSW's and a MFT. We will also have a working relationship with Making Headway the TBI experts in our area. This support is paramount in order to apply appropriate modalities for many of our veterans who will have issues of PTS and TBI. Our ultimate goal is to assist our warriors in their transition home, back into a civilian environment and community.

Assessments and therapy coordination will be provided by the onsite MSW coordinator and volunteer staff. Therapies will include individual as well as groups, and adventure, solium and tactile based therapies will be applied. A gym, daily runs and cycling supported with massage, sauna and hot tubs as well as yoga, will be provided.

Alternative technical skill development will be taught such as Masanobu Fukuoka orchard, farm, gardening and forest management practices. Green building and alternative energy as well as bee keeping, and ceramics techniques will be taught. Veterans will also have the opportunity to learn to lead and conduct wilderness, rafting, hiking, and biking adventures and flora and fauna walks.

Our basic foundation and coordination team will be made up of primarily veterans from past conflicts such as Vietnam, helping veterans who are returning now. The concept of veterans helping veterans is very exciting to us.

Veterans Ville Humboldt will provide Incopah Retreat and Wellness Center with a year round work force of fifteen to twenty veterans, as work exchange for our stay at Incopah. Each veteran will be required to go through a screening process, adhere to the no alcohol or other drug policy and other agreements of stay. Each veteran will have a time of stay to be determined by him and his counselor. Typical periods of stay will be between one to three months in length with extended time deferred to those who are in on site vocational education courses.

The veterans will commit to helping to build and create Incopah Retreat and Wellness Center within the first year or two of Veteran Ville Humboldt's participation on the land. Each veteran will work twenty four hours each week as part of their program and to the level of their abilities as work trade for their stay at Veterans Ville Humboldt at Incopah. Applied work trade hours will often overlap as vocational training hours in assisting in building

....Continued on Page 6

All the best to all, Always... practicing peace and love...



Vets Ville Humboldt: Continued from Page 5

and alternative energy development and construction, as well.

Veterans Ville Humboldt will be responsible for providing shelters, clothing and food for the veteran participants. The veteran participants will be responsible for construction, upkeep, coordination and implementation of the Incopah Retreat and Wellness Centers needs and goals.

Submitted by: Marc B Knipper

MSW

NATE LOMBA'S EXHIBIT

By: Mashaw McGuinnis

Fellow VFP member Nate Lomba shares his artistic side with the public in a photography exhibit during the entire month of February at Ramone's Bakery & Cafe, 209 E St. in Old Town Eureka. The exhibit opens on Arts Alive night, Saturday, February 7. Come out on the evening of the 7th from 6-9 PM and help celebrate with the artist himself!

“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.”

Dr. Martin Luther King

PROTESTS IN SAN FRANCISCO AND WASHINGTON DC

By: Jim Sorter

Linda & I recently attended three protests, one in San Francisco protesting against Israel's invasion of Gaza, the second in Washington DC again protesting Israel's slaughter in Gaza, and the third in DC protesting the horrendous treatment of the detainees at Guantanamo and other secret CIA prisons. During all three of these demonstrations we were surprised to see so few people turn out. We thought there would be hundreds of thousands of protesters, such as in Madrid, Spain and London, England. The apathy showed by the US crowds was very disappointing.

Hopefully this new found euphoria of Obama curing all our ailments will not be an excuse for us to slacken our efforts in behalf of social justice and peace. We have a long way to go to compensate and care for veterans who need our support and active compassion.

One hopeful note: Wherever we went the VFP banner was flying high representing our organization and our hope for a more peaceful world.



Family Settles With US in Marine Suicide

By: Jonathan Saltzman, Globe Staff | The Boston Globe January 16, 2009

The US government has agreed to pay \$350,000 to settle a federal claim by a Belchertown family who blamed Northampton VA Medical Center for the suicide of their son, an Iraq war veteran who hanged himself after he allegedly was denied mental health care.

A lawyer from the office of US Attorney Michael J. Sullivan said in a letter filed yesterday at US District Court in Springfield that the June 2004 suicide of Jeffrey Lucey, a 23-year-old Marine, “while under VA care was a tragedy for the VA and the individual care providers.”

The lawyer, Assistant US Attorney Karen L. Goodwin, said the suicide had led to improvements in how Veterans Administration medical centers treat veterans. Changes included the hiring of suicide-prevention coordinators and 100 new adjustment counselors at 207 Vet Centers.

