

### Brady, Union Threaten To Go To Court

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP) — Tom Brady's lawyers demanded that NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell recuse himself from the Super Bowl MVP's "Deflategate" appeal and threatened to go to court unless the four-game suspension is overturned.

Laying out the grounds for dismissing the penalty and setting the stage for a potential federal court battle, the NFL Players Association said in a letter released Friday that Goodell can't hear the appeal because he will be called as a witness.

"The NFLPA believes that neither Commissioner Goodell nor anyone with close ties to the NFL can serve as arbitrator in Mr. Brady's appeal," the letter said. "If the Commissioner does not appoint such a neutral arbitrator, the NFLPA and Mr. Brady will seek recusal and pursue all available relief to obtain an arbitrator who is not evidently partial."

Brady was suspended for four games and the New England Patriots were fined \$1 million and docked a pair of draft picks after league investigator Ted Wells found that the Super Bowl champions used illegally inflated footballs in the AFC title game.

The team has denied doing anything wrong and published a 20,000-word rebuttal online. Neither the Patriots nor Donald Yee, the agent for their three-time Super Bowl MVP quarterback, responded to requests for comment on Friday.

### B.B. King Leaves Legacy Of Music

INDIANOLA, Miss. (AP) — Blues legend B.B. King grew up as poor as could be, alone and in debt at 14, living in primitive cabins and sharecropping cotton in Mississippi.

His natural talent with a guitar enabled him to escape grueling poverty and manual labor. He became a millionaire, and played for presidents, the pope and the Queen of England. But glittering wealth and international fame never kept him from his roots in the Delta, and friends say he showed no bitterness about his rough start.

King died at 89 Thursday at his home in Las Vegas, but his impact is still deeply felt in small towns along the Mississippi Blues Trail, where he came of age before the industrialization of agriculture and other factors prompted the descendants of slaves to migrate in huge numbers out of the Deep South.

"I think he never considered himself as having left," author Charles Sawyer, who wrote "The Arrival of B.B. King" in 1980, explained Friday. "And he was very conscious about how he presented himself to the world, and he didn't want to present himself as an angry man."

The future King of the Blues was born as Riley B. King in 1925 to sharecropper parents in a long-gone cabin along a creek in Belclair, a community near the tiny town of Itta Bena. His parents soon split, his mother died young and his grandmother then died as well, leaving him to raise and pick an acre of cotton by himself in the even smaller town of Kilmichael.

### US Agencies Fear Oil Spill Could Persist

WASHINGTON (AP) — A decade-old oil leak where an offshore platform toppled during a hurricane could continue spilling crude into the Gulf of Mexico for a century or more if left unchecked, according to government estimates obtained by The Associated Press that provide new details about the scope of the problem.

Taylor Energy Company, which owned the platform and a cluster of oil wells, has played down the extent and environmental impact of the leak. The company also maintains that nothing can be done to completely eliminate the chronic oil slicks that often stretch for miles off the coast of Louisiana.

Taylor has tried to broker a deal with the government to resolve its financial obligations for the leak, but authorities have rebuffed those overtures and have ordered additional work by the company, according to Justice Department officials who were not authorized to comment publicly by name and spoke only on condition of anonymity.

"There is still more that can be done by Taylor to control and contain the oil that is discharging" from the site, says an Interior Department fact sheet obtained by AP.

Federal regulators suspect oil is still leaking from at least one of 25 wells that remain buried under mounds of sediment from an underwater mudslide triggered by waves whipped up by Hurricane Ivan in 2004.

### Yemen Fighting Mars Truce With UN

SANAA, Yemen (AP) — Fighting was underway across Yemen on Friday, the third day of a humanitarian truce between a Saudi-led coalition and Shiite rebels, as the U.N. envoy pushed for holding peace talks in Geneva.

Yemeni officials reported clashes in the southern city of Aden, the western cities of Taiz and Dhale and the provinces of Marib and Shabwa, despite the five-day cease-fire. Tribal sources said Saudi artillery shelled border areas in the rebels' northern heartland. All officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief the press.

### Man Who Shot At Zimmerman Charged

LAKE MARY, Fla. (AP) — A man who shot at George Zimmerman during a confrontation earlier this week along a busy central Florida road has been arrested.

Matthew Apperson was charged Friday with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, aggravated battery with a deadly weapon and firing a missile into an occupied conveyance, Lake Mary police reported in a news release. Apperson turned himself in at the police department Friday evening.

Zimmerman's attorney, Don West, has said the former neighborhood watch volunteer had recently moved to another state but came back to the Orlando suburb of Lake Mary for Mother's Day. He was driving to a doctor's appointment Monday when Apperson intentionally fired his gun into Zimmerman's truck without provocation, detectives said.



Police officers attend the National Peace Officers Memorial Service, an annual ceremony honoring law enforcement who were killed in the line of duty in the previous year, at the US Capitol on May 15, 2015 in Washington, D.C.

## Obama Calls For Healing Of Rifts Between Police, Communities

BY NEDRA PICKLER  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With police under increasing scrutiny after the highly publicized deaths of black suspects, President Barack Obama called on Americans Friday to honor law enforcement "heroes" by working harder to heal rifts with communities they serve.

Obama offered his gratitude for the sacrifices of police during an annual memorial service for fallen police on the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol. He said the law enforcement deaths are a too common reminder that of the risk inherent in their jobs.

