

sons' struggles with schizophrenia, which tragically claimed the life of one of them.

The book's informative yet intimate approach raises awareness about a subject that most are too uncomfortable to broach. When reading it, you can hardly hold back tears.

I cannot imagine the pain Ron and Honoree went through while working on this book. It is a truly personal journey and a triumph. I am proud of him for publishing this important work. He understands that mental illness is not an issue that will simply go away if pushed into the darkness of neglect and denial. One cannot lock it up in an institution and expect to be rid of the problem. Mental illness in America needs to be discussed openly, by those who suffer from it, the friends and families of those affected, medical experts, and those of us Senators. We must all follow the footsteps of Ron and continue to shine a light on this extremely sensitive issue.

I ask unanimous consent that the October 8, 2017, Vermont Digger article honoring Ron Powers and his family and recognizing his great work be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Vermont Digger, Oct. 8, 2017]

A VERMONT QUESTIONS THE NATION'S  
MENTAL HEALTH

(By Kevin O'Connor)

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Ron Powers' past works have eagerly explored everything from the 1800s literary lion Mark Twain to the flag-raising World War II soldiers at Iwo Jima and the present-day pioneers of broadcast news and sports.

The Vermonter's current focus is different. "This is the book I promised myself I would never write," Powers begins its preface. "I have kept that promise for a decade—since our younger son, Kevin, hanged himself in our basement, a week before his 21st birthday in July 2005, after struggling for three years with schizophrenia."

The author, born 75 years ago in Twain's hometown of Hannibal, Missouri, can boast of a prolific career that has seen him in a columnist's chair at the Chicago Sun-Times and a commentator's seat on the CBS News program "Sunday Morning," as well as on the best-seller list for more than a dozen books that include collaborating on the late U.S. Sen. Edward Kennedy's memoir "True Compass."

But after the death of one of his two boys, the Castleton resident could barely think about, let alone tackle, another project. He and his wife, Honoree Fleming, were finally starting to heal ("adaptation, really," he says) when they saw their surviving son, experiencing a psychotic break one Christmas, tell neighbors he was the messiah before police took him to a hospital.

And so Powers began to research mental illness—not just the schizophrenia his family has faced but also all the other issues the World Health Organization estimates will affect one-fourth of the world's people at some point in their lives.

"I realized that my 10 years of silence on the subject," he says, "silence that I had justified as insulation against an exercise in self-indulgence, was itself an exercise in self-indulgence."

And so Powers is talking up his new book, "No One Cares About Crazy People: The Chaos and Heartbreak of Mental Health in America." The 384-page Hachette hardcover shares his family's story alongside a historic and often horrific survey of mental illness in larger society.

"Studies by the National Institute of Mental Health show that among Americans age 18 or older, more than 62 million (26 percent of the population) require (but are not always given) counseling and medical treatment," he writes.

Powers could cite too many reasons for not wanting to tackle the topic: What about his family's privacy? The appearance of exploitation? The fact he isn't an expert?

"Book writing is hard work," he continues. "And, really, end of the day, who the hell wants to read about schizophrenia anyway?"

Plenty of people, the author would discover. Nearly a decade after their son's death, Powers and his wife accepted an invitation to testify at a 2014 Vermont legislative hearing on whether acutely mentally ill patients should be medicated against their will.

"At first glance, speedy 'involuntary treatment' might seem the least objectionable of measures, given that people in psychosis are virtually never capable of making rational decisions," he writes in his book. "And yet opponents of the process bring passionate counterarguments to the debate. Among the most formidable is that 'involuntary treatment' is by definition a violation of one's civil liberties."

Powers testified in support of shorter waits on decisions about involuntary intervention, which the Legislature went on to adopt as law. But the author was moved by opponents of the measure.

"They were there: the faces and souls of the mentally ill, emerging from their prevailing invisibility to declare themselves," he writes. "The sheer presence of them, their actualization in the room, had affected me in the gut, not because I hadn't expected them, but because of the profound, elemental humanity of them."

Three weeks later, Powers read news of a Wisconsin political aide who, responding to headlines of state mental health mismanagement, emailed a colleague: "No one cares about crazy people."

That's when the author started writing—for himself, his household, other families, friends, neighbors and psychiatric professionals.

"My aim with this book is not to replace or argue with the existing vast inventory of important books on mental illness," he writes. "Rather, I hope to reamplify a simple and self-evident and morally insupportable truth: Too many of the mentally ill in our country live under conditions of atrocity."

Powers has taken his message to National Public Radio's "Fresh Air" program and is seeing it shared in publications nationwide.

"He writes with fierce hope and fierce purpose to persuade the world to pay attention," fellow Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Ron Suskind wrote in a review for The New York Times. "I'm not sure I've ever read anything that handles the decline of one's children with such openness and searing, stumbling honesty."

