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Wounded Times Blog

News, views and videos
for trauma survivors, responders and
warriors.

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder is a wound
you see with your heart.
Trauma is Greek for wound.

Tuesday, October 7, 2008

Family sues over soldier's suicide

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Says VA center failed Penn Manor grad

By LARRY ALEXANDER, Staff Writer

Donald Woodward's tormented life ended on March 3, 2006.

An Iraqi war veteran suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, Woodward's body was found at one of his favorite hiking spots along the Enola Low-Grade Line.

The anguished young man had died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound. He was 23.

While Woodward's pain is over, his family's continues, and on Monday, his widow, Tiera Woodward, filed a \$2 million wrongful death suit against the United States government.

Her attorneys filed the lawsuit Monday in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

Tiera Woodward and the entire Woodward family blame Donald's death on the Lebanon Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Lebanon, where the young man had turned for help.

The suit, filed by the Pittsburgh-based law firm of Seewald, Mielnicki and Petro, claims the medical center "acted negligently, grossly negligent, carelessly and recklessly in treating" Woodward.

He enlisted in the Army and was attached to the 4th Infantry Division during Operation Iraqi Freedom in March 2003, where he served until August 2003.