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MONETARY POLICY

Congress of the United States House of Representatives

GREGORY W. MEEKS
5TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

August 3rd, 2026

The Honorable Pete Hegseth
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Secretary Hegseth:

I write to demand that the names of Staff Sergeant Angel Rampersad, Lieutenant Tyler James Feehan, Private Isabella Gonzales, and Sergeant Michael Emmanuel Swinton be restored to the official count of the Iran War casualties under Operation Epic Fury on the Department of Defense's website.

Staff Sergeant Angel Rampersad, one of my constituents, made the ultimate sacrifice when a missile struck Muwaffaq Salti Air Base in Jordan, killing her and three fellow U.S. service members. She served her country with honor and dedication, and she is remembered by her family, friends, and community for her commitment to serving others. The same is true for Lieutenant Feehan, Private Gonzales, and Sergeant Swinton. Each answered our nation's call, and each deserves to have their sacrifice accurately recognized in the Department's official historical record.

The four service members are listed in a new category on the Defense Casualty Analysis System website under "Overseas Operations."¹ It was initially reported that the removal of the service members' names from the official death count from Operation Epic Fury was due to a "temporary data disruption."² Since the Defense Casualty Analysis System is the Department of Defense's public-facing record of casualties of historical and ongoing military conflicts, the omission of the deceased service members names raises rightful concerns about transparency and an accurate depiction of the human cost of the Iran war.

These concerns are only exacerbated by President Trump comparing of past wars, and their death counts, on Truth Social³ as an attempt to minimize the 18 U.S. service member deaths that have resulted from the

¹ Department of Defense. (2026, July 31) *U.S. Military Casualties – Overseas Operations (OO) Casualty Summary by Casualty Category*) U.S. Department of Defense, Defense Manpower Data Center.
<https://dcas.dmdc.osd.mil/dcas/conflictCasualties/oo/byCategory>

² Parnell, S. [@SeanParnellASW]. (2026, July 23). *This is one of the worst instances of the Fake News media manufacturing lies out of thin air for absolutely no* [Image attached][Post]. X.

³ Trump, D. [@realDonaldTrump]. (2026, July 21). *Afghanistan War: 20 years, 2,000 DEAD. Iraq War: 9 years, 4,600 DEAD. Vietnam War: 19 years and 5 months, 58,220 DEAD.* [Post]. X.

United States' current war against Iran. Every U.S. service member lost is one too many. Their service deserves to be recognized and dignified.

As such, I request a response to the following questions no later than Monday, August 10, 2026:

1. Why are the deaths of Staff Sergeant Angel Rampersad, Lieutenant Tyler James Feehan, Private Isabella Gonzales, and Sergeant Michael Emmanuel Swinton currently recorded under "Overseas Operations" rather than under Operation Epic Fury in the Defense Casualty Analysis System?
2. What specific policy, guidance, or criteria govern whether a casualty is attributed to a named military operation versus the "Overseas Operations" category?
3. Why were the service members' deaths initially recorded under Operation Epic Fury not added back to that record after the "temporary data disruption" was resolved?

Sincerely,



Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress