

Dr. Burgess Weekly Video Address May 10, 2013

“Benghazi: We Still Don’t Have Answers”

Hello, this is your congressman, Michael Burgess. In September, I spoke with you about the attack on the Benghazi consulate that killed four Americans. In that attack, we learned that there was a stunning lack of ownership and proactive leadership both at the State Department and with the administration. Now after eight months of the Obama administration obstructing Congress’ oversight of the happenings last September, many questions are still left unanswered.

The House Government Reform Committee held an emotional hearing this past week with witnesses from the State Department that had previously not been allowed to testify before Congress. So what did we learn? First, that the White House was immediately aware that the Libyan attackers were linked to al-Queda. Second, the request for military assistance was made in a timely fashion but was denied by the White House. It is now clear that terrorists were the instigators of this attack and despite the administration officials insisting for weeks after the incident that it was the result of an online video. People at all levels of the Obama administration were aware that this was terrorism right from the start.

And why was Ambassador Stevens in Benghazi? One of the most alarming pieces of testimony from Wednesday’s hearing came from former deputy chief of mission in Libya, Gregory Hicks, who stated, and quoting here, “Timing for this decision was important. Chris needed to report before September 30th, the end of the fiscal year on the political and security environment in Benghazi to support an action memo to convert Benghazi from a temporary to a permanent facility.” This is unbelievable. The administration intentionally put American lives at risk in a situation that they knew was volatile because the president and Secretary Clinton wanted to be more able to request money in their next budget.

Here’s the simple truth: the American people were lied to and no one at the State Department has been held accountable. Even more astonishing, the only person who was demoted was Mr. Hicks who questioned the administration’s handling of the murder of four Americans.

Thank you for taking the time to listen. For more information on legislative issues before the United States Congress, please visit my website, burgess.house.gov. May God bless you and your family - and as always, may God bless Texas.