



Vietnam Veterans In Canada

General Meeting (2007-06)

Agenda 519

15 March 2006

British Columbia Regiment (DCO), Vancouver, B.C.

Moment of Silence

United States Military Casualty Reports Received since 27 February 2007

Lance Cpl. Anthony Aguirre, 20, of Channelview, Texas, died Feb. 26 while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq. Aguirre was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii.

Sgt. William J. Beardsley, 25, of Coon Rapids, Minn., died Feb. 26 in Diwaniyah, Iraq, of wounds suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. Beardsley was assigned to the 260th Quartermaster Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Troop Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Ga.

Pfc. Daniel Zizumbo, 27, of Chicago, Ill., died Feb. 27 in Bagram, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered from an improvised explosive device. Zizumbo was assigned to 1st Transportation Movement Control Agency, 21st Theater Support Command, Kaiserslautern, Germany.

Sgt. Chad M. Allen, 25, of Maple Lake, Minn., died Feb. 28 while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq. Allen was assigned to 2nd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Pfc. Bufford K. Van Slyke, 22, of Bay City, Mich., died Feb. 28 while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq. Van Slyke was assigned to Marine Forces Reserve's 1st Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Saginaw, Mich.

Sgt. Richard A. Soukenka, 30, of Oceanside, Calif. Soukenka died Feb. 27 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. He was assigned to the 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), Fort Drum, N.Y.

Cpl. Lorne E. Henry, Jr., 21, of Niagara Falls, N.Y. Henry died Feb. 27 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. He was assigned to the 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), Fort Drum, N.Y.

Spc. Jonathan D. Cadavero, 24, of Takoma Park, Md. Cadavero died Feb. 27 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. He was assigned to the 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), Fort Drum, N.Y.

Staff Sgt. Karl O. Soto-Pinedo, 22, of San Juan, Puerto Rico, died Feb. 27 in Baghdad from wounds sustained from enemy small arms fire. Soto-Pinedo was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Schweinfurt, Germany.

Pvt. Wesley J. Williams, 23, of Philadelphia, Pa., died March 2, in Baghdad, of a non-combat related injury. Williams was assigned to the 163d Military Intelligence Battalion, 504th Military Intelligence Brigade, Fort Hood, Texas.

Spc. Christopher D. Young, 20, of Los Angeles, Calif., died March 2 in Safwan, Iraq, of wounds sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. He was assigned to Company C, 3rd Battalion, 160th Infantry Regiment, California Army National Guard, San Pedro, Calif.

Lance Cpl. Raul S. Bravo, 21, of Elko, Nev., died March 3 while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq. Bravo was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

Sgt. Brandon A. Parr, 25, of West Valley, Utah. Parr died Mar. 3 in Baghdad when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. He was assigned to the 630th Military Police Company, Bamberg, Germany.

Sgt. Michael C. Peek, 23, of Chesapeake, Va. Peek died Mar. 3 in Baghdad when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. He was assigned to the 630th Military Police Company, Bamberg, Germany.

Sgt. Ashly L. Moyer, 21, of Emmaus, Pa. Moyer died Mar. 3 in Baghdad when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. He was assigned to the 630th Military Police Company, Bamberg, Germany.

Spc. Blake Harris, 22, of Pueblo, Colo. Harris died Mar. 5 in Baqubah, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his unit. He was assigned to the 1st Squadron, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

Spc. Ryan D. Russell, 20, of Elm City, N.C. Russell died Mar. 5 in Baqubah, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his unit. He was assigned to the 1st Squadron, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

Pvt. Barry W. Mayo, 21, of Ecu, Miss. Mayo died Mar. 5 in Baqubah, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his unit. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery, 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

Staff Sgt. Darrel D. Kasson, 43, of Florence, Ariz., died Mar. 4 in Tikrit, Iraq, of wounds suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle at Bayji, Iraq. He was assigned to the 259th Security Forces Company, Phoenix.

Pvt. Mark W. Graham, 22, of Lafayette, La., died Mar. 7 at Brooke Army Medical Center, San Antonio, Texas, of wounds suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his unit while on combat patrol Mar. 2 in Baghdad, Iraq. Graham was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

Staff Sgt. Justin M. Estes, 25, of Sims, Ark. Estes died Mar. 5 in Samarra, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his unit during combat operations. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.

Staff Sgt. Robert M. Stanley, 27, of Spotsylvania, Va. Stanley died Mar. 5 in Samarra, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his unit during combat operations. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.

Sgt. Andrew C. Perkins, 27, of Northglenn, Colo. Perkins died Mar. 5 in Samarra, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his unit during combat operations. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.

Spc. Ryan M. Bell, 21, of Colville, Wash. Bell died Mar. 5 in Samarra, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his unit during combat operations. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.

Spc. Justin A. Rollins, 22, of Newport, N.H. Rollins died Mar. 5 in Samarra, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his unit during combat operations. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.

Pfc. Cory C. Kusters, 19, of The Woodlands, Texas. Kusters died Mar. 5 in Samarra, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his unit during combat operations. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.

Staff Sgt. Christopher R. Webb, 28, of Winchester, Calif. Webb died Mar. 7 in Baghdad, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle during combat operations. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

Spc. Shawn P. Rankinen, 28, of Independence, Mo. Rankinen died Mar. 7 in Baghdad, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle during combat operations. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

Spc. Michael D. Rivera, 22, of Brooklyn, N.Y. Rivera died Mar. 7 in Baghdad, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle during combat operations. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

Lance Cpl. Dennis J. Veater, 20, of Jessup, Pa., died March 9 from wounds received while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq. Veater was assigned to Marine Forces Reserve's Marine Wing Support Squadron 472, Marine Wing Support Group 47, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing, Wyoming, Pa.

Sgt. Gregory D. Fejeran, 28, of Barrigada, Guam. Fejeran died Mar. 5 in Dire Dawa, Ethiopia, of injuries sustained during a vehicle roll-over. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment, Barrigada, Guam. The incident is under investigation.

Sgt. Christopher J. C. Fernandez, 28, of Dededo, Guam. Fernandez died Mar. 5 in Dire Dawa, Ethiopia, of injuries sustained during a vehicle roll-over. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment, Barrigada, Guam. The incident is under investigation.

Spc. Jonathan K. Smith, 19, of Atlanta, GA., died Mar. 11 in Baghdad, Iraq, of a non-combat related incident, which is under investigation. Smith was assigned to the 115th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

Sgt. Daniel E. Woodcock, 25, of Glennallen, Alaska, died Mar. 11, in Ad Dawr, Iraq, of wounds suffered from a building explosion while on combat patrol. Woodcock was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.

