



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

September 10, 2013

Principal Contact (Global Campaign against IEDs):

Robert C. Morris, Jr.
Phone (U.S.): (757) 869-6770
FAX: (U.S.): (270) 477-7087
Email: bob.morris@partners-international.org

Additional information available at:

www.CampaignAgainstIEDs.org

Boston Bombing Victim Calls on Congress to Act against Improvised Explosive Devices

Calls on Congress to Condemn the Use of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and Resolve the gap in Information Sharing Between Government Agencies and the Private Sector to help IED Victims

Washington, D.C. – On the anniversary of the September 11th attacks, a victim of the Boston Marathon IED attack is calling on Congress to take actions that will work to reduce the proliferation of these indiscriminate weapons and help victims of IED attacks.

On April 15, 2013, Dr. Joanna Leigh, witnessed the first explosion at the Boston Marathon and ran to help. Suddenly, less than 10 feet in front of her the second IED detonated throwing her back and onto the ground unconscious. She awoke to her legs being trampled in the chaos that followed the attack. Rising shakily to her feet, Dr. Leigh, saw an old man covered in blood staggering toward her, half collapsed, his hand/arm flayed open. She held him up and brought him to a safe area to provide aid. She continued to help treat the wounded and load them into ambulances, never seeking medical attention for herself. It was only many weeks after the attack that she understood how badly she was hurt.

Dr. Leigh was later diagnosed with severe closed Traumatic Brain Injury , significant vision loss, 50 percent hearing loss and other blast-related conditions. She lost portions of her ability to hear, see, taste, smell, remember, find things, organize, plan, speak properly, find her way, navigate a supermarket, drive, do a load of laundry cook, etc. She is unable to read or work at her computer or see her phone because her eyes are too blurry, yet she lacks the funds to buy a larger screen or speech-to-text technology. “I regularly become lost and terrified half a block from my house,” says Dr. Leigh. “not even knowing what city I am in, how I got there, or how to get home, and I have forgotten the password on my phone so I cannot call anybody.

Leigh has been directed not to work for 2 years in order to allow her brain to heal, yet because she did not lose any limbs and was not immediately hospitalized after the Boston attack, she received only \$8,000 from the One Fund set up to support the Boston Marathon victims while amputees received \$1.2M. and those immediately hospitalized received from \$125, 000 to \$984,300.

In a letter to Members of Congress Dr. Leigh is calling on them to act against IEDs and support all victims of these attacks by supporting House Resolution 190 previously introduced by Representative Richards Hanna (R-NY).

“As a victim whose life was forever changed by the Boston IED attack, I call on all Members of Congress to expeditiously pass House Resolution 190 that you sponsored to answer this call. There is no legitimate reason not to support and expedite this important legislation.” Says Dr. Leigh.

According to COL (Ret) Bob Morris of the Global Campaign against IEDs, “This lack of information-sharing also hampered development of One Fund compensation criteria. For example, the Department of Defense’s Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization (JIEDDO) uses millions of its \$1B(+) annual budget on IED event data and blast-trauma research. It does not adequately share the results of these efforts with other agencies or the private sector. Consequently many are not aware of the data and issues addressed by these research findings.”

Morris also praises Leigh’s continued efforts to help all IED victims.

“On this, the anniversary of September 11th”, says Morris, “Dr. Leigh’s call to action is especially timely. The planes used in the September 11th attacks were the largest IEDs ever built, and besides the well known attacks from Oklahoma City to the Boston Marathon, in just the period from 4- 26 August there were IED events in 20 U.S. States including 16 bomb threats; 8 components and devices discovered; and 18 detonations. None of these were terrorist attacks. The U.S. deals with IED events of all sizes every day. Dr. Leigh’s call to action is both timely and courageous.”

According to the Global Campaign, Dr. Leigh’s injuries are common for IED blast victims and are seen in large numbers among active duty military and veterans. The top four IED related injuries are hearing loss, TBI, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and vision loss. Over 84% of U.S. military combat injuries in Afghanistan and Iraq are due to IEDs including 249,480 with hearing loss; 222,600 TBIs, 210,202 experiencing PTSD; and 110,022 with vision impairments. There have been only total 1,715 amputations. 34% of these IED victims suffer from both hearing and vision loss and 75% of TBI victims have visual dysfunctions.

“Percentages may be higher for Boston victims,” says Morris “because they lacked military protective equipment.”

In the conclusion of her letter to Congress, Dr. Leigh wrote: “I trust you will stand with me as not only a proud citizen who asks what you can do for your country, but as a public representative imbued with the obligation to serve with honor and passion. The information sharing, support to the public safety sector, and actions to help our veterans called for in H. Res. 190 and other actions by the Global Campaign must be supported and I respectfully call on you to do so.”

House Resolution 190, currently before Congress, specifically condemns the Boston attack and calls for needed support for members of the Public Safety Sector who deal with IEDs in the Homeland as well as calls upon the U.S. Department of Defense to begin sharing the blast-trauma related research and other IED event data it has. Though her letter, Dr. Leigh joins the Blinded Veterans Association, AMVETs, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, Rolling Thunder, Firefighters, and others in the call to action and specific support for H. Res. 190.

To date, 42 Members have chosen to co-sponsor this resolution --- none from Massachusetts.

“The tragic events in Boston should not surprise anyone,” stated Morris. “There are many who sounded warnings last year on the threat and continue doing so to this day. It is time to recognize this threat and come together against it rather than continuing to operate in “stovepipes”.

Those wishing to support the Global Campaign against IEDs can visit its website at www.CampaignAgainstIEDs.org .

Full text of Dr. Leigh’s letter, Contact Information for Interviews, a fact sheet on Boston IED victims’ injuries, and other information is immediately available for download at: <http://www.campaignagainstieds.org/press-pack-3.pdf> or by contacting the Global Campaign Against IEDs directly.

