

## **A New Day In American Politics—A Jarhead's Journey to Washington continues!**

Good morning, America. It's Monday, December 19th, 2005 and I hope you are already off to a wonderful start to the last week before Christmas.

Last week I wrote about a fundamental shift in American politics. I wrote about the 30+ Veterans who are running for the U.S. House of Representatives as Democrats versus only one that I know of that is running as a Republican. This represents a fundamental shift in American politics and a recognition that the Bush administration and the current Republican Congress have abandoned veterans and the troops on all issues. From the multiple deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan to the cuts in funding for active duty housing to the cuts in funding for veteran's health care and many other things, this administration and this Republican Congress are waging war on America's soldiers and veterans.

I believe that the number of Vets running as Democrats is also a recognition that the Bush Administration and the Republican Congress have sold our national security down the river for corporate profits. Albert Einstein once said that the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result.

Yesterday George W. Bush spoke to America and urged support for a war that was started under false pretenses and has been executed with incompetence by his administration. He urged us to stay the course and said troop levels would be dictated by the situation on the ground and the needs of the military as reported by the commanders. This is simply untrue. Troop levels on the ground in Iraq have always been dictated by Don Rumsfeld's desires, even as the commanders on the ground have repeatedly asked for more troops to be able to accomplish their mission.

But more to the point, to continue to follow the failed policies of the Bush administration in Iraq is beyond Einstein's definition of insanity. To "stay the course" in a policy that has shown no measurable progress in 2 ½ years is beyond insanity. Conservative Republican Senator and Vietnam war hero Chuck Hegel says that by any measurable standard we are losing the war! His is only one of the many credible voices speaking the truth about Iraq.

Defenders of the Iraq War on both sides of the political aisle use phrases like “cut and run” and “defeat and retreat” as if clever rhymes are more important than the lives of our children dying in Iraq. To continue wasting lives and billion of dollars on a policy that has so clearly failed is beyond insanity and borders on criminal. I challenge those who believe we must stay the course, or who believe we should remain in Iraq, to go sign up and go themselves, or send their children to fight. I suspect the situation would look different if they were asked to make any real sacrifice!

And there lies one of the biggest failures of the Bush administration with respect to this war. They have never asked the American people to make any sacrifice for this war. A very small percentage of Americans continues to make a tremendous sacrifice, while the rest of us are allowed to debate the war at no personal cost. This is a direct failure of leadership!

I believe that the 30+ Veterans running for Congress as Democrats recognize that Mr. Bush has failed in his role as Commander in Chief and has not made our Country safer. I believe these 30+ Veterans, these American heroes, recognize that Congress has failed in its duty to hold the President accountable for his actions and policies. I believe that we recognize that a new approach is needed to the Iraq War, to the “war on terror”, and to national security in general. I believe that we recognize that veterans and the troops need REAL support not just empty words. And I believe that the 30+ Veterans running for Congress as Democrats will deliver on those promises and bring a new day in American politics.

I hope you will join us as we pursue this vision and take back America!

I look forward to meeting you on the campaign trail!

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