Sgt. Thomas L. Latham, 23, of Delmar, Md., died March 11 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his Humvee. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, N.Y.

Capt. Aaron J. Contreras, 31, of Sherwood, Ore., was killed on March 30 in a UH-1N Huey helicopter crash in Southern Iraq. He was assigned to Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron (HMLA)-169, Marine Aircraft Group-39, Marine Corps Air Station Camp Pendleton, Calif. 2003.04.01 186-03

Cpl. Robert M. Rodriguez, 21, of Queens, N.Y., was killed in action on March 27 when the tank he was riding in fell into the Euphrates River during combat operations northwest of An Nasiriyah. His remains were recovered on March 30. He was assigned to the 1st Tank Battalion, 1st Marine Division, Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif. 2003.04.01 186-03

Lance Cpl. Patrick R. Nixon, 21, of Nashville, Tenn. Nixon was killed in action. His unit was engaged in operations on March 23 on the outskirts of An Nasiriyah in Iraq. His remains were recovered on March 30. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, Camp Lejeune, N.C. 2003.04.01 186-03

Staff Sgt. James W. Cawley, 41, of Roy, Utah, was killed on March 29 during a firefight with enemy forces. He was assigned to F Company, 2nd Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Sgt. Michael V. Lalush, 23, of Troutville, Va., was killed on March 30 in a UH-1N Huey helicopter crash in Southern Iraq. He was assigned to Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron (HMLA)-169, Marine Air Craft Group-39, Marine Corps Air Station Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Staff Sgt. Donald C. May, Jr., 31, of Richmond, Va. May was killed in action on March 25, 2003 while his unit was conducting convoy operations in the vicinity of the Euphrates River. He was assigned to the 1st Tank Battalion, 1st Marine Division, Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif. 2003.03.31 179-03

Lance Cpl. Patrick T. O'Day, 20, of Sonoma, Calif. O'Day was killed in action on March 25, 2003 while his unit was conducting convoy operations in the vicinity of the Euphrates River. He was assigned to the 1st Tank Battalion, 1st Marine Division, Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif. 2003.03.31 179-03

Pfc. Francisco A. MartinezFlores, 21, of Los Angeles, Calif. MarttinezFlores was killed in action on March 25, 2003 while his unit was conducting convoy operations in the vicinity of the Euphrates River. He was assigned to the 1st Tank Battalion, 1st Marine Division, Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif. 2003.03.31 179-03

Sgt. Orlando Morales, 33, from Manati, Puerto Rico. Morales died after being wounded in an ambush when his mounted reconnaissance unit took hostile fire on March 27, 2003 in Geresk, Afghanistan. He was assigned to A Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group, out of Ft. Bragg, N.C. 2003.03.30 176-03

Sgt. Roderic A. Solomon, 32, from Fayetteville, N.C. Soloman was killed when a Bradley Fighting Vehicle rolled off a cliff in a non-hostile accident Friday in Iraq. He was assigned to the 2-7th Infantry, 3rd Infantry Division, out of Fort Stewart, Ga. The accident is under investigation. 2003.03.30 175-03

Pfc. Michael Russell Creighton Weldon, 20, of Palm Bay, Fla. Weldon was killed in a car-bomb incident on March 29, 2003. He was assigned to the 2-7th Infantry, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Ga. 2003.03.30 174-03

Cpl. Michael Edward Curtin, 23, of Howell, N.J. Curtin was killed in a car-bomb incident on March 29, 2003. He was assigned to the 2-7th Infantry, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Ga. 2003.03.30 174-03

Pfc. Diego Fernando Rincon, 19, of Conyers, Ga. Rincon was killed in a car-bomb incident on March 29, 2003. He was assigned to the 2-7th Infantry, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Ga. 2003.03.30 174-03

Sgt. Eugene Williams, 24, of Highland, N.Y. Williams was killed in a car-bomb incident on March 29, 2003. He was assigned to the 2-7th Infantry, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Ga. 2003.03.30 174-03

Gunnery Sgt. Joseph Menusa, 33, of San Jose, Calif. Menusa was killed in action on March 27, 2003. He was assigned to the 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, Calif. 2003.03.30 173-03

Lance Cpl. Jesus A. Suarez Del Solar, 20, of Escondido, Calif. Suarez Del Solar was killed in action on March 27, 2003. He was assigned to the 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, Calif. 2003.03.30 173-03

Lance Cpl. Thomas A. Blair, 24, of Wagoner, Okla. Blair was killed in action on March 24, 2003. His unit was engaged in operations on March 24 on the outskirts of An Nasiriyah in Iraq. His remains were recovered on March 28. He was assigned to the 2nd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion, Marine Air Control Group-28, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, Cherry Point, N.C. 2003.03.30 173-03

Lance Cpl. Michael J. Williams, 31, of Yuma, Ariz. Williams was killed in action on March 23, 2003. His unit was engaged in operations on March 23 on the outskirts of An Nasiriyah in Iraq. His remains were recovered on March 28. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, Camp Lejeune, N.C. 2003.03.30 173-03

Sgt. Fernando Padilla-Ramirez, 26, of Yuma, Ariz. He was assigned to Marine Wing Support Squadron-371, Marine Wing Support Group-37, Marine Corps Air Station, Yuma, Ariz. He was last seen conducting convoy operations in the vicinity of Al Nasiriyah on 28 March. A search and rescue effort is continuing. 2003.03.30 173-03

Lance Cpl. William W. White, 24, of Brooklyn, N.Y., was killed in a non-hostile vehicle accident on March 29 in Iraq. He was assigned to the 3rd Amphibious Assault Battalion, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, Calif. The accident is under investigation. 2003.03.30 173-03

Staff Sgt. Jacob L. Frazier, 24, of St. Charles, Ill. Frazier died from wounds sustained in an ambush on March 29, 2003 in Geresk, Afghanistan. He was assigned to the 169th Air Support Operations Squadron, 182nd Airlift Wing, Illinois Air National Guard. Peoria, Ill. 2003.03.29 172-03

Sgt. Bradley S. Korthaus, 28, of Scott, Iowa. Korthaus was killed in action in the vicinity of the Saddam Canal on March 24. His remains were recovered on March 25. He was assigned to Engineering Company C, 6th Engineer Support Battalion, 4th Force Service Support Group, based in Peoria, Ill. 2003.03.29 170-03

