

Airman First Class Jessica Nicole Hinves, a former member of the Air Force, was raped in 2009 by a coworker who broke into her room through the bathroom at approximately 3:00 a.m. She sought medical care and bravely reported the rape. Friends of the rapist began harassing her, but Airman Hinves was not intimidated. She rightly pursued the matter through the military's justice system, and the rapist was scheduled to stand trial in his court-martial.

But the airman who raped Airman Hinves was never prosecuted. His new commander intervened and halted the court-martial. The new commander had only been on the job for 4 days and had no legal training, but still he dismissed the prosecution and the man who raped Airman Hinves never was brought to justice. Only 4 days on the job, and the new commander intervened in the judicial proceedings.

So what happened next? Well, the rapist was given the award for Airman of the Quarter, and Airman Hinves, who was then transferred to another base, now suffers from severe panic attacks and anxiety.

Who can blame a victim for not wanting to report a rape or other humiliating assault? The current process for adjudicating sexual assault and rape in the military is shockingly unjust and is more likely to punish a victim than a perpetrator.

Airman Hinves was the victim of a violent crime. In response, she did everything right. But one commander's decision stood in the way of a fair proceeding against the perpetrator.

In the current military chain of command, commanders can issue virtually any punishment or, in this case, the rapist was not punished at all because the command has complete authority and discretion over how a degrading and violent assault under their command is handled.

Command discretion empowers the commander to decide if a case goes forward to court-martial. The same commander is empowered to determine which JAG officer will serve as prosecutor, which will serve as defense counsel, who oversees the investigation, and even serve as convening authority and, in nonjudicial cases, determine disciplinary action. All these functions are given to the discretion of one person. Simply put, command discretion sets up a dynamic fraught with conflict of interest and potential abuse of power.

This chain of command must be disrupted. We can no longer accept that victims of rape and abuse are beholden to the judgment of a single superior. Instead, victims should have the benefit of impartiality by objective experts, which is what my bill, H.R. 3435, the STOP Act does.

The STOP Act would take the prosecution, reporting, oversight, investigation, and victim care of sexual assaults out of the hands of the normal chain of command and place the juris-

dition in the hands of an impartial office staffed by experts, both military and civilian, but retain it in the military.

Now you've heard the story of Airman Hinves. I will continue to tell stories like hers until this broken system is fixed. I promise to continue to speak out for those who have been victims of sexual assault or rape in the military.

I urge you to write me at [stopmilitaryrape@mail.house.gov](mailto:stopmilitaryrape@mail.house.gov).

#### NOMINATIONS FOR THE UNITED STATES SERVICE ACADEMIES FROM PENNSYLVANIA'S SEVENTH DISTRICT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEEHAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, let me take a moment to associate myself with the remarks of the gentlelady from California and commend her for her efforts in this point to identify the steps that can be taken to alleviate the issue of unaddressed rapes in the military. As a former prosecutor, I commend that effort and urge my colleagues, in a bipartisan fashion, to pay attention to this issue and hope that we might be able to find common ground to alleviate this injustice.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor 36 remarkable young people in my own district. The following students from Pennsylvania's Seventh Congressional District will receive my nomination for the United States Service Academies.

Nominated to the United States Military are: Domenic Luciani from Monsignor Bonner High School, Nicholas Gustaitis from B. Reed Henderson High School, Andrew Helbling from La Salle College High School, Evan Harkins from West Chester Bayard Rustin High School, Kunal Jha from Delaware County Christian High School, Daniel McCormick from The Episcopal Academy, Ryan Fulmer from Devon Preparatory School, Dean Feinman from Haverford High School, and Isacc Wagner graduating from the Pennsylvania Homeschoolers Accreditation Agency.

Nominated to the United States Naval Academy are: Maxwell Wiechec from West Chester East High School, Sean Ridinger from Marple Newtown High School, Timothy Bell from Archbishop John Carroll High School, Micheal Cerrato from Methacton Senior High School, Fletcher Criswell from Spring-Ford Senior High School, Micheal Dartnell from Monsignor Bonner High School, Thomas Dolan from Ridley High School, Andrew Driban from Garnet Valley High School, Peter Guo from Conestoga High School, Joseph Horn from Roman Catholic High School, William Kacergis from The Episcopal Academy, Alexander La Bruno from St. Joseph's Preparatory School, Brian Landi from Marple Newtown High School, Luke Lawrence from West Chester East High School, Michael McKernan from Penncrest

High School, Eric Milkowski from Monsignor Bonner High School, Jackson Pierucci from Malvern Preparatory School, Thomas Shiiba from Strath Haven High School, Joseph Sincavage from St. Joseph's Preparatory School, and Eric Csop from Strath Haven High School has been nominated to both the Naval Academy and the Air Force Academy.

Nominated to the United States Air Force Academy are: Caitlin Sullivan from Radnor Senior High School, Rebecca Bates from Villa Maria Academy, Kevin Brewer from Monsignor Bonner High School, Meghan Callahan from Cardinal O'Hara High School, and Kyle Schwirian from Spring-Ford High School.

And lastly, to the United States Merchant Marine Academy are: Kelly Choi from Garnet Valley High School and Peter Heinbockel from Strath Haven High School.

Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege to nominate these fine young men and women to our United States Service Academies, some of the finest institutions in the world. These exceptional students have demonstrated themselves to be the best of the best. I invite the people of southeastern Pennsylvania to join me in honoring them for their willingness to serve our country, and I wish each and every one of them all of the best in their bright futures ahead.

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#### WE NEED A GREATER COMMITMENT TO PEACE AND SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, today marks exactly 125 months to the day that we've been at war with Afghanistan. That's 125 months that we have been sending brave young men and women to be maimed and killed in a conflict that is not advancing our values but actually degrading them.

I've never believed more fervently that this war is a national security disaster, as well as a national tragedy and a moral catastrophe.

What we need, Mr. Speaker, is a greater commitment to peace and security. What we need is a more generous humanitarian spirit. What we need is diplomacy and international dialogue, cooperation, and conflict resolution. What we need is to cherish human life and human dignity here in the United States and on every corner of the globe.

Yesterday, we lost one of this body's fierce champions for these values, our colleague, Donald Payne. He was a peacemaker, a man of conscience, an ambassador of decency and compassion. He would not tolerate genocide and despair. He didn't turn a blind eye to human suffering, and he didn't care if it was happening in Newark or Nigeria. He went to some of the most dangerous places on Earth to make lives