###

Interview Contact List

COL (Ret) Bob Morris
Global Campaign against Improvised Explosive Devices
(757) 869-6770
Bob.Morris@partners-international.org

Dr. Joanna Leigh
(617) 686-1612
jlconsultants@gmail.com

Tom Zampieri
(301) 204-3291
Blinded Veterans Association
TZampieri@bva.org



Many Undercompensated Conditions Were Unrecognized Among the One Fund's Highest Priority

- "Permanent brain injury" is a #1 compensation priority of the One Fund.
- There is no medical definition for "brain injury" or "permanent brain injury"; "Traumatic Brain Injury" (TBI) is specifically defined.
- Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) is a recognized form of permanent brain damage.
- Many Boston victims with TBI were not properly compensated.
- Traumatic Brain Injury is defined by law as: "...an acquired injury to the brain caused by an external physical force, resulting in total or partial functional disability or psychosocial impairment, or both, that adversely affects a child's educational performance. The term applies to open or closed head injuries resulting in impairments in one or more areas, such as cognition; language; memory; attention; reasoning; abstract thinking; judgment; problem-solving; sensory, perceptual, and motor abilities; psychosocial behavior; physical functions; information processing; and speech. The term does not apply to brain injuries that are congenital or degenerative, or to brain injuries induced by birth trauma." [34 Code of Federal Regulations §300.8(c)(12)]

The Military Medical Sector is the Best Benchmark for Blast Related trauma

- The civilian medical sector lacks experience and IED blast trauma data.
- 85% of eye injured in Iraq and 87% in Afghanistan were from IED blasts
- 87% of hearing loss in Afghanistan and Iraq were from IEDs.
- Less than 1% of the tin Afghanistan and Iraq injured suffered [amputations](#) .

Why Some Boston IED Victims Were Undercompensated

One Fund Misunderstanding of What Causes Most IED Injuries

- The Primary cause of IED injuries is the 1,600 feet/second blast wave.
- Amputation and fragmentation injuries are less frequent IED injuries.
- Percentages of IED blast trauma injuries are likely higher for Boston IED victims who lacked military-style protective equipment.

One Fund Criteria Did not Use the Most Prevalent IED Injuries

- Statistically, the top 4 IED related injuries are hearing loss, traumatic brain injury (TBI), post-traumatic stress disorder and vision loss.
- 34% of IED victims suffer dual sensory loss (mostly hearing and vision).

One Fund Criteria Failed to Recognize TBI Can Cause Permanent Brain Damage

- TBI is categorized as mild, moderate, severe, or penetrating - not always a useful means of classification.
- 75% of TBI patients also suffer some visual dysfunction
- The term mild TBI describes the *injury*, not the number or severity of symptoms.
- Severe permanent brain injury can come from a low yield blasts.
- Recognized TBI effects include: headaches; dizziness; excessive fatigue; concentration problems; forgetfulness; irritability; sleep problems; balance problems; ringing in the ears; and vision changes that do not emerge until months later.

One Fund Criteria Failed to Recognize Vision Loss Resulting from TBI

- After TBI a significant amount of brain damage is caused by the inflammatory response to the acute trauma.
- TBI based damage to the nerve pathways for vision and eye movements in the brain, cause vision related tasks to be compromised.
- The most common visual problems from TBI and blast injuries are: 1) light sensitivity (photophobia); 2) double vision (diplopia); and 3) Loss of visual field.
- More subtle vision conditions go undiagnosed & untreated Headaches, vertigo, asthenopia, movement of print and objects, binocular vision dysfunctions, balance, postural, spatial-temporal dysfunctions.

How the Global Campaign Can Help Solve the Problem

- Form a Working Group to develop recommended protocols and compensation criteria – report in 90 days or less.
- Coordinate through its network of Public-Private partners to develop the working group
- Partner with Veterans Service Organizations, Government Centers of Excellence, Government Agencies and other Public and Private Sector Partners
- Deliver: a list of compensable IED related injuries not adequately covered by the One Fund; associated claim evaluation guidelines; and applicable evaluation criteria with actionable recommendations.

Global Campaign Partners



Congressman Richard Hanna (R-NY)

319 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-3665 (phone)
202-225-1891 (fax)

Dr. Joanna Leigh

617-686-1612 (mobile)

September 9, 2013

My name is Dr. Joanna Leigh and I am a survivor of the Boston Marathon Bombing. This letter has been written with assistance, as I have been severely disabled when I ran to aid victims in the first explosion and ended up running directly into the second IED. I am not in the military, but serving my country is nothing new to me. To me, the American Dream has never been epitomized by a big house, expensive cars, and a membership to a country club. The American Dream is seen every day in the people who follow the words of JFK and ask not what their country can do for them, but what they can do for their country.

The purpose of this letter is to add my voice to the call for Congress to condemn the April 15, 2013, Improvised Explosive Device (IED) attacks in Boston, Massachusetts; for the United States Government, the governments of all nations, the United Nations, and other international organizations to renounce the use of IEDs; and for them to take actions to stop the proliferation of IEDs. As a victim whose life was forever changed by the Boston IED attack, I call on all Members of Congress to expeditiously pass House Resolution 190 that you sponsored to answer this call. There is no legitimate reason not to support and expedite this important legislation.

I have written my Representative in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate specifically requesting their support for H. Res. 190 and any appropriate Senate Companion action, but ask you to share this with all your Colleagues and for the Global Campaign to share it with appropriate persons and organizations as well.

ABOUT DR. JOANNA LEIGH: Despite being born into humble beginnings, raised by a single working mother who went to school at night, I worked hard and chose education as a means to excel in society. The skinny little latch key girl in boys hand-me-downs with the haircut designed around a blue plastic bowl from a neighborhood where the kids at the top of the hill used to set cars on fire, rolling them down the hill for fun became a highly educated world traveler and charitable innovator. I am 39; I have a B.A., an M.A., and a Ph.D.; had (until 4/15/2013) my own international consulting business

(www.ioannaleigh.com) and am the Founder and Executive Director of a federally recognized international 501c3 charitable organization (www.MoyoInternational.org). Moyo International is based entirely on the Moyo Model of Poverty Reduction that I have researched (at my own expense) and utilized to help tens of thousands in East Africa since 2005. The results were to be published this year, as it kicks the UN's Millenium Model so far to the curb they'd be picking it up on trash day.

