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House of Representatives

HONORING BOB HANDY FOR HIS PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. SALUD CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

December 20, 2020

Mr. Carbajal. Madam Speaker, I celebrate the service of one of my constituents and good friend, Robert “Bob” Handy, who is a staunch advocate for veterans and had a prodigious 22-year career in the U.S Navy as a Hospital Corpsman.

Bob is the founder and Chairman of Veterans United for Truth, Inc. (VUFT), a veterans’ support non-profit that played a critical role in addressing the Veterans Administration’s (VA) mishandling of veterans’ medical services, particularly of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) cases, and restrictive policies within the VA that prevented veterans with PTSD from appealing negative findings in their cases.

Bob led VUFT as the principal plaintiff in *VCS et al. v. Nicholson et al.*, a 2007 class action lawsuit that challenged the federal government’s compliance with the First and Fifth Amendments to the United States Constitution, and with section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794, as it related to veterans’ PTSD cases.

While the suit was initially successful in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, after being referred there by a District Court, a subsequent revised finding by a full panel of the court rejected it. The case was supported by millions of dollars of *pro bono* legal support and lasted into 2009.

Bob Handy’s tireless pursuit of this case in the public realm brought new attention to the serious health issue of PTSD. His work resulted in important changes to the VA’s approach on this issue.

I am honored to celebrate Bob Handy’s distinguished service, exemplary advocacy, leadership, and commitment on behalf of veterans.