Readers can learn for themselves when Powers speaks at the Brattleboro Literary Festival on Saturday at 11 a.m. at the downtown Centre Congregational Church. If similar appearances are any indication, he'll share a few of the book's humorous family stories, too.

"Why do I include these?" he told an audience in Manchester. "Because they make me smile and bring the two boys to life. I wanted to avoid a kind of cliché—the afflicted

loved ones described only in the context of their victimhood. It's hard to feel compassion for an abstract. My sons were wonderful spirited boys before this affliction struck."

That said, Powers isn't seeking to entertain.

"I hope you do not 'enjoy' this book," he writes. "I hope you are wounded by it; wounded as I have been in writing it. Wounded to act, to intervene."

"America must turn its immense resources and energy and conciliatory goodwill to a final assault on mental illness," he concludes. "My sons, and your afflicted children and brothers and sisters and parents and friends, deserve nothing less."

NATIONAL ARCHIVES EXHIBIT  
"REMEMBERING VIETNAM"

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, long before his confirmation as the 10th Archivist of the United States, David Ferriero proudly served our Nation in a different capacity, as a Navy corpsman in Vietnam. Today, with the help of Mr. Ferriero's unique personal perspective and professionally informed guidance, the Lawrence F. O'Brien Gallery at the National Archives Museum in Washington, DC, is currently exhibiting a new collection of remarkable documents that illustrate some of the Vietnam war's biggest controversies.

Mr. Ferriero and his team are to be thanked for painstakingly determining which of the countless relevant texts housed in the National Archives best told this often misunderstood story. We can be sure, however, that few if any archivists are better suited with experience and vision for this task than Mr. Ferriero.

With this exhibit, Mr. Ferriero and his team honor the memory of those who served in Vietnam, while also fulfilling a sacred obligation to accurately preserve even our most contentious history so that we may strive to avoid repeating past mistakes. Today I would like to pay tribute to the Archivist of the United States, David Ferriero, and his team and ask unanimous consent that a Washington Post article titled, "A Veteran's View of Vietnam," be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Washington Post, Nov. 8, 2017]

A VETERAN'S VIEW OF VIETNAM

(By Michael E. Ruane)

At night, after Navy corpsman David Ferriero finished his clerical duties aboard the hospital ship off Vietnam, he would volunteer to help triage the wounded being helicoptered from the battlefield.

Some had been shot. Others were missing limbs. Some needed treatment right away. Others were dead when they arrived.

It was 1970, and Ferriero was a 25-year-old college dropout from Beverly, Mass., who suffered from seasickness and was a dedicated, if at times inept, corpsman.

Today he is the archivist of the United States and the impetus behind the sweeping new exhibit, "Remembering Vietnam," that opens Friday in the Archives' flagship building in the District.

The free exhibit, which runs through Jan. 6, includes some of the most striking documents relating to the war:

A 1944 memo from President Franklin D. Roosevelt stating that Vietnam, formerly ruled by France, should not be returned to the French after World War II.

"France has milked it for one hundred years," Roosevelt wrote. "The people of Indo-China deserve something better than that."

A 1946 telegram from Vietnamese communist leader Ho Chi Minh to President Harry Truman begging for U.S. support on Vietnamese independence and opposition to the reintroduction of French control. (The CIA withheld it from Truman, Ferriero said.)

The last page of President Lyndon B. Johnson's stunning 1968 speech announcing that, as a result of the war, he would not run for reelection. "Accordingly," the president concluded, "I shall not seek—and will not accept—the nomination . . . for another term as your President."

He had crossed out "would" and replaced it with "will."

The exhibit also includes three Vietnamese helicopters courtesy of the North Carolina Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association. The aircraft were installed Monday night on the lawn outside the Archives on Constitution Avenue.

Ferriero, 71, said he wanted the institution to mount a Vietnam exhibit in part because so many of the war's issues remain sensitive and unresolved.

In a long career that took him to big jobs at major universities and libraries, "no one—no one—wanted to talk about it," he said.

"No one asked me any questions," he said. "No one acknowledged it. . . . Never was it the topic of conversation."

Ferriero, in a recent interview in his office, said he also knew that the Archives had "incredible material in the records—photographs and all of the military records, the unit records. We have a lot of stuff."

"And for me it was important to tell the story from both sides," he said.

One fascinating document in the exhibit is a Viet Cong propaganda poster that echoes, from the enemy's point of view, the notorious U.S. obsession with numbers and body counts.

The poster claims, among other things, that the Viet Cong in 1962 and part of 1963 killed 28,108 South Vietnamese and 222 Americans—double the actual figures. "So that inflated body count was happening on both sides," said curator Alice Kamps, who assembled "Remembering Vietnam."

The exhibit includes CIA models of what appear to be an interrogation room and cell in the North Vietnamese prison known as the Hanoi Hilton, which held many American POWs.