“VA, both nationally and locally, has been challenged to appreciate and meet the health care needs of veterans returning from the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan,” Goodwin wrote Jan. 6 to the lawyer for Lucey’s parents in a letter calling the \$350,000 settlement a final offer.

“Jeffrey’s case, among others, fostered awareness and led to improvements in the VA’s approach to the new generation of war veterans.”

The government admitted no responsibility in the suicide, and Goodwin wrote that the Veterans Affairs administration would have had a strong legal defense at trial.

The Marine’s father, Kevin Lucey, said he and his wife, Joyce, believe their son was suffering from post traumatic stress disorder. They settled, he said, because the steps that the Department of Veterans Affairs has taken amount to an admission that medical treatment provided to veterans was deficient.

“When I brought Jeff to the VA, I really thought I was bringing him into the arms of angels,” said his father, a therapist. “I thought they’d help us help him save himself, and, regretfully, because of how broken and how dysfunctional the system is, that never was.”

In a statement issued by an antiwar group, Military Families Speak Out, Kevin Lucey said, “The government killed my son. It sent him into an illegal and reckless war and then, when he returned home, it denied him the basic health care he needed.”

Cristobal Bonifaz, the Conway lawyer representing Lucey’s parents, accepted the offer in a Jan. 9 letter also filed yesterday. He said in an interview that an estimated 300,000 veterans suffer from post traumatic stress disorder as a result of their service in Afghanistan or Iraq. The settlement, he said, marks the first time the government has paid damages to one of those veterans, or their estates, for their injuries.

Northampton VA Medical Center, in Leeds, issued a statement saying it has increased its mental health staff and created new programs for war veterans. “We were greatly saddened at the death of this young veteran, and we again express our deep sorrow for the family’s loss,” the center said.

Lucey served in Iraq in 2003 and 2004 and, according to his family, returned home a changed man. He began to have nightmares, insomnia, and severe depression and drank heavily, alarming his relatives.

His family said he became suicidal and told a sister that he had picked out the rope and the tree from which he planned to hang himself. They took him to the VA, and he was involuntarily committed on May 28, 2004, Bonifaz said.

Lucey was placed in a locked psychiatric ward, given psychotropic drugs, and released three days later, Bonifaz said. Two days afterward, he totaled the family car in what his family believed was a suicide attempt. His family took him back to the VA on June 5. A nurse interviewed him in the parking lot but turned Lucey away without contacting a psychiatrist, Bonifaz said.

He hanged himself on June 22 in the basement of his family’s home in Belchertown.

In her letter offering the settlement, Goodwin disputed allegations by the family. She said, for example, that Lucey was reluctant to talk to hospital staff on the evening of June 5. She also said that a suicide specialist retained by the defense concluded that “Jeffrey did not come close to meeting the standard for involuntary commitment.”

Goodwin said the \$350,000 offer reflected a “dispassionate risk analysis” and was “not an attempt to put a money value on Jeffrey Lucey’s life or the family’s suffering.”

Jonathan Saltzman can be reached at jsaltzman@globe.com

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Submitted By: Jim Sorter





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LET US HEAR FROM YOU!

If you would like to submit an article, opinion, comment or response to anything you have read which might interest the members of VFP-56, please e-mail it to turtldncer@aol.com, in word format, or mail to Jim Sorter at 1762 Buttermilk Lane, Arcata, CA 95521. Submissions will be included on a first come basis until the newsletter is full. Late arriving submissions will be archived for future issues.

Many people have been calling and asking about what is going on with my health. Thank you for all of your concern and good wishes.

My diagnosis which was originally Tuberculosis was incorrect. That was a good thing as well as a bad thing. I am not contagious with any TB related conditions so I can be among friends and not expose them to anything. The diagnosis now is a disease called Myco Bacterium Avium Complex, which will take somewhat longer to cure. They say approximately a year of treatment should do it. Meanwhile I am taking about 20 pills a day to help eradicate it which makes me tired, but should work.

Most people who get this disease are people with low immune systems, and since I have taken methotraxate for approximately 20 years for my RA, I have lowered my immune system to the point that while in Mexico, lowering my resistance with the heavy workload, I was ripe for contracting the disease which attacks the lungs, building up bacteria to where I am easily susceptible to pneumonia and other lung diseases.

I am totally confident that with time this too shall be a memory and things will be back to normal.

Again thanks for all of your good wishes. It is friends such as yourselves which makes everything easier to bear. Jim Sorter