Major Kevin G. Nave, 36, of Union Lake, Mich. Nave was killed March 26 in a non-hostile vehicle accident in Iraq. Major Nave was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, Calif. The accident is under investigation. 2003.03.28 169-03

Hospital Corpsman Third Class Michael Vann Johnson, Jr., 25, of Little Rock, Ark. Johnson was killed in action March 25, 2003 in Iraq. He was assigned to Naval Medical Center San Diego, First Marine Division Detachment, San Diego. 2003.03.27 162-03

Maj. Gregory Stone, 40, of Boise, Idaho. He died on March 25th from wounds received by a grenade in a tent at Camp Pennsylvania, Kuwait, on March 22nd. Stone was assigned to the 124th Air Support Operations Squadron, Idaho Air National Guard, Boise, Idaho. 2003.03.26 157-03

Spc. Gregory P. Sanders, 19, of Indiana. Sanders was killed in action March 24 in Iraq. He was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 69th Armor, Fort Stewart, Ga. 2003.03.26 154-03



Lance Cpl. Brian Rory Buesing, 20, Cedar Key, Fla. Buesing was killed in action March 23 in the vicinity of An Nasiriyah, Iraq. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, Camp Lejeune, N.C. 2003.03.25 152-03

Cpl. Randal Kent Rosacker, 21, San Diego, Calif. Rosacker was killed in action March 23 in the vicinity of An Nasiriyah, Iraq. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, Camp Lejeune, N.C. 2003.03.25 152-03

Sgt. Michael E. Bitz, 31, Ventura, Calif. Bitz was killed in action March 23 in the vicinity of An Nasiriyah, Iraq. He was assigned to the 2nd Assault Amphibious Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, Camp Lejeune, N.C. 2003.03.25 150-03

Lance Cpl. David K. Fribley, 26, Lee, Fla. Fribley was killed in action March 23 in the vicinity of An Nasiriyah, Iraq. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, Camp Lejeune, N.C. 2003.03.25 150-03

Cpl. Jose A. Garibay, 21, Orange, Calif. Garibay was killed in action March 23 in the vicinity of An Nasiriyah, Iraq. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, Camp Lejeune, N.C. 2003.03.25 150-03

Cpl. Jorge A. Gonzalez, 20, Los Angeles, Calif. Gonzalez was killed in action March 23 in the vicinity of An Nasiriyah, Iraq. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, Camp Lejeune, N.C. 2003.03.25 150-03

Staff Sgt. Phillip A. Jordan, 42, Brazoria, Texas. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, Camp Lejeune, N.C. 2003.03.25 150-03

2nd Lt. Frederick E. Pokorney Jr., 31, Nye, Nev. Pokorney was killed in action March 23 in the vicinity of An Nasiriyah, Iraq. He was assigned to the Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, Camp Lejeune, N.C. 2003.03.25 150-03

Lance Cpl. Thomas J. Slocum, age unknown, Adams, Colo. Slocum was killed in action March 23 in the vicinity of An Nasiriyah, Iraq. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, Camp Lejeune, N.C. 2003.03.25 150-03

1st Lt. Tamara Archuleta, 23, of Los Lunas, N.M. Archuleta was killed in an HH-60 Pave Hawk accident in Afghanistan on March 23, 2003. She was assigned to the 41st Rescue Squadron, Moody AFB, Ga. 2003.03.24 144-03

Staff Sgt. Jason Hicks, 25, of Jefferson, S.C. Hicks was killed in an HH-60 Pave Hawk accident in Afghanistan Sunday. He was assigned to the 41st Rescue Squadron, Moody AFB, Ga. 2003.03.24 144-03

Master Sgt. Michael Maltz, 42, of St. Petersburg, Fla. Maltz was killed in an HH-60 Pave Hawk accident in Afghanistan Sunday. He was assigned to the 38th Rescue Squadron, Moody AFB, Ga. 2003.03.24 144-03

Senior Airman Jason Plite, 21, of Lansing, Mich. Plite was killed in an HH-60 Pave Hawk accident in Afghanistan Sunday. He was assigned to the 38th Rescue Squadron, Moody AFB, Ga. 2003.03.24 144-03

Lt. Col. John Stein, 39, of Bardolph, Ill. Stein was killed in an HH-60 Pave Hawk accident in Afghanistan Sunday. He was assigned to the 41st Rescue Squadron, Moody AFB, Ga. 2003.03.24 144-03

Staff Sgt. John Teal, 29, of Dallas, Texas. Teal was killed in an HH-60 Pave Hawk accident in Afghanistan Sunday. He was assigned to the 41st Rescue Squadron, Moody AFB, Ga. 2003.03.24 144-03

Spc. Brandon S. Tobler, 19. Hometown is not available. Tobler died in a non-hostile vehicle accident Saturday in Iraq. Tobler was assigned to the 671st Engineer Brigade, U.S. Army Reserve, Portland, Ore. 2003.03.23 143-03

Lance Cpl. Eric J. Orlowski, 26, of Buffalo, N.Y. Orlowski was killed by an accidental discharge of a .50 cal machine gun in Iraq. He was assigned to the 2nd Tank Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, Camp Lejeune, N.C. 2003.03.24 142-03

Sgt. Nicolas M. Hodson, 22, of Smithville, Mo. Hodson was killed in a vehicle accident in Iraq. He was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, Camp Lejeune, N.C. 2003.03.24 141-03

Capt. Christopher Scott Seifert, 27. No home-of-record is available. Seifert was killed by a grenade when he was sleeping in a tent at Camp Pennsylvania, Kuwait, on March 22. He was assigned to the 1-101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Ky. 2003.03.23 140-03

Lt. Thomas Mullen Adams, 27, USN of La Mesa, Calif. Adams was killed when two Royal Navy Sea King helicopters collided over international waters March 22. He had been assigned as an exchange officer with the Royal Navy's 849 Squadron since October 2002. The squadron's detachment was embarked on the Royal Navy aircraft carrier HMS Ark Royal. 2003.03.22 138-03

2nd Lt. Therrel S. Childers, 30, Harrison County, Miss. Childers was killed in action on March 21 in Southern Iraq. Childers was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, Calif. 2003.03.22 137-03

Lance Cpl. Jose Gutierrez, 22, Los Angeles, Calif. Gutierrez was killed in action on March 21 in Southern Iraq. Gutierrez was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, Calif. 2003.03.22 137-03

