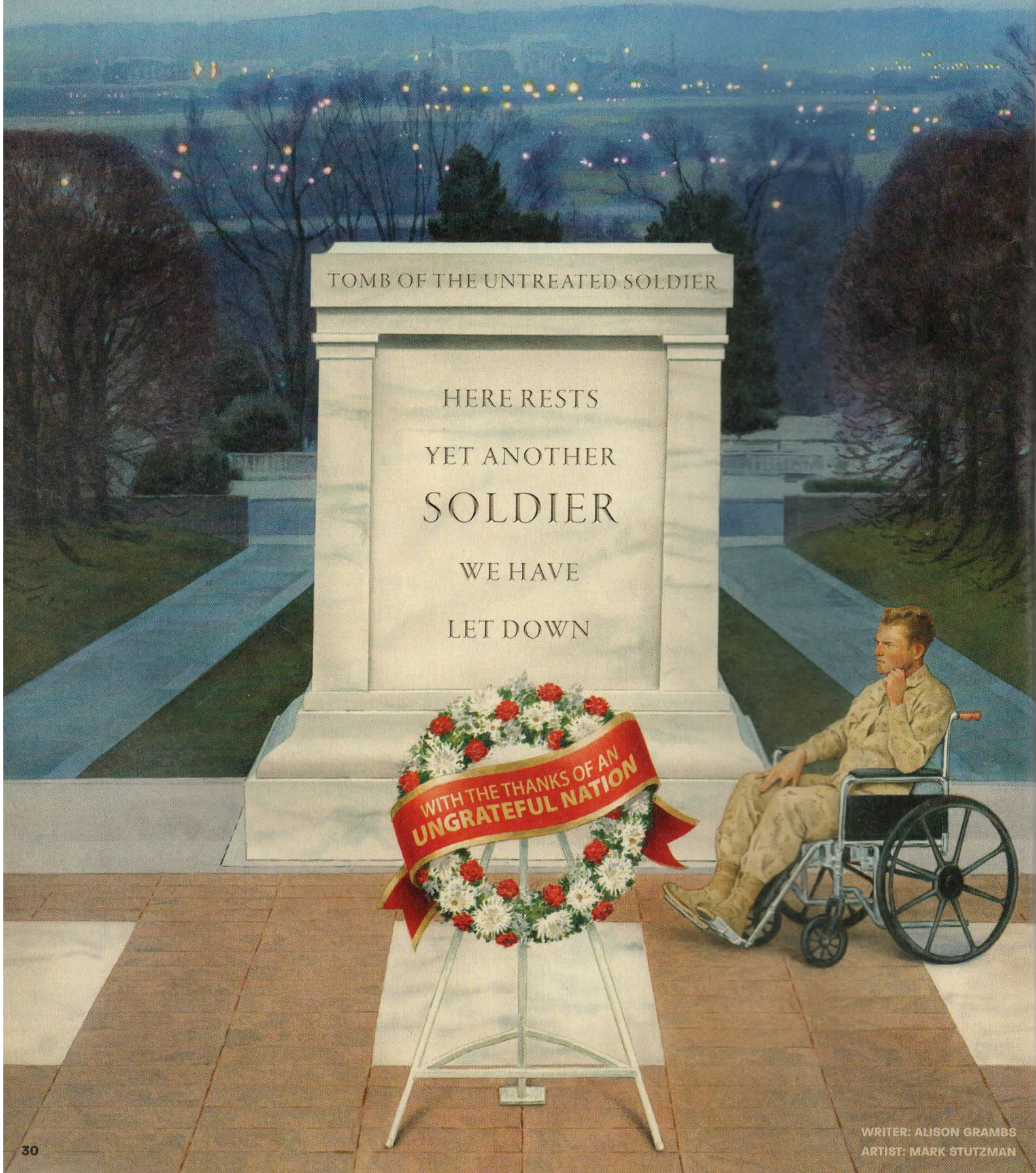


THE V.A. HOSPITAL SCANDAL **Soldiers of Misfortune**

Among all the scandals that disgraced the Obama administration in 2014, none was more unforgivable than the criminal dysfunction in the Veterans Health Administration. 35 vets died while waiting for medical treatment, another 120,000 waited for treatment they never got and, to add insult to injury, V.A. officials tried to cover up the whole mess. There's plenty of blame to go around: President Obama — who once said, "Our servicemen and women should get the best care and that is what I will provide" — chose the clueless Eric Shinseki as the V.A.'s secretary. Not to be outdone, Congress unceremoniously slashed the V.A.'s budget. Republicans and Democrats are known for not being able to put aside petty partisan differences and work together — yet when it came to screwing veterans, that's exactly what they did.



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