

Please Have Some Decency

By: Rep. Glenn Grothman

While I see plenty of irresponsibility in Madison, nothing approaches the current statements made by the Democrat candidates for President about the Iraqi War.

We all know some brave soldiers who are risking their lives every day in Iraq. The sight of funerals around the country on the television makes us all wish the war were over. When will the war end? As military men have said for hundreds of years, "A war ends when one side decides it cannot win." This is the reason why so many regular Iraqi troops surrendered so soon after hostilities commenced – a massive show of American military firepower convinced them they could not win.

This is what should be happening to the few terrorists who are still causing a problem. It is important for the American troops, our allies, and the new Iraqi police force to demonstrate resolve so that the terrorists do not believe they will win. Unfortunately, the Democrat candidates for President (who would like to be sworn in as President in January 2005) seem to be competing with each other, second guessing the war effort and implying that upon their inauguration, American troops will be brought home. In this day of the Internet and satellite TV and with anti-American news sources available in the Middle East, do these Presidential wannabes not realize their every anti-war utterance is immediately available in the terrorist areas of Iraq? Do they not realize they are in essence giving encouragement to the few holdouts in Iraq to keep fighting?

Amazingly, most of these Democrats were for the war only a year ago. The war could hardly have gone better. As of December 1st, only 300 American troops have died in hostile action – a fraction of what many people predicted. (Over 16,000 soldiers died in the worst year in Vietnam, and over 90,000 in the worst year in World War II.) The cost of our total military is only four percent of the gross national product compared to ten percent in Vietnam and thirty-eight percent in World War II.

Hopefully, Kerry, Clark, etc. understand in their hearts we cannot leave now. To leave before a stable government is in place and the Iraqi people have been educated in the principals of democracy would result in an immediate civil war between ethnic groups in which tens of thousands would die with a Saddam Hussein-like character (or maybe Saddam Hussein himself) in charge again. All of the countries which are our allies, and all the Arab nations who at least gave us quiet help (Pakistan, Turkey, etc.) would never trust us again. We would never be capable of getting together an alliance for any purpose.

So, please Democrats, talk about the Alaskan pipeline, talk about more government health care, talk about bringing back the estate tax, but please don't encourage the terrorists by promising you'll bring the troops home if they can just hang on until you're elected.

As a sidelight, many of you may remember Scott Kulla, who worked in my office for several years. He has been in Iraq for seven months and his wife had their fourth child while he was away. He recently returned for two weeks and will be back permanently in June 2004.

Please let me know what you think on this issue.

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