Maj. Jay Thomas Aubin, 36, of Waterville, Maine. Aubin was killed in a CH-46E helicopter crash on March 20 in Kuwait. Aubin was assigned to the Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron - 1, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz. 2003.03.21 135-03

Capt. Ryan Anthony Beaupre, 30, of Bloomington, Ill. Beaupre was killed in a CH-46E helicopter crash on March 20 in Kuwait. Beaupre was assigned to the Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron - 268, 3d Marine Aircraft Wing, Marine Corps Air Station Camp Pendleton, Calif. 2003.03.21 135-03

Cpl. Brian Matthew Kennedy, 25, of Houston, Texas. Kennedy was killed in a CH-46E helicopter crash on March 20 in Kuwait. Kennedy was assigned to the Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron - 268, 3d Marine Aircraft Wing, Marine Corps Air Station Camp Pendleton, Calif. 2003.03.21 135-03

Staff Sgt. Kendall Damon Watersbey, 29, of Baltimore, Md. Watersbey was killed in a CH-46E helicopter crash on March 20 in Kuwait. Watersbey was assigned to the Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron - 268, 3d Marine Aircraft Wing, Marine Corps Air Station Camp Pendleton, Calif. 2003.03.21 135-03

Pfc. Spence A. McNeil, 19, from Bennettsville, S.C. McNeil died on March 8, 2003 from injuries sustained when the vehicle he was traveling in rolled over March 3 near Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. He was assigned to B Battery, 3-43rd Air Defense Artillery, Fort Bliss, Texas. The accident is under investigation. 2003.03.11 109-03

Spc. Brian M. Clemens, 19, of Kokomo, Ind., died as a result of a High Mobility multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle rollover in Kuwait. Clemens was assigned to C Company, 1-293rd Infantry, Fort Wayne, Ind. The incident is under investigation. 2003.03.07 062-03

This brings the total U.S. deaths to 3566 plus those who died prior to 07 March 2003.

Notice: The VVIC Began honouring the Fallen on 29 May 2003 by reading each name aloud at the beginning of our meetings and has done so at every meeting since that date. However, the names of those who were killed after 11 September 2001 and through 28 May 2003 have not been read. This listing tonight includes four pages of those names back to 22 March 2003. We will continue to add these names until all have been honoured.

Announcements and Acknowledgements

President's Remarks

(D. Sinclair, AUS)

1st Vice President's Remarks

(G. Flowers, USMC)

2nd Vice President's Remarks

(T. O'Malley)

Chief of Staff's Remarks

(S. O'Grady, AUS)

Master At Arms Remarks

(K. Payne, USN)

General Collection

Minutes of the previous meeting

Finance Officer's Report

1. Final 2006 Annual Financial Report

This is the final report due from Year 2006. When former President Carmack transferred the records to then Acting Finance Officer Reid a report was issue to, and endorsed by, the membership at General Meeting 505 of 17 August 2006. We await, with bated breath, the final report on 2006.

Intelligence Officer's Report

Service Officer's Report

1. P. Knauth, AUS
2. C. Ricard, AUS
3. B. Shannon, UNK
4. Adam Adams (behalf of wife)
5. R. Harper, USMC

Inspector General's Report

Quartermaster's Report

Legislative matters:

H.R.0089: A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to extend eligibility for combat-related special compensation (CRSC) paid to certain uniformed services retirees who are retired under chapter 61 of such title with fewer than 20 years of creditable service.

Sponsor: Rep Bilirakis, Gus M. [FL-9] (introduced 1/4/07). Cosponsors (9). To support this bill and/or contact your Representative refer to <http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/bills/?bill=9240191>.

H.R.0243: A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for the payment of Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) to members of the Armed Forces retired for disability with less than 20 years of active military service who were awarded the Purple Heart. Sponsor: Rep Weller, Jerry [IL-11] (introduced 1/5/07). Cosponsors (None).

H.R.0303: A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain additional retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) and to eliminate the phase-in period under current law with respect to such concurrent receipt. Sponsor: Rep Bilirakis, Gus M. [FL-9] (introduced 1/5/07). Cosponsors (17). To support this bill and/or contact your Representative refer to <http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/bills/?bill=9240026>

H.R.0333: A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability rated less than 50% to receive concurrent payment of both retired pay and veterans' disability compensation, to eliminate the phase-in period for concurrent receipt, to extend eligibility for concurrent receipt and combat-related special compensation to chapter 61 disability retirees with less than 20 years of service, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Rep Marshall, Jim [GA-8] (introduced 1/9/07). Cosponsors (7). To support this bill and/or contact your Representative refer to <http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=9226426&type=ML>

H.R.0402: A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for annual cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) to be made automatically by law each year in the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans. Sponsor: Rep Knollenberg, Joe [MI-9] (introduced 1/11/07). Cosponsors (11)

S.0067: A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit former members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability rated as total to travel on military aircraft in the same manner and to the same extent as retired members of the Armed Forces are entitled to travel on such aircraft. Sponsor: Sen. Inouye, Daniel K. [HI] (introduced 1/4/07). Cosponsors (2).

S.0439: A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation. Sponsor: Sen. Reid, Harry [NV] (introduced 1/31/07). Cosponsors (12).

Administrative Items:

1. Appointments

Old Business:

1. VA Clinic in Bellingham, letter of support.

New Business:

1. Burial Information for Members on file.

New Business from the floor:

The next General Meeting is 29 March 2007 at 1930 hours at the British Columbia Regiment.



Vietnam Veterans In Canada

Minutes 518

General Meeting held on 01 March 2007 British Columbia Regiment, Vancouver, B.C.

VVIC 1st Vice President G. Flowers chaired the meeting.

6 People on the sign-in sheet which includes family member Susan Carmack and Dave Holwill B.C.R. barkeep.

Moment of Silence and the names of 92 U.S. Military Service member Casualties read out. This list includes the names of some Casualties from pre-May 2003.

Attachments and handouts:

- 1: Agenda #518 compiled by VVIC S-2.
- 2: Minutes of the American Legion Post #75 meeting of 1 Feb. 2007. Taken by American Legion 1st V.P Woody Carmack.
- 3: Attachment: PTSD made raise Heart Attack risk.-Assoc. Press Jan. 2007.
- 4: Attachment: Marines and mail guards, A story of the roaring 20's- by Bob Campbell
- 5: Attachment: Soldiers face Neglect, Frustration at Army's top Medical Facility- by Dana Priest and Anne Hull of the Washington Post, 18 Feb. 2007.
- 6: Attachment: Panel; Military mental health System Fails- American Psychological Assoc.

