

"The government's predominant interest . . . is preventing intimidation, threats and coercion against voters or persons urging or aiding persons to vote or attempt to vote," she said.

The front-line lawyers, however, lost the argument and were ordered to drop the case.

Bartle Bull, a civil rights activist who also was a poll watcher in Philadelphia, said after the complaint was dropped, he called Mr. Adams to find out why. He said he was told the decision "came as a surprise to all of us" and that the career lawyers working on the case feared that the failure to enforce the Voting Rights Act "would embolden other abuses in the future."

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KISSELL). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

HONORING BOB DEININGER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SESTAK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SESTAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a public servant, leader, son, husband and father of the first order, Mr. Robert Deininger, who on August 1, 2009, will complete 40 years of faithful and dedicated service to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the FDA.

Following his 1965 graduation from Upper Darby High School, Bob excelled at Grove City College, Grove City, Pennsylvania, graduating in 1969 with a bachelor of science degree in biology. He was quickly hired by the FDA as an investigator in the Philadelphia district office.

In 1977 Bob was selected to be a supervisor of the New Jersey District in Trenton, New Jersey. He later moved to Camden, New Jersey, where he supervised 10 investigators and covered southern New Jersey.

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During 13 years in this position, he and his team were involved in many unique and interesting cases, including those involving food tampering, recalls and compliance actions.

In 1989, Bob was accepted into a government Executive Potential Program. In 1990, he was selected as Director of the Investigations Branch for the Dallas district and moved to Dallas, Texas. In this position, with nearly 100 employees and 13 satellite offices, he was responsible for domestic import inspection activities in Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas.

Bob's last position was that of District Director, Southwest Import District, SWID, in the FDA Office of Regulatory Affairs, FDA's regulatory field force. As District Director, Bob was responsible for all import operations in the 11-State Southwest Region and along the entire United States-Mexican border, from Brownsville, Texas, to San Diego, California.

Bob's contributions are too numerous to mention, but principal among them are his efforts to improve import coverage uniformity in applying FDA policies and procedures and his work to increase cooperative activities with Customs and Border Protection.

As the Nation has faced serious threats to the safety of its food supply, Bob significantly increased the number of import samples and product exams performed each year and contributed to updating the FDA import training program. Most importantly, Bob focused FDA/SWID outreach and education efforts to work with the Federal and State agencies on border health to improve the health of the population living along the United States and Mexican border.

For all of his accomplishments in life, Bob Deininger's greatest achievement will always be his family. His mother Evelyn and brother Gary are very proud of him, as is his wonderful wife Rosemary. Together, she and Bob have raised two impressive sons, Kristopher and Brian. They are blessed with a lovely daughter-in-law, Katherine, who has given them their pride and joy, grandson Jack.

Mr. Speaker, let us pause and give thanks to Bob Deininger for four decades of tireless, selfless service to the Food and Drug Administration and the American public.

Today, I join the good people of the Seventh Congressional District of Pennsylvania and the thousands of FDA employees Bob has led, mentored and cared for over the course of his brilliant career, and Bob's many friends and colleagues, to wish Rosemary and Bob "fair winds and following seas" as they embark on the next, and no doubt even more remarkable, chapter of their lives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE of Texas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Wanda Evans, one of his secretaries.

NUMBER OF MARINE SUICIDES INCREASING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week I was saddened to read an article in the Marine Corps Times with the heading "7 July suicides push Corps to record pace." I will submit that article for the record.

The article states, "At least seven Marines are believed to have killed

themselves so far in July, putting the Corps on a record pace despite broad-based efforts introduced to reduce suicides."

The Corps is on a pace for about 56 suicides in 2009, which would shatter a record set last year when the Corps lost 42 Marines to confirmed or suspected suicide. The article further states, "Marine suicides have increased annually since 2006."

[From the Marine Corps Times, July 30, 2009]

JULY SUICIDES PUSH CORPS TO RECORD PACE

(By Dan Lamothe, staff writer)

At least seven Marines are believed to have killed themselves so far in July, officials said, putting the Corps on a record pace despite broad-based efforts introduced to reduce suicides.

The deaths come as the service rolls out a new suicide-prevention program this week focused on getting sergeants and corporals to take a more active role in watching for signs that a Marine may be in danger of killing himself. Nine Marines killed themselves in June, and 33 have done so this year, said Maj. Carl Redding, a spokesman at Marine Corps headquarters.

The statistics were discussed Monday at the Sergeants Major Symposium, an annual meeting of the Corps' top enlisted leaders in Washington. The 33 dead Marines put the Corps on pace for about 56 suicides in 2009, shattering a record set last year, when the Corps lost 42 Marines to confirmed or suspect suicides.

"We're looking at all options to get a handle on this," said Sgt. Maj. Carlton Kent, the Corps' top enlisted adviser. "We're trying to pinpoint what we can do, and we're going to stay engaged until we find a fix for it."

Marine suicides have increased annually since 2006, when 25 Marines killed themselves. Thirty-three Marines are believed to have committed suicide in 2007, Marine officials said.

The recent numbers have alarmed Marine leadership, prompting additional "all-hands" prevention training in March that included videos made by commanders, a slideshow outlining recent statistics and an overview of warning signs shown by Marines at risk of killing themselves.

On Monday, senior enlisted leaders discussed a next wave of suicide-prevention training that has been in the works for months. Noncommissioned officers throughout the Corps will be trained to watch for suicide signs more carefully, with "master trainer" sergeants who went through 3½ days of training in July at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., now fanning out across the service to teach NCOs how they can be a better help to at-risk Marines.

The new training package will include a 30-minute video featuring professional actors portraying Marines, and 11 documentary film clips featuring Marines who considered killing themselves and survivors of Marines who did, the Corps' senior enlisted leaders were told Monday. It will focus in part on eliminating the stigma of reporting a Marine who is considering suicide, officials said.

"Peer groups have to recognize the signs at ankle level, not chest level," said Sgt. Maj. Michael Timmerman, the senior enlisted adviser with the Personal and Family Readiness Division at Marine Corps headquarters.

Kent said he wants NCOs to feel empowered to report that a Marine in turmoil may be considering suicide, but he believes senior enlisted leadership and officers also need to be actively involved.

"We still have to provide the guidance, oversight and support," he said of senior enlisted leadership. "We have to give [NCOs] the tools they need" to prevent suicides.