"We cannot erase every darkness or danger from the duty that you've chosen," he said. "We can offer you the support you need to be safe. We can make the communities you care about and protect safer as well. We can make sure that you have the resources you need

to do your job. We can do everything we have to do to combat the poverty that plagues too many communities in which you have served. We can work harder as a nation to heal rifts that exist some places between law enforcement and the people you risk your lives to protect."

Obama did not mention any of the black men who died recently after police interactions, triggering a series of racially-charged protests across the country. Instead, the president spoke of some of the 131 officers who died last year in the line of duty.

He singled out Travis County senior deputy Jessica Hollis, who was swept away by Texas floodwaters. And he spoke of Officer Kevin Jordan of the Griffin County, Georgia, who was shot while working as an off-duty security guard at a Waffle House.

"We hold them up as heroes because that's what they are," Obama said. "It

takes a special kind of courage to be a police officer."

A proclamation signed by President John F. Kennedy in 1962 designated May 15 as Peace Officers Memorial Day and the entire week as Police Week. Every president since George H.W. Bush has spoken at the memorial services.

The 34rd annual National Peace Officers' Memorial Service, sponsored by the Grand Lodge Fraternal Order of Police and the Grand Lodge Fraternal Order of Police Auxiliary, comes amid shrinking budgets for law enforcement across the country.

"Mr. President it's a difficult time for law enforcement," Chuck Canterbury, president of the Fraternal Order of Police, said in introducing Obama. "Our hope is that our nation will stand up for law enforcement and be thankful that we've kept them safe."

## US Plays Down IS Militants' Gains In Iraq

BY ROBERT BURNS  
AP National Security Writer

WASHINGTON — Despite major new setbacks in Iraq, the U.S. military command leading the fight against Islamic State militants insisted Friday that its strategy is working and that the militants' takeover of a key oil refinery and a government compound are fleeting gains feeding an IS propaganda machine.

"We believe across Iraq and Syria that Daesh is losing and remains on the defensive," said Marine Brig. Gen. Thomas D. Weidley, chief of staff for Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve, the name of the international campaign fighting IS. "Daesh" is the Arabic acronym for the militant group that swept into Iraq from Syria last June and swiftly took control of much of Iraq's north and west.

Even as Weidley spoke to reporters by phone from his headquarters in Kuwait, IS militants were defying his description of them as a force on defense. Iraqi officials said IS fighters had captured the main government compound in Ramadi, the capital of battle-scarred Anbar province. Other officials said they had gained substantial control over the Beiji oil refinery, a strategically important prize in the battle for Iraq's future and a potential source of millions of dollars in income for the militants.

The battle to push IS out of Mosul, the largest city in northern Iraq, which some had hoped would begin this

spring, now seems a more distant goal.

The Pentagon insists that it knew when it began a bombing campaign in Iraq in August 2014 that it could take years to force the Islamic State group out of the country, and while the militants have conceded some ground in recent months, including the northern city of Tikrit, they have proven remarkably resilient.

Just over 3,000 U.S. troops are training and advising Iraqi forces and providing protection for U.S. forces and facilities. Weidley said there is no move afoot to either expand the U.S. presence or ask the Obama administration for authority to put U.S. troops close to the front lines of combat.

The White House said Vice President Joe Biden called Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi on Friday to reaffirm U.S. support in light of the attacks on Ramadi. It said Biden promised expedited security help, including delivery of shoulder-fired rockets and other heavy weaponry to counter IS car bombs.

Weidley appeared to be pressing his own "information campaign" designed to counter the militants' message of defiance. While conceding the militants' were managing "episodic control"

of certain terrain in Iraq, he insisted their advances were minor and unsustainable.

The State Department offered a similar assessment. "There will be good days and bad days in Iraq," State Department spokesman Jeff Rathke said. "ISIL is trying to make today a bad day in Ramadi. We've said all along we see this as a long-term fight."

Weidley said IS fighters had launched a complex attack Friday on Ramadi as part of an effort to "feed their information and propaganda apparatus." He said he could not confirm how much of the city had been lost to IS on Friday or what percentage remains in Iraqi control. He said his command had seen Islamic State social media postings of photos that depict a successful Ramadi offensive.

"This is similar to the (techniques) they've used in the past where they've conducted attacks trying to gain social media gains by taking photos and documenting small-term gains and then using it for propaganda purposes," Weidley said, adding that IS was inflating the importance of its success.

"We've seen similar attacks in Ramadi over the last several months for which the ISF (Iraqi security forces) have been able to repel, and

we see this one being similar to those," he said, adding that the U.S. is confident the Iraqi government will be able to take back the terrain it has lost in Ramadi.

Weidley called Ramadi a "critical city," which appears to stand in contrast to remarks last month by Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Dempsey said Ramadi was not central to the future of Iraq and said its potential loss "won't be the end of the campaign" against IS. He also said the Beiji oil refinery, the site of fierce battles between militants and Iraqi forces, was a "more strategic" target for IS.

In Ramadi, Iraqi troops were forced to withdraw during an attack in which three suicide car bombs killed at least 10 people and wounded dozens more, said Mayor Dalaf al-Kubaisi. The mayor said the militants raised their black flag over the captured government compound, which houses provincial and municipal government offices.

Anbar provincial councilman Taha Abdul-Ghani said the militants killed dozens more captured security forces in the city as well as their families, without providing an exact figure. He said Iraqi and coalition warplanes were bombing the militants inside the compound.

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