VVIC Intelligence Officer (S-2)W. Carmack's Remarks: VVIC President Don Sinclair unable to attend tonight's meeting due to illness.

1st V.P. Gerry Flower's remarks: VVIC membership cards mailed out and a note of encouragement to join our VVIC group sent out as well to known Vietnam Veterans in the B.C. area. Noted also that Gerry will be taking Don Ramsden to the Veteran's clinic in Bellingham tomorrow.

Chief of Staff's remark's: Expresses disappointment in seeing only one crew member of a UH-1H Helicopter receiving and decorated with the Medal of Honor by the U.S. President at the White House. Let it be noted that his 22 flights during the Battle of Ia Drang was successful only because of a crew of four. In Steve's view all four members of that aircraft, some of whom were wounded, should have been presented to the President even if they received Military accolades rated below the Medal of Honor. Please note that it was not a 1st Cavalry Division tradition to award one crewmember an award if all crew members participated in the event or events.

Master at Arms Ken Payne's remarks: The announcement of the passing of fellow Vietnam Veteran Pat Ball from the Bellingham area.... 15th of March Dr. Bokan to be at the Bellingham Veteran's Center.... Noted also that at the Center Mike Novotny does have a book showing former bases and other Military locations that were located in Vietnam. If one wishes to look at it, Mike will be more than happy to share it with you.

Noted at this time that VVIC Associate member Ted Snow's name has been added to the VVIC name and mailing list.

Service Officer's report: Paper work is in progress and continuing for Veterans P. Knauth, and C. Ricord.

Legislative Matters: Included in this meetings agenda is a list of Bills being put forward to the American Gov't. These Bills do have much to do with Veteran's concerns and issues and should be read by all U.S. Veterans. Please note that some of these bills do require support. If one wishes to support any of these Bills a Representative has to be contacted, his or her website address is in the Agenda.

New Business: Letters of Support are needed to get the new V.A. Clinic located in the Bellingham area as opposed to the Mt. Vernon area. These letters can be sent to the Bellingham Vet Center.

It was noted that a search party (S. Carmack) is being sent out to locate Shawn McSkimmings and family. Shawn, as we all know is a U.S. Army Iraqi Veteran who was living in the Vancouver area. We do know that Gail McSkimmings gave birth to a beautiful little girl late in 2006. Since her birth we have lost contact with the McSkimmings. All VVIC members are concerned and do hope and pray that all is well for them.

On our VVIC sick-list we have VVIC President Don Sinclair and Tom O'Malley. Our thoughts are with you, may both you Gentlemen get well soon.

Meeting adjourned at 2053.

Our next VVIC General Meeting shall take place same time, same location on March 15th 2007. And please note that the beatings will continue until morale improves.

Steve O'Grady,

Chief of Staff

(25 months as UH-1H Crewchief with the 1st Air Cav. Division Vietnam)



NC VA Hospital often gave poor care, report said

Posted on Fri, Mar. 09, 2007

MIKE DRUMMOND, PETER SMOLOWITZ MICHAEL GORDON

A team of federal investigators spent four days at a hospital here in 2005 to see whether thousands of N.C. veterans were consistently receiving safe and thorough care.

Their conclusion: Not a chance.

In particular, they cited what they called the inadequate care received by two veterans who died at the hospital.

The inspectors determined the Hefner VA Medical Center, one of the fastest-growing VA hospitals in the U.S., was a mess.

The report by the Office of the Medical Inspector, obtained by the Observer this week, surfaces as outrage over care for active and retired military sweeps the country.

Using the clinically blunt language of the medical bureaucracy, the team describes a facility with poorly trained doctors and nurses who, among other things, cut corners on treatment, manipulated records and didn't talk enough with patients and families.

As part of a wide-ranging list of recommendations, the inspectors said the hospital should take "immediate appropriate action ... to ensure patient safety."

Oscar Aylor, a UNC Chapel Hill professor who has helped run three hospitals, says the report reveals "a gross lack of leadership at almost every level, certainly medically.

"You should just be appalled at the whole situation."

Interim director Sidney Steinberg said Thursday that portions of the report are "not true or reflective of what we did."

He said the hospital has made the recommended changes. He said at least three doctors and a chief nurse were fired a month after the report, though the moves were in the works before investigators showed up.

Though they never made a follow-up trip to Salisbury, federal investigators say they closed the case last year. Donald Moore, director of the hospital at the time of the inspection and now head of a VA facility in Phoenix, could not be reached for comment.

The Office of the Medical Inspector, which investigates care for veterans, launched the review after an anonymous complaint about 12 suspicious deaths at the Salisbury facility. The report

focuses on two cases: Carrol Edward Minish of Conover and Robert Edward Lashmit of Lexington.

The investigators stop short of blaming the hospital for the deaths -- both men had chronic health problems -- but they conclude the staff didn't do nearly enough to keep them alive.

The report did not account for the 10 other deaths. Besides the two cases highlighted, it noted that several other surgery patients received care that "was marginal at best, and in some cases, substandard."

To be sure, some patients said they've been pleased with Salisbury for years. The vice president of the Charlotte VFW, for instance, said he won't go to a closer doctor because he likes the one in Salisbury.

Recent reports of poor conditions for wounded war troops at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., has led to a shakeup at the highest rungs of the Army.

Now, government inspectors are taking a closer look at VA hospitals, the gateway to medical care for millions no longer on active duty.

Two years ago, the eight-member OMI team spent four days at Hefner "to determine whether surgical patients were at risk and whether safe competent care was being provided."

Their report said the treatment of Lashmit, 41, who died in 2003, and Minish, 68, who died in 2004, failed those standards.

Their names and many of the dates of their treatment and deaths are blacked out on the report. The Observer identified them by examining records in Rowan County and contacting relatives.

Some details of their treatment are startling.

For example, Lashmit's condition and vital signs were not updated during his 19-day stay. Instead, investigators found, his doctor "copied and pasted the same daily progress note for the entire hospitalization."

That meant information vital to Lashmit's treatment remained the same even as his condition deteriorated.

He died of liver failure. Later, when investigators asked Lashmit's doctor about pasting outdated records, they said he told them: "no one told him he could not do it."

Minish, 68, of Conover checked into Hefner with a swollen foot and gangrene on his left big toe -- as well as a range of illnesses from diabetes to heart problems.

