



Back to the Quagmire

by Jim Maas

Nearly 18 years since the start of the war in Afghanistan and 16 years since the U.S. invasion of Iraq, majorities of U.S. military veterans say those wars were not worth fighting, according to a new Pew Research Center survey of veterans. A parallel survey of American adults finds that the public shares those sentiments. [https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/07/10/majorities-of-u-s-veterans-public-say-the-wars-in-iraq-and-afghanistan-were-not-worth-fighting/]

Well, how interesting, is that? Last weekend the Wisconsin media and politicians got behind shipping more Wisconsin men and women across the planet to ... do whatever it is that the Army does over there. "a crucial part in eventually getting the United States military out of Afghanistan," claims WKOW news. So, sending our troops to Afghanistan again is their way of getting our troops out of Afghanistan! Libertarians have a different plan.

"Libertarians want to keep Wisconsin's troops out of it. Units of the 32nd Brigade have been called to active duty, not as a last line of defense to protect Wisconsin and the nation from foreign invaders, but to be deployed overseas for occupation duty in a bottomless quagmire. Wisconsin National Guard units belong in Wisconsin, to protect our 'Homeland.'"
Ben Olson, former LPWI Chair

Yah, well, Ben Olson's insights were made a decade ago. How many Wisconsin politicians have been waving goodbye to our Wisconsin soldiers, hoping that they come back healthy and whole?

"Governor Tony Evers also helped send off the troops by delivering a message of pride and warm wishes." WKOW News

Returning our nation to peace has always been an issue for the Libertarian Party but evidently not so much for either major party,. Al Qaeda and Bin Laden are gone and just when we thought the end of the tunnel was in sight for Afghanistan, the Pentagon wants to use our troops, for what we do not know, but Wisconsin citizens believe we should be done with that hell hole by now.

Deployments which have nothing to do with the security of America or Wisconsin take a toll on our Guard soldiers, their families, employers or their education, even if all survive the fiasco. We call upon Governor Evers to keep our troops at home unless the Wisconsin Legislature recognizes a national emergency which requires the use of Wisconsin's soldiers.

Libertarians believe that overseas deployment of state Guard units is unlawful except in cases of national emergency approved by the Wisconsin Legislature. Support our troops, keep them in Wisconsin.

(Jim Maas is an Army Infantry combat veteran and also served in the Naval Reserve SeaBees and Wisconsin Guard as well as a past chair of the Libertarian Party of Wisconsin.)