

2/2004

Re: Patriots Risk Their Own Lives

Dear Editor,

I'm getting a little unclear on the definition of a patriot. Is it someone that risks their own life for their country, or is it someone that risks other's lives for their country?

Based on the current administration's military record, (e.g., Bush's state-side service in the Texas Air National Guard, John Ascroft's seven (count'em, seven) deferments from military service, from 1968-1972, Dick Cheney's military deferments, Richard Perle and Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz, both with no military record at all, the list goes on) we might wonder who the real patriots in public office really are. These men wouldn't risk their own lives in service to their country, but they sure are eager to risk other's sons and daughters in their unabashed war profiteering- sorry, I mean fight on terrorism.

The administration's strongest supporter in Congress for this war, who routinely rail at anyone who dare to question their lofty ideals with charges of unpatriotic "support for evil-doers everywhere", include Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert, R-Ill.; Sen. Trent Lott, R-Miss.; and House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Texas; all have no record of military service.

Unlike Wesley Clark and John Kerry in the current campaign and former Vice President Al Gore in the 2000 campaign, President Bush refuses to release his military records to the public. What's he got to hide exactly we wonder- perhaps going AWOL for a year?

Of course, Democrats who aspire to public office absolutely must serve in the military and risk their own lives for their country. If they didn't, you can be sure they'd be called to explain such selfish and unpatriotic behavior by those fierce defenders of corporate profits- sorry, I mean our freedoms.

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