After a Hefner surgeon -- the report does not give a name -- removed the toe, Minish's condition worsened. He died the morning after surgery.

Investigators say the hospital didn't adequately assess Minish before and after the surgery, recurring problems that led to "poor outcomes" for other patients.

The doctor on duty prescribed treatment for Minish without ever examining him, the report finds, "and the patient did not receive proper assessment and care by the nursing staff."

Investigators wrote that interviews with the surgeon indicated that his grasp of certain areas critical to Minish's treatment were "rudimentary at best, and not at the level expected of a staff physician."

Minish's three children had been frustrated with their father's care but said they were surprised Thursday when they learned through the Observer of the investigation into his death.

"It makes me mad," said Carolyn Winters, who was with her father for most of that night. "These people served your country, served for you. They ought to get more."

The federal team recommended almost 20 major reforms, including better training for doctors and nurses along with a system to critique treatment. The group's report indicates some basic failings, citing cases "involving entry into body cavities" for which the hospital did not have an adequately scrubbed surgical assistant on hand.

The Carolinas have six VA facilities, and ground has broken for a new one in Charlotte.

The W.G. (Bill) Hefner VA Medical Center was built in 1953, originally as a mental health ward. The 337-bed facility has since morphed into a full-service medical and mental health hospital, which last year handled 407,000 patient visits, officials said.

Steinberg, the acting director, said veterans from previous and current wars began flooding the facility this decade. The hospital and its satellite clinics went from treating about 31,000 patients in 2000 to more than 61,000 last year.

He said the hospital has hired more staff, and problems the OMI found are in the past, he said.

"As a veteran and physician, I can tell you I wouldn't have a moment's hesitation having one of our surgeons operate on me."

The staffs of U.S. House Reps. Robin Hayes, Sue Myrick and Mel Watt say they have received few complaints about the facility.

Aylor, the UNC professor, said VAs across the country have improved over the past decade. He said that makes some of the offenses noted in the inspection "absolutely unacceptable."

Teresa Lashmit said her brother Robert was injured in a 1981 car accident on the way home from Fort Bragg. Medication controlled the resulting seizures but ate at his liver.

Yet until the day he died, she said, Robert's VA doctor in Salisbury insisted his liver was OK.

She remembers her late mother's response. "Then why don't you go tell my son who's yellow with jaundice and dying how that can be?"

-- staff researcher Sara Klemmer and staff writer Stella M. Hopkins contributed.

-- Stella M. Hopkins: 704-358-5173

Not Compassionate, Not Conservative

A political traditionalist critiques our pseudo-conservative president

By Ethan Fishman

In 1954 the celebrated American historian Richard Hofstadter offered his explanation for McCarthyism in an essay he contributed to *THE AMERICAN SCHOLAR* titled “The Pseudo-Conservative Revolt.” Looking back on his essay 11 years later, Hofstadter noted: “I have written nothing else of comparable brevity that aroused more attention or drew more requests for quotation or reprinting.”

Seeking to understand the underlying social psychology of McCarthyism, Hofstadter borrowed the term pseudo-conservative from the philosopher Theodor Adorno to designate Americans who cloaked their “serious and restless dissatisfaction with American life, traditions and institutions” in the guise and rhetoric of conservatism. Hofstadter, who studied alternative explanations for political conduct, hypothesized that the dissatisfaction of 1950s pseudo-conservatives was based on a fear of loss of status common to open societies where social mobility is relatively fluid.

Compounding their fear in the McCarthy era was anxiety generated by the post–World War II nuclear arms race, which created a doomsday scenario in the minds of many Americans. In response to these fears, Hofstadter argued, alienated groups began describing themselves as conservative because the term appeared to identify them as being diametrically opposed to the forces they perceived were threatening both their lives and their social positions. As Hofstadter pointed out, however, from a strictly political perspective there was nothing authentically conservative about their arguments. In the first place, they were trying desperately to overturn the status quo of New Deal America— not to conserve it. Furthermore, they adhered to an ideology of anti-intellectualism, substituting feelings and emotions for the rational discourse that for millennia has characterized the history of Western conservative thought. “The pseudo-conservative tends to be more than ordinarily incoherent” about political issues, Hofstadter wrote. The result, he maintained, was a politics that emphasized unarticulated psychological impulses over reasonable analysis—a politics of the gut, in other words, rather than of the mind.

Another reason Hofstadter considered McCarthyism to be a form of pseudo-conservatism had to do with the rage with which it expressed its opposition to the American political system and with the reckless policies it supported. Conservatism as a political philosophy is analogous to conservatism as a personality trait. Both stress moderation, practicality, and prudence. “Look before you leap” and “a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush” might well be their credos. As Hofstadter reminded readers of *THE AMERICAN SCHOLAR*, however, McCarthyism had virtually nothing “in common with the temperate and compromising spirit of true conservatism in the classical sense of the word.”

Today another form of pseudo-conservatism threatens American institutions. Under the

administration of George W. Bush, our public policy has for six years been shaped by those who discount reason to practice a politics of largely inchoate sentiments.

In order to recognize the counterfeit quality of the pseudo-conservatism that Hofstadter identified, as well as the “compassionate conservatism” Bush sometimes espouses, one has only to turn to the political philosophies of Aristotle and Edmund Burke. It is in their works, notably Aristotle’s *Politics* and *Nicomachean Ethics* and Burke’s *Reflections on the Revolution in France* (1790), that the basic principles of the Western conservative tradition can be found. At the heart of Aristotle’s and Burke’s thinking is a belief in the existence of natural law, a set of moral ideals that gives meaning to such terms as honor, integrity, justice, and courage. Neither Aristotle nor Burke possessed much faith in the rationality and morality of human beings. They feared that without the guidance that natural law provides, humans would forfeit their opportunities to lead virtuous lives and establish just governments. Because Aristotle and Burke considered them to be universal, these moral ideas were meant to apply to every human relationship—including economics.

Aristotle and Burke supported private property and free enterprise on the basis of the distinguishing characteristic of human beings—the possession of a soul that makes it possible for us to exercise free will and become unique individuals. One of the advantages of private property, they taught, is that it helps us to develop and manifest our individuality as well as to express one of their most cherished ideals, generosity. If people did not own property to share, they pointed out, generosity would be a largely empty virtue. But Aristotle’s and Burke’s support for private property and free enterprise was not unlimited. The standards of natural law require owners to treat workers the same way they would like to be treated if the roles were reversed and challenge merchants to provide consumers with a fair product at a fair price.

