



COUNCIL FOR NATIONAL POLICY

REMARKS

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First of all, I am not a hero and I really mean that. I wish I was. I always wanted to be one. I grew up wanting to be a real hero and I'm not. But I appreciate everybody saying that, I really do. I can think of a number of people who are probably far more deserving of the award than I am. Particularly coming from this group and that is what makes it so special because there are some of my heroes in here.

It was a real privilege for me to be able to spend thirty-six and a half years in the United States Army and you know it is important that we remember that there is no constitutional right to serve in our military. This is where our argument got off base on this whole issue of "don't ask, don't tell" and the repeal of don't ask don't tell. There is no right; there is no constitutional right to serve. It is a privilege; and I was privileged, I was blessed to be able to spend that much time in our military and to be able to serve my country. I am a conservative. I am a three legged conservative -- I believe in all of it. I'm also a registered Republican but I'm not sure I even know what that means anymore, to be honest with you. I'm one who thinks that guys like Ted Cruz and Mike Lee are real heroes. I think when you make a pledge and you campaign and then you live up to that, you do what you say you are going to do, it takes a lot of courage. Some of us in this room, we were there when they said to the group of us sitting in Mike Lee's office that day, "they are going to hate us but we are doing this on principle." We are going to stand on principle. You see, I wish we had more people that stood on principle in America today. I'm tired of being told as a true conservative that I need to stop talking about social issues, that I need to leave that behind, it is about getting the party elected. No it is not about getting the party elected, it is about saving America.

I have been a blessed man all my life -- not because I grew up with a lot, because I didn't. Many of you have heard me talk before about where I got my values from, who my hero is, and I'm going to tell you about him again tonight because it was my dad. A man that grew up on a tobacco farm in eastern North Carolina, one of ten children, his father and mother were sharecroppers. They had nothing. They never owned a piece of land in their lives. At seventeen years and one month old he went to the Navy recruiter and enlisted in World War II as a Navy radar man. On the sixth of June, and by the way, he went in among other things to join his four brothers that were already serving. He dropped out of school in the tenth grade in order to be able to do that. He never got a high school diploma. Sixth of June 1944 as he was driving a landing craft ashore at the beaches of Normandy he took a direct hit. He is not sure whether it was a round from a German gun or whether they actually hit a mine, all he knows is that he woke up in Walter Reed or Bethesda Naval Hospital and he was blind in his left eye. But it didn't matter because he had done his duty. He took a discharge and he came back to the tobacco farm in North Carolina, married his sweetheart and began to raise his family until the Korean War started and the Army said that they would take him even though he was blind in his left eye and

he came back in and served through the Korean War and after that war was over he left and went back to the tobacco farm and then the United States Marine Corp offered him an opportunity to come to work as a civil servant and he spent thirty-two years as a civil servant including a tour in Vietnam and other parts of the world with the US Marine Corp. He was with the Marines for thirty-two years. He loved America. He was proud of the fact that he served America; he took an oath to the Constitution. He said, "I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies foreign and domestic." He loved this country. Even as one of these gray bearded old veterans he always stood when the flag came by. When they played the National Anthem he didn't want the people around to see but he was emotional because he loved America. He paid a price for America. He loved America, he took that oath three times to support and defend the constitution. I watched him. I adored him and I got my values from him. You see, the only thing he ever wanted in return was opportunity. All he wanted was opportunity he never wanted a handout. He never wanted America to give him anything. When they finally gave him a disability check he took it and gave it to his parents because they could no longer farm the tenant farm and they had no place to go and nothing to live on. He bought them a house with his disability check while we lived in a rented home. When his friend's house burned down he took all the money he had in his pocket and gave it to him when he could barely pay his own bills. But he believed that it was his responsibility to take care of his mother and father, not the government's. He believed that it was his responsibility to take care of his neighbor, not the government's. He believed that God would provide. You see he loved God and he loved America with all his heart. I adored him. He was my hero. Tenth grade education. See, when his family had left -- my brother, sister and I were all gone -- in this bigoted racist environment of eastern North Carolina, when he no longer had children in the home, he adopted a little black boy. You just didn't do that in eastern North Carolina at that time. The little boy's name was Shakeefe. Because he believed that there was nothing worse that could happen to a boy than to grow up without a father. And to grow up without the guidance and the mentoring of a man in the home. Seventy-two percent of black children that are born today all over America are without a father at home. My dad loved America. Where is that America that he loved? Where is that today? I'm at that transition point where it is not about me anymore it is about my grandchildren and what kind of America they are going to know. Will it be the America my dad left to me or will it be a totally different America? I love this country with all my heart and I'll do whatever I have to do. I'm beyond worrying what the media says. It is about what kind of country my generation is going to leave for them. My dad left a great country to me. His generation, the greatest generation, they paid a tremendous price that my generation might have a better life than they had.

As we look at everything that is happening in this country today, as we become more and more dependent upon government, it can be traced back to the fact that we have lost one thing. We lost the concept upon which America was founded. Our founding fathers gave us something at the time that was an experiment and it was called a nation built upon unalienable rights, rights that come from God. Up until that time all rights came from the king or the czar or the caliph or the pharaoh, but America was founded on unalienable rights. That is what my dad believed in,

unalienable rights, God would provide. If he would do his part and follow biblical principles, God would provide and I grew up with that as the influence in my life. Not to depend on anybody but God. And today if you traced the troubles of America, I believe you will find that it goes back to the fact that we have lost sight of that founding principle of unalienable rights. We have moved to a dependence on the government, upon man.

