

4-6-2011

Friends:

I am sending this so that you might acquaint yourselves with my feelings on the Agent Orange issue, as it stands now. For those of you who do not know who I am or what my participation has been in this matter, rather than go through my curriculum vitae I will suggest that you either google me or ask your contacts who do know me.

My group, in 1979 was instrumental in establishing the first Agent Orange Commission in the United States, within the State of New Jersey. It was because of that commission and Dr. Peter Kahn of Rutgers Univ. that the original testing of Vietnam vets began to actually take place, including the liver biopsy test. The VA, at the time was providing a less than an adequate "Agent Orange screening", which was, in essence, a pretty perfunctory medical screening. The greatest fallacy of this effort was that no one can test anything or anyone if they not only don't have a clue as to what they are looking at or for.

My immediate concerns are not for the veterans from the United States, Vietnam, Australia, Korea or any other country who sent troops to the Southeast Asia Theater. It is not that I have no sympathy for these men and women, it is because the damage was done so long ago, that the effects on these victims directly, are what they are. My concern is for the children, now grown, and the grandchildren, now growing of these effected vets.

It is was my belief that the responsible parties, who are NOT THE CHEMICAL COMPANIES, but the Department of Defense, Veterans Administration, Health and Human Service, amongst other agencies of the United States. When the 1984 settlement (sellout and hush monies) were awarded by the 11 chemical companies, of which the only well compensated factions were the plaintiffs' legal consortium, Aetna Insurance Co., the Special Master appointed by Judge Weinstein, these monies were paid, not as a victory, but without admitting responsibility, in order the assist the government to hopefully lay to rest this most horrendous war crime. The government could not be sued due to the Ferros Doctrine, and the chemical companies used their insurance policies to pay a "nuisance value claim". The actual defendant should have been the DOD because they were the purchaser who provided exact specifications regarding the manufacture of the product they want, from the chemical companies, the DOD accepted shipment, paid for the product and then used it not only improperly according to the use instructions provided, but blatantly, in essence killed their own troops with the long term effects of their actions, That is why Judge Weinstein has continuously dismissed any actions against the chemical industry. This government's "dirty little secret" is that for over 30 years, the vets, their children and anyone else effected by the government ordered poison, has been suing the wrong parties.

In 1981, my son Alexander (Alex) Kopystenski, was certified by 6 United States Congressmen and the General Accounting Office, as the first Agent Orange child in the United States due to his documented medical records and severe problems. However, the government did not recognize Agent Orange vets, much less children at that time, and still do not recognize the children of male Vietnam veterans. At that point in history, there was no DNA testing being done, however, my son's medical history has been well documented for the past 33 years and recently we were able to find the proof positive, as well as a way to establish the mutated DNA passed on to the children of effected vets. In 2009, my son, a little more than a year after his Dad, John Kopystenski finally succumbed to his exposure in 1965/1966 in Southeast Asia, was

hospitalized and near death himself, from what was a mirrored image of the medical problems that took his father's life. Alex's DNA has been continuously tested by a number of re known specialists, who have ascertained and documented that one full half of our son's DNA is healthy and the other half is "acutely mutated". I even went so far as to have tests done on myself to verify that the DNA that was found to be normal and healthy.

My suggestion is and the purpose of the Agent Orange profile that we are preparing for children and grandchildren is to establish research and testing of the DNA of those offspring to compile the information of this infallible method of establishing if the mutation can be used as proof positive of the inherited medical anomalies.

To consistently run tests based upon one condition or even a series of conditions to try to establish a common denominator is a waste of time, money and effort in order to delay responsibility by a government that could care less for those who served and those who suffer. I welcome any and all input into the questionnaire that we are preparing.

When I gave testimony before the International Tribunal on Agent Orange in Paris (May 15, 2009), the findings of that Tribunal was that the spraying of Agent Orange and its counterparts was a "war crime", however, to date, this crime and genocide has not been picked up by the World Court.

For the Truth

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