



January 8, 2014

Chairman Binns, distinguished members of the Research Advisory Committee, and members in attendance. My name is Ronald Brown and I serve as the President of the National Gulf War Resource Center.

The Gulf War Review was an informative newsletter sent out to veterans of the Gulf War that provided information on Gulf War related issues. This informative newsletter was stopped quite a few years back and veterans now are left wondering what new advancements are taking place concerning Gulf War illness.

The Gulf War Review newsletter was a great idea when it started and it still can be. This is just another example of how the Gulf War Veteran feels like a Forgotten Warrior. This newsletter was designed to keep us informed and was stopped with no explanation. If the cost of sending the letters out was an issue, then why not put it directly on the VA web site every 3 months. The VA already has people who update its site, why not just keep the newsletter updated on the web page too? We can read all of the past reviews there now.

We at the NGWRC would like to see the Gulf War review restarted to help keep veterans informed of the current research taking place around the country related to Gulf War illness. Not only should the new Gulf War Review include the research taking place, where it is happening, and how to become a part of

these studies; but it should also include the results of research that has been completed and published, written in layman terms, so the veterans can read it and understand it.

Research is a vital part of finding causes and hopefully cures to the illnesses that affect the sick gulf war veterans. There should never be a lack of veteran participation in the research studies, and one of the ways to ensure that this research gets the exposure and participation from sick veterans is thru the Gulf War review.

The NGWRC has had researches like those at the Minneapolis VA contact us to advertise their research studies so that gulf war veterans could participate in it. This is a primary example of why we need the Gulf War Review newsletter.

With millions of dollars being spent on research, veterans should be informed preferably every 3 months, or at least every 6 months, of what is happening and where so that they can participate in studies being conducted close to where they live.

It makes no sense to spend millions on research with very small groups when often; the studies are small simply because those who could participate are unaware of them. Research facilities have little to no participation from the veterans the studies are intended for because veterans cannot participate if they don't know about them.

The Veterans also need to make sure they step up and actively participate in said research that is being done close enough to participate in.

That said though, at this point, many veterans feel that being a guinea pig for a study that never changes treatment protocols or makes it to the desks of their physicians for implementation in their care, is pointless. There is a huge disconnect between the veterans and the research studies because for many years now, the VA has conducted studies showing we are sick, showing that this or that helps, but when we go to our primary care physicians, they are unaware of the studies, unaware of treatment protocols that may help us, and many times, unaware that they could implement them in the care of their patients.

We at the NGWRC feel that the VA could do much more to help veterans and their physicians understand why research is important, and how it will hopefully lead to either a cure or better quality of life for all sick veterans. The Gulf War Review is one tool that should be used to accomplish just that.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Veterans Administration and Research Advisory Committee and all members in attendance for the opportunity to present the Forgotten Warrior Project II to you. We at the NGWRC will continue to work for a solution that will benefit our sick Gulf War Veterans this I can promise you. Because, we will let no Gulf War Veteran get left behind to become a Forgotten Warrior II.

Thank you for your time.

Ronald E. Brown  
President

# National Gulf War Resource Center