

Dr. Burgess Special Address August 25, 2017 Honoring Our Veterans' Commitment to Unity

Hello, this is your Congressman Michael Burgess.

This week, President Trump announced several policy changes for our Armed Forces. First, on Monday he outlined a new strategy for Afghanistan and South Asia that will transition from a timeline-based approach to a conditions-based approach. Our troops will support Afghan security forces while leaving nation-building to the Afghan government. These changes will significantly improve the chances of success in defeating our enemies.

As the United States reconsiders its commitment in Afghanistan, I commit to you to continue supporting our military. Our national security remains a central priority, and I will continue to update you as this strategy is implemented.

This week we also saw positive developments for our veterans. On Wednesday, President Trump signed into law the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act. This law updates the disability claims appeals process at the VA to ensure veterans receive timely decisions. This is a positive step toward ensuring our veterans receive the best care possible.

In an address to the American Legion in Reno, Nevada, President Trump expressed his gratitude to the many men and women who have served our nation in the Armed Forces, and called upon the American people to hold up our veterans as examples of unity. As he said Wednesday,

“It is time to heal the wounds that have divided us, and to seek a new unity based on the common values that unite us. We are one people, with one home, and one flag.”

I also would like to express my gratitude to our veterans for their steadfast commitment to the nation. These heroes have worked together, despite many differences that could have divided them, to secure our nation against threats from the enemy. We look to our veterans for motivation to work together on behalf of our country and our shared American values.

As always, I appreciate your comments and your concerns on this issue or any other issue. May God bless you and your family, God bless our Armed Forces, God bless our veterans, and as the song says, God bless you Texas.