MARATHON MONDAY: On 4/15/2013, I saw the first explosion and ran to help. Less than 10 feet in front of me the second IED exploded and I was blown back and blacked out. Upon waking, my legs were being trampled, it was chaos: smoke and debris, blood, body parts everywhere. I saw an old man covered in blood staggering toward me, half collapsed, his hand/arm flayed open. I held him up and brought him to a safe area to provide aid. Another man was brought over like a sack of rice, barely conscious. When we removed his shoe, the top of his foot came off in my hand. There was shouting through the crowds of another bomb on the next block. The old man kept shouting that he couldn't hear anymore, and I just hugged him, wiping the blood off his face so he wouldn't be scared when he saw his reflection at the hospital. I put two men in ambulances that day, and don't remember much of how I got home. Emails from people who saw me have helped fill in the gaps. They tell of a dazed young woman with a faraway glazed look in her eyes, who, covered in blood and debris stopped in requesting to use a phone and wash up; answered questions about the bombing and told of her actions, and then simply left without receiving any help. It is only many weeks after the attack that I understood how badly I was hurt.

PHYSICIAN REMARKS: Dr. Robert Clark Cantu, MA, MD, FACS, FAANS, FICS, FACSM; Chief of Neurosurgery, Chairman Dept. of Surgery, Director Sports Medicine at Emerson Hospital, Concord, MA, examined me on June 20, 2013. Dr. Cantu wrote "It is my opinion that the bomb blast injury of 4.15.13 caused this individual to have a very severe cerebral concussion that has subsequently gone on to become a very severe post concussion syndrome. Initially she had 24 of 26 post concussion symptoms immediately after the injury most of them very severe. Now two months later she has 21 post concussion symptoms most still very severe. In addition she has sustained very significant neurologic deficits manifested by marked diminution of intellectual functioning such that she has many cognitive symptoms including difficulty in concentration, focus, memory, and multi tasking. She also has very significant balance deficits, very slowed reaction time, dysmetric finger-nose-finger testing and has also sustained visual impairment and hearing impairment. The hearing impairment which has been documented to be a fifty percent sensory-neural hearing loss in her left ear, since there is no structural

tympanic or bone pathology is most probably permanent. It is my opinion that the majority of this patient's severe cognitive, somatic, mood, and sleep symptoms that have completely disrupted her life are due to her post concussion syndrome. Undoubtedly though there is a component of stress consistent with a post traumatic stress disorder that is playing a role as well. It is my opinion that at this early date one cannot make a learned prediction in term of how long these post concussion symptoms will last. In my more than 30 years of treating post concussion syndrome patients however, given the magnitude of number of post concussion symptoms and severity of these post concussion symptoms I would be surprised if her post injury course is not an extremely long one and more probably than not may not be ever greeted with complete resolution of all symptoms. These are my opinions stated to a reasonable degree of medical certainty."

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE SINCE MARATHON MONDAY: I lost the most important limb any of us will ever need. And with it, I lost my sensory perception limbs. I lost my brain function, my ability to hear, see, taste, smell, remember, find things, organize, plan, speak properly, find my way places, navigate a supermarket, drive, do a load of laundry, cook, etc. Every day I put on big over the ear hearing aids. I am unable to read or work at my computer or see my phone because my eyes are too blurry, yet I lack the funds to buy a larger screen or talk to text technology. On a fairly regular basis I become lost and terrified half a block from my house, not even knowing what city I am in, how I got there, or how to get home, and I have forgotten the password on my phone so I cannot call anybody. I bear the cost of an education I will never have the mental capacity to perform at again. Victims comp will not cover my student loans, still accruing interest, that I will have to pay back, despite the fact that I can never function at PhD capacity, or earn a PhD level paycheck.

I bear the cost of hundreds of thousands in uncovered medical bills I am already incurring and will continue to over the years. How do I survive when I have been directed to not work for at least 2 years for my brain to heal, yet disability takes a year to be approved, and only 36% of requests are actually approved? I am mindful that a friend who lost a leg on that day has already received a free prosthesis, donated medical care, and is already back at work, which she calls her "sanity". In no way do I minimize her injury, only address the disproportionate level of attention paid to a visible injury versus a possibly far more catastrophic yet invisible and also permanent injury. Medically speaking, the most catastrophic injuries and bodily damage through trauma or disease ARE invisible, and yet we offer most attention to those with the visible disability. Alzheimers, brain damage, dementia, cancer, sepsis, heart disease/failure, aneurysm, embolism, liver or kidney failure – none are visible yet all are devastating.

And in fact, 73% of disabled Americans are NOT missing limbs. Too many cases of severe disabling traumatic brain injury, which is a physical injury to the brain causing damage, are dismissed as PTSD, and the patient, a victim or soldier, suffers from lack of treatment. My future looks bleak, but I will not allow it to be meaningless or unproductive. So I am writing to you. You can ensure survivors of IED attacks who have TBI are recognized. House Resolution 190 and the other work of the Global Campaign is key. My treatment, and that of many other Marathon Bombing victims, could have been and can still be enhanced – and our disabilities mitigated – through the sharing of blast trauma related information and research called for in H. Res. 190 as well as other actions by the Global Campaign.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: I understand there is a system. But that system should never forget who it was designed for. Bureaucracy should not be an ugly word, but an efficient one, and one that acts to include all the members of society it is supposed to help, not exclude them because the disabling TBI is not understood by the doctors, the victims don't fit neatly into the little boxes on the forms, or the victims are incapable of filling out or accessing the forms due to the traumatic disability from the IED. Too many people fall through the cracks that way. And if the person is a victim, particularly one who became severely disabled because she was running to SAVE people in a terrorist attack, it is a true injustice. Even the OneFund, a charity designed specifically to assist people such as myself, was so unclear on the definition of TBI and its impact that my triple disabilities and permanent physical brain damage were actually laughed at, denied compensation, and called “emotional issues” by Ken Feinberg. We all have a choice to be part of the problem or part of the solution. I have always done my part to be part of the solution. I can't do more than respectfully request that you help me by doing the same. Until people understand the full impact of IEDs on the body and brain, and until more doctors and even neurologists become better at diagnosis, victims will remain without access to appropriate holistic medical care and treatment options, denied approval by insurers, and forced through an assistive bureaucratic system that has no understanding and less flexibility.

