

Now, I have a different idea. I think it is a better idea. These tax cuts for the rich by the Republican Party are going to cost the U.S. taxpayers \$100 billion a year. Do the math. We have 14 million people in this country who are unemployed. We have 13 percent unemployment in my district.

Here is an idea. Let's take that \$100 billion and give 3 million Americans a job. Let's give 3 million Americans a working wage, an honest day's pay for an honest day's work, and that will revive our economy. It will immediately reduce unemployment by two points. And they will take that money and they will spend it on their rent. They will spend it on restaurants in their neighborhood. They will spend it on getting their hair cut. They will spend it on their credit card payments. They will spend it on the things they need to do to stay alive, instead of the alternative, the Republican favorite alternative, which is to have them lose their jobs, keep unemployed, and move into their cars. That is the better idea.

I favor jobs, not tax cuts for the rich.

OUR SOUTHERN BORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. I thank the Speaker for yielding time to me.

About 3 weeks ago, I and four of my colleagues wrote a letter to the President of the United States. Mr. POE of Texas, my good friend, RALPH HALL of Texas, PETE OLSON, and ED ROYCE of California wrote a letter to the President talking to him about the horrible, deteriorating problem that is taking place on our southern border.

We have a border between the United States and Mexico that is 1,980 miles long, and the problems are getting worse every single day. There have been reports on numerous television channels over the past few weeks talking about how really bad it is getting down there, and there is absolutely nothing being done by the administration to really deal with it.

Now, in the letter that we wrote to the President, we said it was extremely important to get on with dealing with this problem very quickly, and we gave the President a few ideas on how this could be accomplished.

First, we said, it became apparent that the Mexican Government and law enforcement authorities in Mexico are either unwilling or unable to address this problem. Therefore, we believe it is imperative that our President meet very quickly and begin a serious dialogue with President Calderon of Mexico on building a comprehensive framework in the spirit of Plan Colombia that will better coordinate a more aggressive and proactive strategy to turn the tide. This needs to be done immediately.

Second, we must complete construction of the border fence. The money

has been appropriated for that and it has been stopped. We need to get that completed. Any responsibility we have to minimize the impact of the fence on the physical landscape or native species in the region pales in comparison when measured against the value of human lives that will be lost if we don't seal the border.

And, finally, we said to the President in this letter, we believe it is critical that we deploy additional National Guard troops to the border. Media reports indicate that 17,000 National Guard troops were deployed to the Gulf region during the recent oil spill, 17,000; yet the administration has pledged only 1,200 to the 1,980-mile border of Mexico. Twelve hundred National Guard troops to protect that border; that is nothing. It will not work.

When you talk to sheriffs and Border Patrol agents who are down on the border, they will tell you that it is a war zone and it is spilling over into the United States, and American citizens are being killed on the Mexican side of the border. But bullets are actually coming across the border and hitting things in the United States in Juarez and elsewhere.

It is extremely important that we address this problem before it gets completely out of control. And some people say we are already there.

We have signs in Arizona 80 miles into the United States, 80 miles into the United States, saying, "Don't go south of here toward Mexico because it is dangerous." Can you imagine?

We are sending troops halfway around the world to fight for people's freedom and to secure our country from terrorist attacks, and yet we have the prospect of terrorists and drug dealers and everybody coming across that border because we are not protecting it, and it is in our front yard, 1,980 miles, and it is unprotected. They are coming across at will.

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The President needs to get on with doing what is necessary. I believe he needs to authorize at least 15,000 troops down there and work with the Mexican government to seal both sides of the border and get on with it as quickly as possible. If we don't, the problem is going to get worse and worse and worse.

If you don't believe what I am saying tonight, and if I were talking to the President, I would tell him directly this: "If you don't believe this, Mr. President," I know he watches television once in awhile, and if I were talking to the President I would say, "Watch what is going on and do your job, Mr. President, instead of fighting the Governor of Arizona and the people in Texas, the law enforcement agencies along the border who are staying up day and night trying to defend their constituents in the border area."

People are being threatened. Their houses are being threatened to be

burned to the ground if they even take pictures of the people coming across the border. This is a tragic situation, and if I were talking to the President tonight, I would say, "Mr. President, you are being derelict in your responsibility to the people of the southwest part of the United States by not addressing this problem in a very thorough and comprehensive way."

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

Washington, DC, October 26, 2010.

Hon. BARACK OBAMA,

President of the United States of America, The White House, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: We are writing to you today to express our extreme concern regarding the deteriorating security situation along our Nation's southern border. It seems that every day brings a new report of some atrocity; the most recent being the apparent murder of a U.S. citizen at Falcon Lake, Texas; yet little if anything appears to be being done by our government or the Mexican government to stop the bloodshed and bring the perpetrators to justice.

Protecting our borders and our citizens is a paramount responsibility of the Federal government; enshrined in the preamble of the Constitution. It would be an unforgivable breach of our constitutional responsibilities if we do not take stronger measures not only to prevent the upward spiral of violence from further spilling over into the United States and threaten the safety of U.S. citizens on American soil but to reclaim those areas of our border already overrun by smugglers and criminals. We can no longer pretend that this is simply Mexico's problem. The time has come to recognize that the drug violence along the border is a direct threat to the United States and act accordingly.

First, it has become apparent that the Mexican government and law enforcement authorities are either unwilling or unable to address this problem unilaterally. Therefore, we believe it is imperative that you immediately begin serious dialogue with President Calderon on building a comprehensive framework, in the spirit of Plan Colombia, that will better coordinate a more aggressive and proactive strategy to turn the tide of this conflict.

Second, we must complete construction of the border fence. Any responsibility we have to minimize the impact of the fence on the physical landscape or native species in the region pales in comparison when measured against the value of human lives that will be lost if we do not seal the border.

Finally, we believe it is critical that we deploy additional National Guard troops to the border. Media reports indicate that 17,000 National Guard troops were deployed to the Gulf region to respond to the recent oil spill. Yet, you have only pledged 1,200 National Guard troops to protect the border—and according to media reports only a small fraction of those troops have arrived to date. It is unrealistic, if not pure insanity, to believe that a mere 1,200 National Guard troops, even with the support of the Border Patrol, can effectively cover the nearly 2,000 mile long Southwestern border of the United States. We must put additional bodies on the ground and we must give them the weapons and specify rules of engagement that give them the authority to do whatever is necessary to secure the border. A National Guard trooper armed with only a pistol and given no authority to engage the enemy is useless against a criminal armed with military grade weapons and ammunition.

Mr. President, we implore you to view this situation for what it is, a war and to act accordingly.

Sincerely,

DAN BURTON,

RALPH HALL,
ED ROYCE,
TED POE,
PETE OLSON.

[From FoxNews.com]

AMERICA'S THIRD WAR: NATIONAL GUARD'S
NEW MISSION

(By Casey Stegall)

There are many theories on how to effectively secure the nearly 2,000-mile-long border the United States shares with Mexico.

Some believe building a fence to separate us from our southern neighbor is the best route while others think adding additional surveillance equipment and Border Patrol checkpoints will help decrease the number of illegal immigrants and drugs entering America.

One thing virtually everyone close to the border security issue can agree on: America seems to be waging a third war with the Mexican cartels that will stop at nothing to smuggle humans and drugs into our homeland and the national security threat it poses.

One of the more popular ideas on how to secure the region is through the deployment of troops and creation of a strong military presence along the border. In May, President Obama gave the green light for up to 1,200 National Guard troops to be assigned to the four southwest border states. In late September, armed troops started trickling in and working alongside U.S. Border Patrol agents, but the ramp up period is a gradual process since it takes a great deal of time to train the soldiers for their new mission.

According to the National Guard Bureau, nearly 1,200 troops are at work on border issues as of Monday: 263 in California, 561 in Arizona, 80 in New Mexico, 284 in Texas and 10 others assigned to border issues at the National Guard Bureau in Virginia. The deployment is expected to last one year although no official end date has been made public.

Sheriff Paul Babeu, Pinal County Arizona: I'm telling you, as a sheriff, where we're the number one passer county here in Arizona, that it's not secure. That the violence and the concerns we have, are more than just a public safety matter. 520 soldiers are not going to stop it. We have said we need 3000 armed soldiers just here in Arizona.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HEROES AMONG US RETURN WITH
HONOR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it was dusk when he left Thailand and entered Laotian airspace. Soon he was flying into North Vietnam as darkness came over the horizon. It was his 25th mission into North Vietnam flying an F-4 Phantom jet.

The date was April 16, 1966. The pilot was Sam Johnson, United States Air Force colonel, and he was doing his second tour of duty in Vietnam. He was flying with the fighter squadron called Satan's Angels. He was a career pilot

who had already flown 62 combat missions during the Korean War flying an F-86 Sabre jet. Colonel Johnson also flew with the famed Air Force Thunderbirds.

This is a photograph of Colonel Sam Johnson, United States Air Force.

But this day of April 16th, 1966, Colonel Johnson was shot down by ground fire from the North Vietnamese. He was captured, he was put in a prisoner of war camp, and, Mr. Speaker, he was in that POW camp for 7 years.

Because of the way that he would not give in to the torture and to the interrogation, they moved him to the famous "Hanoi Hilton" and a place called "Alcatraz." Alcatraz was where 11 POWs were put because they were the most obstinate POWs, leaders of the other POWs. They were hard-nosed and they had to be segregated, and they called themselves the "Alcatraz gang." They were defiant, and the North Vietnamese called this man right here "Die Hard." They tortured him, but they got no information from him.

During those 7 years he was beaten and tortured, but he never broke down. So then they put him in solitary confinement for 4 years in a cell 3-feet-wide by 9 feet, and he was there for 4 years. During that 4 years, all that was in that cell was a lightbulb that they kept on 24 hours a day. During the nighttime, they put him into leg irons, and during that 4 years, he never saw or talked to another American.

While in the POW camp, he and the other POWs communicated with each other with a code by tapping on the wall, and during that time he memorized the names of 374 other POWs. He kept that memory going so that when he got away or was released or escaped, he would be able to tell their loved ones who they were and where they were.

The torture continued every day. One example was this: One morning the North Vietnamese took him out of his cell and lined him up to shoot him. They told him they were going to kill him in a firing squad. They lined him up. Armed with AK-47s, they pulled the trigger, but there was no ammunition in those AK-47s. They laughed and made fun of Colonel Sam, and all he said was, "Is that the best you can do?"

For food he ate weeds, pig fat and rice. He went down from 200 pounds to 120 pounds. And after 7 years of confinement, he was finally released with other POWs. He suffered torture and broken bones during that time that he still suffers from today.

He continued to serve in the United States Air Force for 29 total years. While he was in that POW camp, his wife back home in Texas, Shirley, had known that he was shot down, but she didn't know for 2 years where Sam was, whether he was alive, dead, or missing in action. They have now been married for 60 years.

After he left the United States Air Force, he served in the statehouse in

Texas, had his own business, and then in 1991 he came and served with distinction here in the United States Congress.

Today, Colonel Sam celebrates his 80th birthday. Down the street, he and a lot of friends, Members of Congress from both sides of the aisle and family, are honoring him on his birthday.

You know, Sam returned home to the United States after his torture and confinement in the POW camps. You notice right here, this patch, Mr. Speaker? You see what this patch says, which is from the 31st Fighter Wing? It says "Return With Honor."

Sam Johnson returned to America with honor. He is a special breed. He is the American breed. Where does America find such men as Sam Johnson? He is one of those. And he is that special warrior during even the time he was a captive warrior that never forsook his duty and never forsook his honor.

So, Colonel Sam, we thank you for your service to the United States of America during war and during peacetime. Thank you for serving this great country. You are truly a hero among us.

Here are the commendations that Colonel Sam Johnson received while serving in the United States Air Force:

COMMENDATIONS

2 Silver Stars
2 Legions of Merit
Distinguished Flying Cross
Bronze Star w/Combat "V" (Valor)
2 Purple Hearts
4 Air Medals
POW Medal
3 USAF Outstanding Unit Citations

And that's just the way it is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SAYING ENOUGH IS ENOUGH RE-
GARDING TSA AIRPORT SCREEN-
ING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to announce that I introduced some legislation today dealing with the calamity that we have found at our airports with TSA. Something has to be done. Everybody is fed up. The people are fed up, the pilots are fed up, I am fed up.