There are some great men in Washington. We've got some of them sitting right here. We have got good Christian men and women in Washington right now. The problem is that we don't have leadership. That is why people like Cruz and Lee get hammered so hard because nobody has ever seen this. This is not the way it is done here. But when they step out and become leaders they are immediately criticized not only by the Left but also by their own party. I find that incredible but let me tell you what is coming, these guys are heroes. They are heroes to a lot of Americans because they are men of integrity and honor. They are going to rise to the top. You see I go through periods where I am really down about America and about our future but I am up right now. I am up because I went to the mall on Sunday and I joined with thousands and thousands of old grizzly white bearded veterans, some with no legs -- in case you haven't seen that photograph of the guy with no legs taking the barrier on his Segway, taking that iron barrier on his Segway. And regardless, unless you can produce a photograph, I am not admitting to throwing any of those barricades into the reflecting pool. But I am encouraged. They are fired up and they want to do something and they are now realizing that it is going to take a team effort. We have got to come together there has got to be unity. There has to be unity for us to save this country and they are fired up and they want to know. They are emailing me every day saying what are we going to do now boss? That was good but what do we do now? Where do we go from here? My Facebook is covered with where we go from here. What do we do? And as I speak in churches all over America, it is incredible the number of people that are coming and saying how can I help? Look, don't tell me what the problems are. I see that, I've heard enough. Tell me what to do. How do I get involved? What do I do? The grassroots in America are fired up now because stopping World War II veterans from coming to their memorial was a bridge too far, as far as I'm concerned. I believe that most of Americans believe exactly the same thing. They are fired up and they want to know what position do you want me to play coach? Put me in coach. You see, I'm actually optimistic. I think the grassroots is the sleeping giant in America. You see there are more of us then there are of them, no question. And as I watch these young men and women in our military today I realize that there is still great patriotic American loving citizens in this country that are willing to step forward. As Isaiah said in chapter six, verse eight, "here am I, send me." And that encourages me to see that we still have a lot of very patriotic Americans serving our country. But we have to protect their rights. And today the greatest infringement in our military on the constitutional rights of our young men and women are the infringement on their religious liberties. This is a very serious problem, my friends. A very serious problem and there will be more news breaking probably in the next twenty-four hours about another episode of the infringement on religious liberty efforts to identify groups like The Family Research Council and the American Family Association and catholic organizations as extremists in this country. We are going to stop that with the help of a coalition. We have a coalition now that we have put together and it includes a bunch of organizations represented

here. That we are going to fight this and we are going to stop this and ultimately somebody's head is going to roll over this and in case you were trying to figure out whether or not I have a Christian attitude or not. I will do whatever it takes to stop the infringement on these religious liberties of our men and women. It is worse than you think. But we have to have unity and I will tell you that I have learned that there can be unity inside the conservative circles. When you have a passion and you are pulling together there can be unity. I believe that this coalition that we have formed to fight religious liberty is an example. We have to have unity. We have to quit sniping at each other. We have to quit fighting each other.

I'll finish with this.

I'm going to tell you a final story because we have to have unity. We have to have unity. I have told this a couple times before and you may have heard it but there's a guy named Frank Brewer. There was a Marine aviator and in January of 1982 he wound up in the Armed Forces Staff College and he discovered that in his seminar there was an Army guy who grew up about thirty-five miles from him and they became instant friends. They spent the whole semester, the whole school year together and then they parted ways. They came back together the following summer with their children and they had a nice summer vacation and then Frank said to his Army buddy, "I'm on my way to Beirut." And he said, "See you after Christmas." to his buddy and his buddy's family and they parted ways and on the October 24 of 1983 Frank was enroute to Beirut and all of a sudden the whole fleet was diverted to a little island down in the Caribbean called Grenada, where Ronald Regan when he looked at what the Cubans and the Communists were doing and building this air field down there that would put their bombers and fighters in range of American soil he said, "not on my watch and not on my hemisphere you won't build this." Frank's fleet was diverted. All the helicopters took off and took Marines ashore to hit an air field there and Frank was the squadron Executive Officer. So sadly he was left on board the ship with nothing but the Maintenance Officer and it was killing him that he was left behind. But he was the Executive Officer and suddenly there was a broad network call that said we have a medevac situation and we have got to have a medevac right away. Can anyone fly? We have a man dying. We have a man hit bad, he is bleeding badly he may not make it if we don't get him out right now. Frank turned to his Maintenance Officer and said, "What do we have left?" His Maintenance Officer said, "Nothing they all went to Pearl's airfield." Frank said, "Nothing?" He said, "We have the hangar queen." He said, "What do you mean?" "Well" he said, "It's in maintenance." He said, "Will it fly?" "No, we can't fly it. It is against regulations." "I didn't ask you that", he said. "Will it fly?" He said, "It is in maintenance we are not supposed to fly it. You will get in big trouble if you fly it." "Will it fly?" He said, "It will fly but you are going to get in big trouble." "Bring it on deck. You get in the co-pilot seat and I'll get in the pilot seat and I will fly it." They brought it on deck and he fired it up and he got in the pilot seat and he flew it and went to the coordinates where the medevac was and as they were bringing the man out to put him in his helicopter he looked down and on that stretcher was his Army buddy but he didn't know it. He didn't know who he was going to get. All he knew was there was an American dying in there. He didn't ask is it a Marine? Is it one of those seals, is it the Army?

He didn't ask that. He didn't care about that. It was an American. He didn't say just how much trouble can I get in if I do this. He didn't ask that question. He was going to save an American. I am glad he did because that was me on the stretcher that day. What if we put aside the things that really aren't important and we focused on saving something, that being America. If we work together, if we can just come together and be one, just as God said as he looked down at that Tower of Babel he said, those people are unified they can do anything. Let's go down there and confuse their language. If we are unified we can do anything. This is a great honor. It is a great privilege to be here with you tonight. God bless you and thank you.