ASSISTANCE POTENTIAL FROM THE GLOBAL CAMPAIGN PARTICIPANTS: Until recently, I had never heard of the Global Campaign against IEDs. Through them and the Veterans Service Organizations such as Blinded Veterans Association that participate in the Global Campaign my doctor and others could have received invaluable information not only on IEDs but regarding the conditions I was experiencing as a result of my blast-related trauma. They went so far as to prepare a detailed information paper delivered to the State of Massachusetts to support their work in compensating and otherwise assisting victims. I've since become aware of all they do for veterans, active duty, and civilian IED victims as well

as working with the Public Safety sector to reduce IEDs by eliminating root causes through their holistic approach. This work is invaluable and should be fully supported by the public and private sectors. I'm deeply disheartened that such a tremendous resource was not made available to me by my own FBI advocate, government contact, any major Boston area hospital, or Victims Support group.

In conclusion, I trust you will stand with me as not only a proud citizen who asks what you can do for your country, but as a public representative imbued with the obligation to serve with honor and passion. The information sharing, support to the public safety sector, and actions to help our veterans called for in H. Res. 190 and other actions by the Global Campaign must be supported and I respectfully call on you to do so. I will continue to do my part to the best of my abilities, including testify to Congress, if invited, to ensure passage of this important Resolution. On behalf of my fellow Americans and the brave men and women who serve in our armed forces, I hope you will do your part by supporting these efforts, starting with co-sponsoring and working for expeditious passage of H. Res. 190.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joanna Leigh", followed by the date "9/9/2013". The signature is written in a cursive, fluid style.

Dr. Joanna Leigh

www.ioannaleigh.com

www.moyointernational.org

Condemn IEDs and the Boston Marathon Attacks

Cosponsor the Bipartisan H.Res.190

**ENDORSED BY AMVETS, BLINDED VETERANS ASSOCIATION, IAVA,
& GLOBAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST IEDs**

Dear Colleague,

Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) have long been the weapon of choice of insurgent enemy forces abroad and terrorists around the world. IEDs are the leading cause of casualties for American servicemembers and the leading cause of injuries afflicting our veterans, including vision and hearing loss, post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injuries, spinal cord injuries and amputations.

IEDs have brought terror to our homeland as well. The Boston Marathon bombings were a tragic reminder of the horrors that these devices can bring to civilian populations. Scores of innocent people, including women and children, are killed and injured by IEDs every day.

In 2012 alone, 104 American troops were killed and 1,744 wounded by IEDs. Outside of Afghanistan and Iraq, there was an average of 621 IED incidents a month in 2011, resulting in 12,286 casualties in 111 nations, which included 49 events resulting in 28 casualties within the United States.

While the use and appeal of these awful devices will remain with those that wish to attack our American values, we can work together to condemn and neutralize IEDs by coordinating on a global scale to neutralize the networks and components that produce IEDs.

Cosponsor H.Res.190 and join me as a partner in this bipartisan effort to firmly condemn IEDs, support and remember all of the victims of the Boston Marathon terrorist attack, and express unwavering support for America's servicemembers and first responders who put their lives on the line to face and defeat IEDs.

Please contact Sean Snyder at Sean.Snyder@mail.house.gov with any questions and to cosponsor.

Sincerely,

RICHARD HANNA
Member of Congress

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 190

Condemning the April 15, 2013, Improvised Explosive Device (IED) attacks in Boston, Massachusetts and calling upon the United States Government, the governments of all nations, the United Nations, and other international organizations to renounce the use of IEDs and take actions to stop their proliferation.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 26, 2013

Mr. HANNA submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Armed Services, and Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

RESOLUTION

Condemning the April 15, 2013, Improvised Explosive Device (IED) attacks in Boston, Massachusetts and calling upon the United States Government, the governments of all nations, the United Nations, and other international organizations to renounce the use of IEDs and take actions to stop their proliferation.

Whereas on April 15, 2013, innocent civilians were maliciously victimized by Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) in a terrorist attack in Boston, Massachusetts;

Whereas the IED has become a very effective weapon for those who advance their cause through terror and vio-

lence, as exemplified by the fact that an average of 500 IED incidents occur in the world each day, excluding incidents occurring in Iraq or Afghanistan, and that an average of 12 such incidents occur each day in both Iraq and Afghanistan;

Whereas IED attacks are the leading cause of casualties for American servicemembers and are anticipated to remain the leading cause of such casualties for the foreseeable future;

Whereas the Global Campaign Against IEDs, as a responsible international entity for action against IEDs and for supporting IED victims, has found that IED attacks are the leading cause of the most prevalent injuries to veterans, including vision and hearing loss, spinal cord injuries, traumatic brain injury, amputations, genitourinary injuries, and post-traumatic stress disorder;

Whereas the Blinded Veterans Association and AMVETS have found that the Department of Veterans Affairs currently treats 198,670 veterans for hearing injuries and 118,150 veterans for eye injuries, numbers that are expected to increase significantly as active duty servicemembers enter the Veterans Affairs system;

Whereas people who live in areas affected by IED incidents live in constant fear of additional attacks that disrupt everything from daily routines to health care to elections, and these disruptions, together with the displacement, destruction, and loss of personal assets caused by IED incidents, severely degrade the ability of these people to sustain their livelihoods;

Whereas reducing the use of IEDs and neutralizing the networks that produce them requires a holistic approach to

identify and eliminate the root causes that allow such networks to form and survive;

Whereas IEDs kill scores of innocent civilians, including women and children; and

Whereas resolving the IED problem is the global community's responsibility: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) unequivocally condemns the use of Impro-
3 vised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and calls for the full
4 prosecution of those responsible for the IED ter-
5 rorist attack in Boston, Massachusetts on April 15,
6 2013;