There are transcripts of once secret American helicopter communications as Saigon, the chaotic capital of South Vietnam, was evacuated by the Americans in 1975.

"Bring ur personnel up thru th building," reads one communication. "Do not let them (the South Viets) follow too closely. Use mace if necessary but do not fire on them."

Although the exhibit covers the war from Ho Chi Minh's appearance at the Paris Peace Conference in 1919 to architect Maya Lin's 1981 design for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Ferriero's war had a single goal.

"We were all under the impression that the threat of communism was the biggest challenge," he said. "We were all playing a part in protecting us against communism."

Near the end of Ferriero's enlistment, he was shipped to Vietnam as a corpsman in a psychiatric ward.

"There were a lot of what we called at that point 'character disorders'—kids who were having trouble with authority," he said. "Then there were other folks who had more serious psychotic kinds of things . . . awaiting transfer back to the States."

Eventually, he was transferred to the 700-bed hospital ship USS Sanctuary, only to find the "psych" ward had been closed because too many patients had been jumping overboard.

But Ferriero could type, and he became an administrative clerk. After hours, though, he would help sort and treat the wounded who were transported from the battlefield to a kind of emergency room on the ship.

The helicopters came and went. Sometimes one would crash into the ocean. "In my time, no lives were lost," he said.

The ship would spend the day in the harbor at Da Nang, then cruise off the coast at night. Ferriero, who still has his dog tag on his key chain, said the injured included Americans and Vietnamese, soldiers, Marines and civilians. One case stood out. He was trying to start an intravenous line in an injured patient and couldn't find a good vein. Each time he failed, he discarded the needle and got a fresh one.

"Kept throwing down these needles," he recalled. "And at one point he just screamed. 'I thought, 'Oh, Jesus, I'm losing him,'" he said. "This is it."

"It turned out that I had thrown one of those needles down on the gurney and he had rolled over on it," he said.

Ferriero was embarrassed. His patient "wasn't in that great distress," he said, "but I never followed up to see what had happened to him."

One day earlier this week, as Ferriero checked the exhibit, he joked that there was one thing missing: a Zippo cigarette lighter like those carried by many an American serving in Vietnam.

Later, in his office, he produced the one he kept for many years. It was in pristine condition. "USS Sanctuary" was etched in the side, and on the inside of its box was the famous Zippo slogan:

"It works or we fix it free."

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I was unavailable for rollcall vote No. 274, on the nomination of Mark T. Esper, of Virginia, to be Secretary of the Army. I believe Mr. Esper is well qualified to be the Secretary of the Army. Had I been present, I would have voted yea.

I would also note that I was unavailable for this rollcall vote because I was serving as ranking member at a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing for judicial nominees—and specifically a panel of four district court nominees from Kentucky and Kansas that had been enthusiastically endorsed by Majority Leader MCCONNELL and Senators ROBERTS and MORAN earlier that morning. Senator CRUZ—who was serving as the acting chair of the committee for this hearing at this time—and I had hoped that the vote would be held open long enough for us to participate.

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I was unavailable for rollcall vote No. 274, on the nomination of Mark T. Esper, of Virginia, to be Secretary of the Army. Had I been present, I would have voted yea.

Mr. President, I was unavailable for rollcall vote No. 275, on the nomination of David G. Zatezalo, of West Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health. Had I been present, I would have voted nay.

Mr. President, I was unavailable for rollcall vote No. 276, on the motion to invoke cloture on Joseph Otting, of Nevada, to be Comptroller of the Currency. Had I been present, I would have voted nay.●

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for the vote on confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 463, Mark T. Esper, of Virginia, to be Secretary of the Army, due to having to chair a Judiciary Committee hearing on judicial nominations for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, the Eastern and Western Districts of Kentucky, and the District of Kansas. Had I been present, I would have voted yea.

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for the votes on confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 463, the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 383, and the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 300.

On vote No. 274, had I been present, I would have voted nay on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 463.

On vote No. 275, had I been present, I would have voted nay on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 383.

On vote No. 276, had I been present, I would have voted nay on the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 300.●

#### WELLNESS HEARING WITH SURGEON GENERAL JEROME ADAMS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a copy of my remarks at the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

#### WELLNESS HEARING WITH SURGEON GENERAL JEROME ADAMS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Today we are holding a hearing with the Surgeon General, Dr. Jerome Adams, to hear his priorities on how to encourage people to lead healthier lives. Senator Murray and I will each have an opening statement. Then we will introduce Dr. Adams. After his testimony Senators will each have five minutes of questions.

When Dr. Adams and I met before his confirmation hearing, I said to him that if, as Surgeon General, he threw himself at one important problem with everything he has, he could have a real impact on the lives of millions of Americans.

At his confirmation hearing, he said, "I would also make wellness and community