



## NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SHNS Columnist Martin Schram Chronicles Our Government's  
Unfulfilled Pledge in His New Book, *Vets Under Siege:  
How America Deceives and Dishonors Those Who Fight Our Battles***

NEW YORK, July 10, 2008 – Scripps Howard News Service columnist Martin Schram has written a new book that details America's failures in caring for our servicemen and women after they return from battle. In *Vets Under Siege* (published by Thomas Dunne Books, an imprint of St. Martin's Press), Schram recounts more than fifty years' worth of veterans' tragic tales, explaining how they have been plagued by the Department of Veterans Affairs' inaction and often denied assistance by its shockingly antagonistic bureaucrats.

Schram offers in-depth accounts of how various individuals have fallen victim to the VA's obstinate attitude toward providing treatment and compensation. One such story is the heart-wrenching saga of Gulf War Army veteran Bill Florey, who developed hideously disfiguring and ultimately fatal cancers after being exposed to Iraqi chemical weapons that were mistakenly detonated by U.S. soldiers in Iraq. After delaying his necessary medical testing, the VA then refused Florey's request for service-related disability compensation on the grounds that it was "less likely than not" that his condition was related to the chemical exposure – without checking its own data that could have proven otherwise. Florey died of brain cancer on New Year's Day 2005 and a government study released six months later indeed revealed that those who were exposed in this chemical weapons detonation in Iraq were actually twice as likely to die of brain cancer – a finding that proved the validity of Florey's claim, but too late to give him solace. According to VA rules, Florey's benefits claim ended when he died.

The book has earned high praise from Dan Rather, who said, "It should be required reading for all citizens," as well as from notable politicians including former Senator Sam Nunn and Senator Richard Lugar. U.S. Rep. Bob Filner, Chairman of the House



Veterans' Affairs Committee calls it a "must-read book that delivers an urgent must-act message to all who care about our military veterans."

*Vets Under Siege* is the sixth book written by Schram, a Washington journalist, newspaper editor, television documentary executive and author for more than three decades. His syndicated SHNS column generally pertains to the intersection of the news media, public policy and politics.

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