7 (2) expresses its condolences to the families of
8 those who were killed in the IED terrorist attack in
9 Boston, Massachusetts on April 15, 2013, and its
10 support for those who were injured as well as their
11 families;

12 (3) expresses unwavering support for the active
13 duty servicemembers, first responders, and explosive
14 ordnance disposal personnel of the United States
15 who face the threat of IEDs and put their lives on
16 the line to defeat them;

17 (4) calls on all relevant agencies of the United
18 States Government to coordinate with international
19 partners and other responsible entities to reduce the
20 use of IEDs and curb their proliferation;

1 (5) urges the governments of all nations, as
2 well as the United Nations and other international
3 organizations, to formally renounce the use of IEDs
4 through an international resolution and to assist all
5 partners and responsible entities in securing and
6 monitoring the manufacture, sale, transportation,
7 and use of IED components and techniques;

8 (6) calls on all relevant agencies of the United
9 States Government to support the care of active
10 duty servicemembers, veterans, and first responders
11 who are victims of IEDs by facilitating the exchange
12 of blast trauma research data among law enforce-
13 ment agencies, the Department of Defense, the De-
14 partment of Veterans Affairs, congressionally char-
15 tered veterans service organizations, and other re-
16 sponsible entities; and

17 (7) calls on the United States Government to
18 support international action against IEDs and those
19 who traffic in IED components and techniques, and
20 to support IED victims by sharing IED-related
21 event data and information with responsible entities.

○



**SERVING
WITH
PRIDE**



A M V E T S

NATIONAL
HEADQUARTERS
4647 Forbes Boulevard
Lanham, Maryland
20706-4380
TELEPHONE: 301-459-9600
FAX: 301-459-7924
E-MAIL: amvets@amvets.org

April 15, 2013

The Honorable Richard Hanna, (R-NY22)
319 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515Members
Dear Representatives, :

On behalf of AMVETS (American Veterans), a leader since 1944 in preserving the freedoms secured by America's armed forces and providing support for Veterans, Active Duty military, the National Guard/Reserves and their families, I would like to express our unqualified support of **House Resolution 190: Condemning the April 15, 2013, Improvised Explosive Device (IED) attacks in Boston, Massachusetts and calling upon the United States Government, the governments of all nations, the United Nations, and other international organizations to renounce the use of IEDs and take actions to stop their proliferation.**

We are currently working in collaborative partnership with the Global Campaign against IED's in its efforts to eliminate the IED threat and properly treat and support veterans who are IED victims. We fully support their work in this important area and highly encourage Congress and the applicable federal Agencies to do so as well.

Proposed Res. 190 is essential to the success of these efforts and support to our veterans, service members, first responders, and the civilian populations they serve.

As one of the largest veteran service organizations in the country, as well as one of the authors of the Independent Budget, AMVETS has a proud history of assisting veterans and advocating for veterans rights and benefits. Since 1944 AMVETS has been at the forefront of public policy related to military and veteran issues and national defense. In support of H. Res. 190 we will be contacting our full membership to encourage them to urge passage of this important Resolution.

In a war fought largely on the principals of indiscriminate violence and terror, the IED is often the weapon of choice. According to data compiled by DoD and the Global Campaign Against IEDs, between November 2011 and October 2012, over 15,000 individual IED events were experienced by coalition forces in Afghanistan. Those IED events were responsible for fully 58% of coalition casualties. In fact, IEDs are the number one cause of casualties for American service members and will be for the foreseeable future. As we saw in Boston and on September 11th, they are the weapon of choice against civilians as well.

Additionally, IEDs are the major cause of the top 4 most prevalent injuries to veterans including:

- hearing loss and Tinnitus,
- traumatic brain injury (TBI),

- post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and
- vision loss

Even more significant are the alarming number of service members and veterans who experienced repetitive, low level TBI that did not require medical attention but, taken cumulatively, produce serious medical conditions years later. These conditions often exhibit symptoms that affect mood, behavior and thoughts. Many of our veterans are experiencing a complex combination of mental and physical health problems, the weight of which should be viewed as a contributing factor to the feelings of pain, hopelessness, loneliness, helplessness and depression that can lead to suicide.

These are the injuries the 170+ Boston victims face, and sharing the results of military medical blast research is essential to their treatment and recovery.

We join now with the Blinded Veterans Association and other partners of the Global Campaign against IEDs in this call to action on H. Res. 190 and encouraging a greater exchange of IED event and related blast trauma research between the DoD and VA as well as between these agencies, the private sector, and the Global Campaign.

On behalf of our entire membership we again appreciate your leadership and dedication to our nation's service members, veterans, and families. We fully support the Global Campaign's work and especially this Resolution in this important area and highly encourage Congress and the applicable federal Agencies to do so as well.

H. Res 190 has our unqualified support and we urge all reporting committees to advance it for a vote expeditiously, and for Congress to enact it immediately to show unity on this important issue as well as support for the Boston victims and their families with all our first responders and others who heeded to call in that crisis.

Please be assured of our ongoing support of all veteran issues and feel free to call on us if you could benefit from our military expertise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dante M. Zumatto". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dante" being more prominent.

National Legislative Director, AMVETS
301-683-4016
dzumatto@amvets.org



BLINDED VETERANS ASSOCIATION

477 H STREET NORTHWEST • WASHINGTON DC 20001-2694 • (202) 371-8880

April 25, 2013

The Honorable Richard Hanna, (R-NY22)
319 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Hanna,

On behalf of the membership of the Blinded Veterans Association (BVA), the only congressionally chartered veterans service organization exclusively dedicated to serving the needs of our Nation's blinded veterans and their families for 68 years, we would like to extend our strong support of House Resolution 190: Condemning the April 15, 2013, Improvised Explosive Device (IED) attacks in Boston, Massachusetts and calling upon the United States Government, the governments of all nations, the United Nations, and other international organizations to renounce the use of IEDs and take actions to stop their proliferation.

We urge all reporting Committees to advance it for a vote expeditiously, and for Congress to enact it immediately to show unity on this important issue as well as support for the Boston victims and their families with all our first responders and others who heeded to call in that crisis.

