

*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](http://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