From this perspective, what makes the Bush administration an example of pseudo-conservatism is its dogmatic commitment to laissez-faire policies that deny the relevance of universal ideals and that rely primarily on market forces to guide economic activities. In its pursuit of laissez-faire economic policies, the Bush administration has relaxed banking standards, introduced no bid government contracts, allowed private corporations greater access to public lands, and refrained from limiting monopolistic practices. It has sought, furthermore, to reduce governmental responsibility for the welfare of its elderly citizens by advocating the privatization of Social Security accounts.

By assuming that some form of economic justice will result from the relatively unchecked selfishness of individuals and corporations, the policies of the Bush administration contradict Aristotle’s and Burke’s negative views of human behavior. Reinhold Niebuhr’s *The Children of Light and the Children of Darkness* (1944) echoed Aristotle’s and Burke’s rejection of unlimited economic freedom for its smug optimism. Only people who think of themselves as “harmless egotists,” Niebuhr remarked, could fail to understand that when the “economic process is left severely alone either the strong devour the weak, in which case monopoly displaces competition, or competition breeds chaos in the community.”

Consistent in its inconsistency, the Bush administration celebrates economic freedom while acting to curtail other basic American freedoms, such as privacy, religion, speech, and press.

The same government that hesitates to apply explicit moral standards to economic behavior has had few qualms about restricting the Fourth Amendment right against warrant less searches, loosening rules on the confidentiality of medical records, supporting faith based initiatives that cause citizens to subsidize religions to which they do not belong, ordering librarians to divulge information on material checked out by patrons, and attempting to influence the content of National Public Radio and public television. Equally disturbing has been its approach to sexual issues. Among the manifestations of pseudo-conservatism that Hofstadter observed in 1954 was the vindictive quality of the policies it espoused. By opposing abortion as well as convenient access to birth control, the administration has demonstrated a punitive attitude toward sexual conduct.

Another serious disconnect between the Bush administration and traditional Western political conservatism is its foreign policy. Although Aristotle and Burke believed in universal ideals, they were not idealists. Instead, they practiced a politics of prudence that seeks to adjust immutable natural laws to constantly changing situations and circumstances. The unique value of prudence, Aristotle wrote, is its ability to ensure that governments do the right thing at the right time "in the right way." Burke called prudence "the first of all virtues" because it alone can teach governments how to bring "power and right" into harmony. Indeed, Burke's famous criticism of the French Revolution was based upon his appreciation of political prudence.

Although Burke promoted the ideal of free government as the necessary political correlate to personal free will, his understanding of prudence taught him that societies are organisms that require great care in order to endure and flourish. They can be modified, consequently, only with considerable thought and patience. At the end of the 18th century, France had been living under feudal autocrats for centuries. When the revolutionaries ignored their past and tried to introduce a historically unprecedented level of "liberty, fraternity, and equality" into their society virtually overnight, Burke predicted that death and destruction beyond anything the French had ever experienced would soon transpire.

Burke favored the American Revolution, on the other hand, because he judged Americans, as former English men and women, to be seeking to adapt traditional English ideals of self-rule for their new home. He considered their goal to be a relatively moderate one that would serve to lay a firm foundation for the evolution of free government in the United States. Burke explained this in his Reflections:

I flatter myself that I love a manly, moral, regulated liberty as well as any gentleman. But I cannot stand forward and give praise or blame to anything which relates to human actions, and human concerns, on a simple view of the object, as it stands stripped of every relation, in all the nakedness and solitude of metaphysical abstraction. Circumstances (which with some gentlemen pass for nothing) give in reality to every political principle its distinguishing colour and discriminating effect. The circumstances are what render every civil and political scheme beneficial or noxious to mankind.

By Aristotle's and Burke's theories of evolutionary change, the Bush administration's decisions to invade and occupy Iraq were clearly imprudent. A number of explanations have been

offered to justify these policies. One was that Saddam Hussein possessed nuclear weapons. Another was that he was in league with Al Qaeda terrorists who attacked the United States on 9/11. The latest is that we need to remake Iraq into a democracy that will serve as a political role model for the rest of the Middle East. Although the first two explanations have been discredited by the thorough investigations of several bipartisan congressional committees and independent commissions, the Bush administration continues to stick by them. This strategy calls to mind Hofstadter's observation that pseudo-conservatives are suspicious of reasonable analysis and often rely on knee-jerk reactions to reach policy decisions.

As Bush's former Secretary of the Treasury Paul O'Neill revealed in Ron Suskind's book *The Price of Loyalty* (2004), the president in 2001—for reasons that were never explained fully and seemed like a snap judgment at the time—informed his cabinet that he was thinking seriously about overthrowing Saddam. It was especially shocking to O'Neill that Bush announced his convictions about Iraq only 10 days after his inauguration and a full eight months before 9/11. "Conviction is something you need in order to act," O'Neill said. "But your action needs to be proportional to the depth of evidence that underlies your conviction."

The third explanation is even more bewildering from a traditional conservative point of view. Iraq has never come close to being a democracy. The Iraqi people have never been free and rarely have shown an inclination to fight and die for freedom. In the context of Iraqi history, therefore, the administration's vision of a democratic Iraq is reminiscent of the mistakes made by the French revolutionaries. Both acted as if dreams can easily be translated into political reality. Both upheld the ideal of freedom, but neither was able to adapt that ideal to the specific circumstances they encountered. Both were unable to appreciate the staggering costs in human lives and property that are unavoidable when radical change is pursued over a very short period of time.

The Bush administration's attitudes toward the national debt and the environment represent another break with the Western conservative tradition. Aristotle's and Burke's writings remind today's generations that we have a moral responsibility to leave the world a better place for our descendants. This is why, Walter Lippmann explained in *Essays in the Public Philosophy* (1955), "young men die in battle for their country's sake and why old men plant trees they will never sit under." After six years of a supply-side economic policy that increases government spending but declines to pay the bills by increasing taxes, however, the administration has left our children with a national debt of more than \$8 trillion. By refusing to ratify the international Kyoto Protocol on global warming, deciding against requiring automobile manufacturers to raise fuel-efficiency ratings, withdrawing funds from the EPA, FEMA, and the Corps of Engineers, and discouraging wetlands-preservation projects, the administration may have set the stage for future environmental catastrophes on the order of Hurricane Katrina. Our children will have to cope with these disasters.

Other similarities between Bush administration policies and Hofstadter's description of pseudo conservatism include: hostility toward the United Nations; a penchant for amending the Constitution; an insistence on political conformity; an inability to make subtle distinctions between international players, which is required for effectiveness on the world political stage; and a reliance on the populist rhetoric of anti-intellectualism. John Bolton, Bush's U.N.

ambassador, has taken the position that the institution is largely irrelevant. The Bush administration has supported amendments to the Constitution regarding flag burning and homosexual marriage. Americans who want to set a deadline for our troops' withdrawal from Iraq are described as traitorous "cut-and-runners." The failure of Senator McCarthy and his followers in 1954 to recognize that communist regimes in the Soviet Union, China, Yugoslavia, and Vietnam were different seems similar to the Bush administration's insistence that organizations such as Al Qaeda, Hezbollah, and Hamas are all part of a unified group of "Islamofascist" terrorists. Furthermore, the Bush administration's approach to such issues as creationism, placing replicas of the Ten Commandments in public places, and the Terri Schiavo debacle contains a good deal of anti-intellectual populist rhetoric.

Perhaps the most valuable aspect of Hofstadter's 1954 AMERICAN SCHOLAR essay is its ability to explain more than 50 years later why traditional conservatives tend to get so exasperated with the Bush administration. Traditional conservatives—of whom I am one—consider themselves loyal citizens who want to believe that their president knows what he is doing. So we keep trying, with little success, to appreciate the logic of his budget deficits, incoherent foreign policies, attacks on constitutional rights, anti-environmentalism, and puritanical attitude toward sex. What Hofstadter teaches us is that these policies were never meant to be understood logically in the first place. As he wrote in a later essay, "Pseudo-Conservatism Revisited—1965":

As a rule, [pseudo-conservatism] does more to express emotions than to formulate policies. It is in fact hard to translate the claims of [its] policies into programs or concrete objectives . . . and for the most part the proponents of such politics, being less concerned with the uses of power than with its alleged misuse, do not offer positive programs to solve social problems. The operative content of their demands is more likely to be negative: they call on us mainly to prohibit, to prevent, to censor and censure, to discredit, and to punish.

Despite the brilliance of Hofstadter's analysis, there is a major difference between pseudo-conservatism and its traditional counterpart that he neglected to discuss. Aristotle's and Burke's pessimistic view of human nature, their belief in a system of natural law that sets moral parameters for human behavior, their development of a theory of prudence that appreciates the difficulties involved in translating morally preferable ideals into politically feasible policies, and their commitment to moderation and caution are major components of traditional conservatism's emphasis on doubt and limits. Traditional conservatives believe that the universe imposes profound restrictions on what individuals and governments can accomplish. They adhere, according to Noel O'Sullivan in his book *Conservatism* (1976), to a "philosophy of imperfection, committed to the idea of limits" that regards human beings as "imperfect, dependent" creatures who are "doomed to make the best of things by the more modest policies of compromise and accommodation."

The Bush administration, however, has not consistently recognized doubt and limitations. Despite the burgeoning national debt, the administration declines to heed the advice of fiscal conservatives either to raise taxes or seriously reduce public spending. Despite the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina, the administration persists in ignoring the warnings

of prominent scientists about the destructive effects of global warming. Despite former Army Chief of Staff Eric Shinseki's concern that we would need "several hundred thousand soldiers" in Iraq, the administration went ahead with its preconceived plan for a diminished force. With a certainty bordering on arrogance, the administration has behaved as if it believes the national debt somehow will disappear, nature will heal global warming on its own, and Iraqis will soon come to their senses, welcome Americans as their saviors, and conclude that democracy is preferable to secular or religious tyranny.

Certainty in the face of strong evidence to the contrary is the hallmark of ideological thinking. Ultimately, it is the ideological quality of Bush administration policies that classifies them as pseudo-conservative. Whereas ideologues advance one doctrinaire solution to every problem regardless of the circumstances, traditional conservatives expect political leaders to adjust their convictions to the situation at hand. Whereas ideologues prefer to deal with political abstractions, traditional conservatives seek to practice a more practical form of politics that operates, in Burke's words, on a level of "the more or less, the earlier or the later, and on a balance of advantage and inconvenience, of good and evil."

An especially troubling assault on traditional conservative limits and doubts has been the administration's adherence to a strategy for presidential leadership that it calls the "doctrine of the unitary executive." Among the people who participated in the formulation of this doctrine were Bush appointees Attorney General Alberto Gonzales and Justice Samuel Alito. Gonzales helped to develop it when he served as Bush's White House counsel; Alito, when he was a lawyer in Ronald Reagan's Justice Department. To the administration the "doctrine of the unitary executive" means that the executive branch can interpret laws any way it wants—even if its interpretation differs markedly from the directives of Congress and the Supreme Court.

Although this doctrine represents an egregious violation of the separation of powers, the president has used it with impunity. Bush has claimed that he will disregard laws prohibiting warrantless wiretapping of domestic phone calls. He has said that he intends to ignore the provisions of the Patriot Act with which he disagrees. When Bush announced that he vehemently opposed the Military Commissions Act being considered by Congress, which would restrict his ability to detain and torture enemy combatants, Congress caved in to the president's pressure and virtually granted him the power to interpret the Geneva Convention as he sees fit.

With the two-term presidential limit in effect and the end of the Bush administration in sight, can we expect that pseudo-conservatism is about to run its course? Do the recent midterm election results indicate that moderate Americans have grown disillusioned with pseudo-conservative policies? Only for the time being, Hofstadter would maintain. Just as McCarthyism was followed by the presidential campaigns of Barry Goldwater and George Wallace, Richard Nixon's "Silent Majority," the Reagan presidency, and the current administration, it is inevitable that another version of pseudo-conservatism will appear on the American political scene.

As long as citizens remain fearful of their status in society and as long as Americans continue to dread attacks from powerful enemies committed to the destruction of their country,

Hofstadter warned, the specter of pseudoconservatism never will completely vanish. In 1954, he prophetically noted: "We do live in a disordered world . . . of enormous potential violence, that has already shown us the ugliest capacities of the human spirit. . . . These considerations suggest that the pseudo-conservative political style . . . is one of the long waves of [contemporary] American history and not a momentary mood."

Ethan Fishman, professor of political science at the University of South Alabama, is the author of *The Prudential Presidency*.

From *The American Scholar*

<http://www.theamericanscholar.org/archives/wi07/notcompassionate-fishman.html>