Since the RAND 2008 Report on Invisible Wounds OEF/OIF, undertook comprehensive study, the numbers of veterans with blast related injuries has escalated¹. On April 15, 2013 the multiple IED attacks at the Boston Marathon brought those horrific injuries to hundreds of innocent civilians in the Homeland. We are currently working in partnership with the Global Campaign against IEDs in its efforts to eliminate the global IED threat and support IED victims. They have our full support and endorsement for all their efforts and we call on Congress to support this important work. BVA supports their initiative in developing and coordinating this effort with Members of Congress; your actions in sponsoring this important resolution; and the support of the growing number of Members of the House supporting this bi-partisan effort.

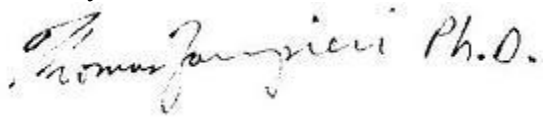
Today as the Rand study then focused on three major conditions—Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), major depressive disorder and depressive symptoms, and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)—because these are the conditions being assessed most extensively in servicemembers returning from combat. These are the conditions victims of the Boston IED attack now face. The sharing of blast trauma related medical information by the DoD with the VA and private health sector is now essential to the improved treatment and recovery of these victims. Sensory Injuries including thousands with vision, hearing, and gait disturbances are major challenge caused by IED blast forces and more must be done in sharing and funding research in this area.

BVA is honored to be working with AMVETS and other Global Campaign participants in these efforts. We, along with the Global Campaign against IEDs and the other organizations and persons participating in the campaign, are fully supportive of this Congressional Resolution and request members of House pass it without delay in order to both condemn these cowardly acts, but show the world strong by-partisan support both for our veterans, service members, and in bringing the perpetrators of IED attacks to justice.

¹ Tanielian, Teri, Jaycox, Lisa H. Rand Corporation "Invisible Wounds of War Psychological and Cognitive Injuries, Their Consequences, and Services to Assist Recovery" 2008

In support of H.Res. 190 we will be contacting our full membership to encourage them to urge passage of this important Resolution. On behalf of our entire membership we again appreciate your leadership and dedication to our nation's servicemembers, veterans, and families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Thomas Zampieri Ph.D." in a cursive script.

Thomas Zampieri Ph.D.
Director Government Relations

ROLLING THUNDER, INC.



POW-MIA
"WE WILL NEVER FORGET"

RIDE FOR FREEDOM



ROLLING THUNDER®, INC
NATIONAL
P.O. BOX 216
NESHANIC STATION, N.J. 08853
908-369-5439 FAX 908-369-2072

The Honorable Richard Hanna, (R-NY22)
319 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

May 11, 2013

Dear Representative Hanna,

On behalf of the over 90 chartered chapters throughout the United States and members abroad of Rolling Thunder® Inc., united in the cause to bring full accountability for the Prisoners Of War-Missing In Action (POW/MIA) of all wars, reminding the government, the media and the public by our watchwords: "We Will Not Forget.", we extend our unqualified support to the Global Campaign against Improvised Explosive Devices (IED). We fully endorse and call for immediate passage of House Resolution 190: Condemning the April 15, 2013, Improvised Explosive Device (IED) attacks in Boston, Massachusetts and calling upon the United States Government, the governments of all nations, the United Nations, and other international organizations to renounce the use of IEDs and take actions to stop their proliferation.

With AMVETS, Blinded Veterans Association (BVA), Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA) and the increasing number of Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) and other public private partners in this effort and the campaign against IEDs, we urge all reporting Committees to advance H. Res. 190 for a vote expeditiously, and for Congress to enact it immediately.

This will show our service members, veterans, and their families the world's unbroken unity on this important issue as well as support for the Boston victims and their families with all our first responders and others who heeded the call in that crisis and "we will not forget".

Historically, Improvised Explosive Devices were used against our brave men and women in Uniform through all conflicts in our great nation's history. Whether they be "booby-traps in World War II, Korea, and especially Vietnam or "Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) in Afghanistan and Iraq, these indiscriminate weapons have caused countless military and civilian casualties. The effects of IEDs on our service members and veterans in these areas have been devastating and have contributed in past conflicts to Missing in Action (MIA) service members in previous wars. We are committed to helping American Veterans from all wars, and many of these veterans face the added challenge of seeking treatment for these wounds in the environment of the ever increasing Veterans Administration Claims processing backlog.

We concur with the Global Campaigns' findings that IEDs are the number one cause of casualties for American service members and will be for the foreseeable future. Working with AMVETS, BVA, and others participants in the Global Campaign correctly point out that IEDs cause of the top 4 injuries to veterans including: hearing loss, traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress. Veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan are the largest of our veteran population affected by these injuries, and IEDs are the main cause.

Equally important is that IEDs have been on American soil for many, many years, illustrated by such incidents as the Oklahoma City Bombing, the World Trade Center Bombing, the 9/11 attack, Times Square bombing and most recently the Boston Marathon Bombing. Many victims in those attacks were both veterans and families of Veterans. H. Res 190 will show we will not forget and we will take action!

We are currently working in partnership with the Global Campaign against IEDs in its efforts to eliminate the global IED threat and to support IED victims while we focus on our core mission to support veterans, service members and their families. H. Res. 190 supports all our efforts, theirs in dealing with the root causes of these problems and ours by enabling us to help the victims.

The Global Campaign has our full support and endorsement for all their efforts and we call on Congress to support this important work; other veterans to join, and private sector partners and donors to support it. Rolling Thunder® Inc. is honored to be working with BVA, AMVETS and other Global Campaign participants in these efforts. We are fully supportive of this Congressional Resolution and request members of the House to pass it without delay in order to both condemn these cowardly acts and show the world strong bi-partisan support both for our veterans, service members and in bringing the perpetrators of IED attacks to justice.

This is a very simple issue. There is no legitimate excuse for not fully supporting H. Res. 190 to condemn IEDs; bring those responsible to justice; and, most importantly, support our veterans, service members, and members of the American public injured by IEDs.

