

A black woman from a St. Louis suburb, LaVena played the violin and was an honor roll student. She wanted to travel, and go to school...

She also wanted to make her own way, so she joined the Army...was sent to Iraq...8 days before her 20th birthday, she was dead... the army said: suicide.

Instead, she became the first woman soldier from Missouri to die in Iraq.

But evidence points to a struggle preceding her death... two loose front teeth, a busted lip, a blood trail outside her tent... no indication she had suicidal thoughts.

Though there was a flurry of news stories about her in 2007, the press has been silent for a year. A renewed call for an investigation of her death leads to other questions:

Is the US military covering up?

How did she really die?



The

LaVena Johnson Story

7 pm, Wednesday • June 4, 2008

Legacy Books & Cafe, 5249 Delmar (near Union)

St. Louis, MO 63108. For more info call 314-727-8554

or visit www.gateway-greens.org

Join us for a panel discussion with:

- Lionel Nixon, African Newsworld newspaper [moderator]
- John Johnson, father of LaVena Johnson
- Redditt Hudson, American Civil Liberties Union
- Michael McPhearson, Veterans For Peace