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**MILITARY FAMILIES SPEAK OUT MEMBERS KEVIN AND JOYCE LUCEY FILE LAWSUIT
OVER GOVERNMENT'S FAILURE TO CARE FOR THEIR SON'S POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS
DISORDER**

MFSO Members Across the Country Applaud the Luceys for Calling National Attention to a Broken System and Putting a Human Face on its Failures

July 26, 2007 – Today Kevin and Joyce and Kevin Lucey, members of Military Families Speak Out, filed a lawsuit in Springfield, Massachusetts charging the government and the Veterans Administration with negligence in the suicide death of their son Lance Cpl. Jeffrey Michael Lucey after he returned from deployment in Iraq.

Since the beginning of this war, the Bush Administration has used “support for the troops” to silence voices of opposition. But this Administration has shown a profound *lack of support* for our troops – first, by sending them off to a war that should never have happened; then by failing to adequately provide them with supplies, equipment and protective armor; and finally by failing to take care of them when they return. Yesterday’s report “Commission on Care for American’s Returning Wounded Warriors” issued by a bi-partisan presidential panel highlighted some failures of care and systemic problems regarding the Veterans Administration and Pentagon. Today’s lawsuit *Lucey et al v. Nicholson et al* puts a human face on that failure.

It has been over three years since Kevin and Joyce Lucey’s son Lance Cpl. Jeffrey Michael Lucey, an Iraq War Veteran, took his own life after failing to get the care he needed from the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Leeds, Massachusetts. Since that time, the failures in the system have resulted in harm and in death to many other returned service members.

Military Families Speak Out and its over 3,600 member military families from across the country stand behind Kevin and Joyce Lucey as they courageously speak out to hold the government of the United States, including the Veterans Administration, accountable for their negligence and work to ensure that this type of tragedy will never happen again.

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Military Families Speak Out (MFSO) is a national organization of over 3,500 families who are opposed to the war in Iraq and have loved ones in the military.

For more information about Military Families Speak Out, please visit: <http://www.mfso.org>