In support of H.Res. 190 we will be contacting our full membership and requesting they contact their elected representatives to expedite passage of this important Resolution. On behalf of our entire Rolling Thunder® Inc. membership we deeply appreciate your leadership and dedication to our nation's service members, veterans, and families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Gary M. Scheffmeyer", written in a cursive style.

Gary M. Scheffmeyer
National President
Rolling Thunder® Inc.



May 2, 2013

The Honorable Richard Hanna
319 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Hanna,

On behalf of the over 200,000 members of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA), we would like to extend our support to the Global Campaign in support of House Resolution 190, a resolution condemning the April 15, 2013, Improvised Explosive Device (IED) attacks in Boston, Massachusetts and calling upon the United States Government, the governments of all nations, the United Nations, and other international organizations to renounce the use of IEDs and take actions to stop their proliferation.

The effects of IEDs on our service members and have been devastating. IEDs continue to be the number one cause of casualties for American service members and will be for the foreseeable future. IEDs also cause the most frequent injuries to veterans including: hearing loss, traumatic brain injury, and post-traumatic stress.

We are currently working in partnership with the Global Campaign against IEDs in its efforts to eliminate the global IED threat and support IED victims while we focus on our core mission to support veterans, service members and their families. The Global Campaign has our support for its efforts and we call on Congress to support this important work as well. IAVA is honored to be working with Blinded Veterans Association, AMVETS and other Global Campaign participants in these efforts.

On behalf of our entire IAVA membership, we deeply appreciate your leadership and dedication to our nation's service members, veterans, and families.

Sincerely,

Paul Rieckhoff
Founder and Chief Executive Officer
Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA)



FRANCIS G. SLAY
MAYOR

CHARLENE DEEKEN
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY

May 9, 2013

St. Louis Fire Department



DENNIS JENKERSON
FIRE CHIEF

The Honorable Richard Hanna, (R-NY22)
319 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Hanna,

On behalf of the over 1,000 members of the St. Louis Fire Department I would like to extend our unqualified support to the Global Campaign against Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) and especially House Resolution 190: Condemning the April 15, 2013, Improvised Explosive Device (IED) attacks in Boston, Massachusetts and calling upon the United States Government, the governments of all nations, the United Nations, and other international organizations to renounce the use of IEDs and take actions to stop their proliferation.

We urge all reporting Committees to advance H. Res. 190 for a vote expeditiously, and for Congress to enact it immediately.

Many of our firefighters and staff are veterans who understand that IEDs are the number one cause of casualties for American service members and will be for the foreseeable future, in the United States they are of particular threat to First Responders and especially firefighters who are on the front lines protecting the homeland and the people of the United States. In many cases firefighters and associate Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) are the first on the scene for such incidents and the first to deal with IED events and the casualties. The actions called for in H. Res. 190 are essential to not only doing our jobs but protecting and treating the American people.

We are currently working in partnership with the Global Campaign against IEDs in its efforts to eliminate the global IED threat and support IED victims while we focus on our core mission as a progressive leader in providing the highest quality of emergency services. We are committed to the preservation of life, property, and the environment by effectively and efficiently meeting the emerging public safety and welfare needs of our diverse community. We accomplish our goals by maintaining the highest standard of professional service through continued training, education, and living up to our motto of being "Justifiably Proud."

The actions called for in H. Res 190 are key to us performing that mission.

With various agencies of the U.S. government ranking our country among the top five in the world for the number of IED incidents within our own borders, and as shown by the IED attacks in Oklahoma City, the World Trade Center, 9/11/ Times Square, and most recently at the Boston Marathon, it is obvious that first responders are at greatest risk from IEDs in the Homeland.

In support of H.Res. 190 we will be contacting our full membership and requesting they contact their elected representatives to expedite passage of this important Resolution. On behalf of our entire membership we urge passing H. Res. 190 without delay.

Sincerely,

Dennis M. Jenkerson
Fire Chief
City of St. Louis



Veterans Association of America, Inc.

P.O. Box 309 Audubon Station

New York, NY 10032-0309

(P) (800) 590-2173

(F) (888) 638-6861

www.etsaa.org

May 13, 2013

The Honorable Richard Hanna, (R-NY22)
319 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Hanna:

On behalf of the over 123,000 members of the Veterans Association of America, Inc, I would like to extend our support to the Global Campaign against Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) and especially House Resolution 190: Condemning the April 15, 2013, Improvised Explosive Device (IED) attacks in Boston, Massachusetts and calling upon the United States Government, the governments of all nations, the United Nations, and other international organizations to renounce the use of IEDs and take actions to stop their proliferation.

We urge all reporting Committees to advance H. Res. 190 for a vote expeditiously, and for Congress to enact it immediately.

Many of our (Firefighters, police, EMT, etc.) and staff are veterans who understand that IEDs are the number one cause of casualties for American service members and will be for the foreseeable future, in the United States they are of particular threat to First Responders and especially firefighters who are on the front lines protecting the homeland and the people of the United States. In many cases firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) are the first on the scene for such incidents and the first to deal with IED events and the casualties. The actions called for in H. Res. 160 are essential to not only doing our jobs but protecting and treating the American people.

We are currently working in partnership with the Global Campaign against IEDs in its efforts to eliminate the global IED threat and support IED victims while we focus on our core mission of supportive and advocating the preferential rights of veterans across the country and abroad in obtaining suitable employment, sustainable housing and enhanced medical coverage for their them and their families.

The actions called for in H. Res 190 are key to us performing that mission as well as helping to eradicate the aforementioned IED's around the globe respectively.

With various agencies of the U.S. government ranking our country among the top five in the world for the number of IED incidents within our own borders, and as shown by the IED attacks in Oklahoma City, the World Trade Center, 9/11/ Times Square, and most recently at the Boston Marathon, it is obvious that first responders are at greatest risk from IEDs in the Homeland.

In support of H.Res. 190 we will be contacting our full membership and requesting they contact their elected representatives to expedite passage of this important Resolution. On behalf of our entire membership we urge passing H. Res. 190 without delay.

