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Written by [Ralph R. Reiland](#) on January 9, 2015

fatalities.

Bottom line, the surge didn't work. Saddam Hussein, a Sunni, brutally oppressed Shiites and Kurds. Nouri al-Maliki, a Shiite, switching targets, brutally oppressed the Sunnis and Kurds. "Meet the new boss, same as the old boss."

President George W. Bush ended his January 10 address praising "the extraordinary and selfless men and women willing to step forward and defend us."

These young Americans, he said, "have watched their comrades give their lives to ensure our liberty." And some had watched too much.

Bradley Stone, 35, of Pennsburg, Pa., is "a former marine who went on a murder spree in December and killed six family members and himself had been denied claims for new benefits by the Department of Veterans Affairs, including a claim for traumatic brain injury," reported Dave Boyer, a White House correspondent for the *Washington Times*, on December 18, 2014.

In a VA document, a reviewer of Stone's requests for new benefits and treatment stated that all of Stone's new complaints, including claims related to the effects of traumatic brain injury, were "not service-related."

Stone killed his ex-wife, her mother, her grandmother, her sister, her brother-in-law, and her 14-year-old niece. A nephew, 17, survived but suffered injuries.

Stone's "claims for 17 different medical conditions were rejected under the VA's 'surge' program aimed at clearing a backlog of claims in the beleaguered agency, according to documents obtained by The *Washington Times*," reported Boyer.

More specifically, a reviewer in March in the VA's Philadelphia regional office said Stone's new claims were being rejected "under surge guidance."

The VA "surge" was launched in 2013 by then-VA Secretary Eric Shinseki to expedite claims and cut the backlog of claims that was "to cause a media firestorm and contribute to Mr. Shinseki's resignation," reported Boyer.

Shinseki explained that the "surge" would "help eliminate the backlog with continued emphasis on high-priority claims for homeless veterans and those claiming financial hardship, the terminally ill, former prisoners of war, Medal of Honor recipients, and veterans filing fully developed claims."

It seems that Bradley Stone, who served in Iraq in 2008, didn't fit into any of the prioritized boxes.

Stone, with a 100 percent disability rating by the VA for post-traumatic stress disorder, saw a psychiatrist at the VA facility in Coatesville, Pennsylvania, just one week prior to the murders.

A VA spokesman, regarding the psychological visit and assessment in Coatesville, said "the provider noted that at the time of the evaluation, the veteran was without any suicidal or homicidal ideation."

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