Condensed

Hello everyone:

My name is Glenn Stewart and I am a GWI casualty. As my health continues to deteriorate the ability to continue to fight and advocate for Gulf War Illness gets harder and harder. These days I have made peace realizing that my days on this planet are soon coming to an end and I am okay with that. This may be my last and final speech before this committee since death is close by. However that does not mean that I am giving up the fight in hopes for a possible a cure.

Us veterans of the first Gulf War already know the truth concerning GWI. Since 1994 the US government already knew we were exposed to chemical and biological weapons of which DOD, CIA, and several others supplied materials including anthrax, VX, West Nile and botulism to Iraq during the Iraq and Iran war. All you have to do is Google search "The Riegle report". We also know that Operation Bronze Anvil was launched as a PR campaign by DOD, CIA, VA and others to discredit the validity of GWI. We already know that we were given experimental drugs and vaccines which bypassed FDA testing, approval and regulation. We already know that even though the US signed the Geneva Convention, it continued to develop bio and chemical agents. Will we ever see justice for these offenses? I think not. It would be nice of them to explain to my grandchildren, how grandpa will not be here much longer.

However I come today before this committee asking for mercy and human dignity. Too many veterans are dying due to health issues related to GWI or they have taken their own lives because of the extreme pain and suffering. For us the clock is quickly running out. A lot of research has shown the physical damage GWI has caused, such as mitochondrial dysfunction, changes of our brains, cognitive

dysfunction, etc... But little effort is being placed on providing reliable treatments to give us our lives back or maybe even a cure.

During my search for answers, I realized the fact that if you closely look at GWII, LUPUS and Lyme disease the similarities between these illnesses. My further search leads me to believe that these three illnesses are closely related, biological in nature and are in fact manmade modifications of some kind of virus or bacteria, such as the AIDs virus. Not the same virus, but very close cousins. If you closely examine GWI, LUPUS and Lyme they all affect the autoimmune system with almost identical symptoms. Just looking at GWI, we are constantly reporting the continuous low grade fevers, which in my case happens almost every day. This is a clear indication that the immune system is trying to fight off an infection. Many times GWI veterans will refer to these events as "flare ups" and stuck in a perpetual cycle. The autoimmune system kicks in and starts attacking the foreign agent. The temperature starts to drop and the autoimmune systems is fooled into believing it has won and goes into remission, not realizing that there MUST be a breeding ground where the virus is incubating and multiplying for the next attack. This is NOT the normal pattern which follows a chemical contamination. By nature if it is chemical in nature, the body will try to eliminate it. So you start to see a declining effect of the chemical agent. GWI is the opposite.

You know one of my most favorite speeches of all times is that done by Dr Martin Luther King Jr. "I have a dream". As a GWI veteran I also have a dream and aspirations that someday soon a cure may be found. I have hopes of someday getting my life back which was stolen from me and other veterans back in 1991. I have hopes and dreams of being able to live long enough to see my grandchildren graduate from

high school and just maybe being able to see my first great grandchildren being born. I have hopes that many other GWI veterans will rise up and declare "NO MORE. NO MORE, WILL MY VOICE BE IGNORED". It Is up to us veterans to become activist and advocates for the cause. We must educate ourselves on the law and the research being conducted. Actively demonstrating, contacting our elected officials, the press and the president requesting VA reform, aggressive research be conducted to find a cure and implementation of new laws to prevent this from ever happening again. I urge all veteran organization and supporters to take a stand with us. Let those in charge know that the inhumane treatment of GWI and other victims of toxic exposures will not be tolerated and must be addressed now, not tomorrow.

Make no mistake us veterans suffering from Gulf War Illness are in a fight for our own lives.

Thank you.