Sincerely,

Raphael K. Works

Raphael K. Works, PhD, DBA, MBA

Chairman, CEO & Founder

Veterans Association of America, Inc.

May 13, 2013

The Honorable Richard Hanna, (R-NY22)
319 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Hanna,

As the founder and current senior vice president for the Graffiti of War Project, I would like to extend our unqualified support to the Global Campaign against Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) and especially House Resolution 190: Condemning the April 15, 2013, Improvised Explosive Device (IED) attacks in Boston, Massachusetts and calling upon the United States Government, the governments of all nations, the United Nations, and other international organizations to renounce the use of IEDs and take actions to stop their proliferation.

We urge all reporting Committees to advance H. Res. 190 for a vote expeditiously, and for Congress to enact it immediately.

The Graffiti of War project is a collaboration of veterans, service-members, military family members and civilians whose focus is on raising awareness for those suffering from the invisible wounds of war, PTSD and TBI, and on developing and providing alternative solutions for the healing of those afflicted. Many of our members either struggle with these wounds themselves or share the burden of a loved one who does. Our collective vision, as members of this team, is to change the world in which we live, one small step at a time

The majority of our participants and staff are veterans who understand that IEDs are the number one cause of casualties for American service members and will be for the foreseeable future. I, myself, continue to endure the long-term effects of being exposed to multiple IEDs during my service to our great country.

With IEDs in the United States, First Responders are now on the front lines protecting the homeland and the people of the United States. In many cases firefighters, police, and associated Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) are the first on the scene for such incidents and the first to deal with IED events and the casualties much as I was as a Combat Medic on active duty. The actions called for in H. Res. 160 are essential to not only doing our jobs but protecting and treating the American people.

We are currently working in partnership with the Global Campaign against IEDs in its efforts to eliminate the global IED threat and support IED victims while we focus on our core mission supporting the veteran and service member afflicted with the invisible wounds of war, PTSD and TBI. To provide a positive outlet to help them release the emotions of war, and to work with organizations who offer traditional and alternative treatment methods, such as art and music therapy, as well as individual and group therapies. In providing the general population with a glimpse into the minds of those who have experienced the horrors of combat (via the art they have created), our aim is to bridge the widening cultural gap between those who have experienced the conflicts of our generation and those who have witnessed the events unfold from the comfort of their own homes. Ultimately, our objective is to begin a dialog between the two cultures and to promote understanding and empathy for this growing community, our veterans, which inevitably will bring about healing. Just one of the ways we hope to accomplish this is through our National Art Gallery Tour, reaching out to one community at a time.

The actions called for in H. Res 190 are key to us performing that mission.

With various agencies of the U.S. government ranking our country among the top five in the world for the number of IED incidents within our own borders, and as shown by the IED attacks in Oklahoma City, the World Trade Center, 9/11/ Times Square, and most recently at the Boston Marathon, it is obvious that first responders are at greatest risk from IEDs in the Homeland.

The Global Campaign against IED's together with AMVETS, Blinded Veterans Association, and other participants in the Global Campaign have been working with relentless fervor to get proper coverage and assistance to those that have sacrificed their lives for this country and The Graffiti of War Project supports them in every way we can. The least we can do is provide the leadership to impact the outcomes in treating this concern as paramount to the livelihoods of those we live amongst.

Using history as a guide, we must understand that if nothing is done, conditions will only get worse and reverberate within our own communities. This is an epidemic that can be controlled with the proper legislation in place to monitor the effects.

As citizens of this great and wonderful experiment, our service defines our unity as a people, whether through military service, past or present or by serving those in need, helping others defines us as Americans and sets us apart as a beacon for others to follow. We at The Graffiti of War Project stand ready to support our partners at the Global Campaign against IEDs as well as other Veteran Service Organizations concerned with our Nation's heroes

In support of H. Res. 190 we will be contacting all participants and supporters of the Graffiti of War Project requesting they contact their elected representatives to expedite passage of this important Resolution. On behalf of our entire membership we urge passing H. Res. 190 without delay.

Sincerely,

Jaeson "Doc" Parsons
Founder and SVP – Operations
The Graffiti of War Project
WWW.GRAFFITIOFWAR.COM



International Association of Firefighters

Local 77

St. Joseph, Missouri

May, 15 2013

The Honorable Richard Hanna, (R-NY22)
319 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Hanna,

On behalf of the over 150 members of the IAFF Local 77, I would like to extend our unqualified support to the Global Campaign against Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) and especially House Resolution 190: Condemning the April 15, 2013, Improvised Explosive Device (IED) attacks in Boston, Massachusetts and calling upon the United States Government, the governments of all nations, the United Nations, and other international organizations to renounce the use of IEDs and take actions to stop their proliferation.

We urge all reporting Committees to advance H. Res. 190 for a vote expeditiously, and for Congress to enact it immediately.

Many of our Firefighters and staff are veterans who understand that IEDs are the number one cause of casualties for American service members and will be for the foreseeable future, in the United States they are of particular threat to First Responders and especially firefighters who are on the front lines protecting the homeland and the people of the United States. In many cases firefighters and associate Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) are the first on the scene for such incidents and the first to deal with IED events and the casualties. The actions called for in H. Res. 190 are essential to not only doing our jobs but protecting and treating the American people.

We are currently working in partnership with the Global Campaign against IEDs in its efforts to eliminate the global IED threat and support IED victims while we focus on our core mission; Providing the highest level of protection of life, health, and property to the public and the organization. We respect and take great pride in ourselves, our department, and our city.

The actions called for in H. Res 190 are key to us performing that mission.

With various agencies of the U.S. government ranking our country among the top five in the world for the number of IED incidents within our own borders, and as shown by the IED attacks in Oklahoma City, the World Trade Center, 9/11/ Times Square, and most recently at the Boston Marathon, it is obvious that first responders are at greatest risk from IEDs in the Homeland.

In support of H.Res. 190 we will be contacting our full membership and requesting they contact their elected representatives to expedite passage of this important Resolution. On behalf of our entire membership we urge passing H. Res. 190 without delay.

Sincerely,

Jim Haenni

President
IAFF Local 77