

HONORING LIEUTENANT GENERAL WILLIAM G. BOYKIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TURNER of New York). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 30 minutes.

ENERGY

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, it's an honor to be here before you tonight. There's so much going on in this country, so many threats to our national security, and energy is one of them.

I am so proud to be a Member of Congress with the freshmen that I have heard here tonight. They make the rest of us look good, and I'm so grateful for their discussion about energy.

It doesn't make any sense to have more energy overall than any country in the world and then to pay billions, and hundreds of billions of dollars, to people, many who don't like us. They want to bring down this Nation, and yet we're enriching them, actually engorging them on our money.

And then we have a solution. One little part of this solution is the Keystone pipeline, more oil coming from our friends in Canada, who actually are friends. They don't want to see this country taken down. They don't want to see this country attacked again like it was on 9/11. Then we had a hearing today on energy in our Natural Resources Committee, and we're trying, we were trying to pass legislation out of committee that would allow us to provide more of our own energy.

But the wrong-headed approach of this administration and some people on the other side of the aisle that is forcing us to pay billions of dollars to companies that have no good plan for producing energy, but a great plan for bilking, sucking the money out of this administration, ready to throw it on any whim that they can say somehow is a green job. Well, it seems to be more brown in color from where I come from.

But anyway we voted today in Natural Resources to once again allow drilling in this tiny area out of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska. I know that there are some people, even from this body, who have been taken up by so-called environmental groups and taken to areas of ANWR that are beautiful and are certainly worth keeping pristine, not taken within 100 miles of the little area that we passed today to allow drilling in.

It's a tiny part of the area that Jimmy Carter as President set aside back in the 1970s to allow drilling because there's nothing there. There's not a tree, a bush, anything that's living in that area in the way of wildlife. They can't stay because there's nothing to sustain them. They have to go out of there and go to the pristine areas. That's why Jimmy Carter set it aside as someplace we could drill.

Yet the wrong-headed approach of this administration is to continue to

put off limits our own natural resources. But that's only one aspect of things that are going wrong in this country with this administration.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL WILLIAM G. BOYKIN

So tonight I want to pay tribute to a great American hero who has been demeaned, a man who has spent most of his life as an American hero fighting for Americans to have freedom of speech, and yet being condemned and disallowed the opportunity to have the freedom of speech he repeatedly, over and over, laid down his life or was willing to lay down his life to provide for the rest of us, that is Lieutenant General William G. Boykin, retired.

He's a former commander of the United States Army, Special Forces. He was a founding member of the Delta Force. He's also known for his devotion to the Christian faith, which at one time in this country, in fact, for 99.9 percent of this country's history, it was considered a good thing to be a person of faith and devoted particularly to a Christian faith.

Jerry Boykin, Lieutenant General Boykin, graduated from Virginia Tech in 1971 and received his Army commission. By 1980, he was the Delta Force operations officer on the April 24–25 Iranian hostage rescue attempt.

Now, I talked to General Boykin about that before and consider him to be a friend. Something that I had heard back during my days in the service was something that General Boykin said was above his grade back then, 1979–1980. It would be interesting to hear someone from the Carter administration actually provide documentation of the actual decision to reduce the number of helicopters that would be utilized to go into Iran to a staging area hundreds of miles inside Iran, meet up with C-130s—other equipment, rather, that was there in the staging area, and then from there stage the rescue effort that would go into Tehran and get our hostages.

□ 2120

The story I would love to see documentation on, the thing that I heard as a member of the U.S. Army years ago, was that the original plan had at least 12 helicopters that were going to be utilized to go into the staging area, but the Carter administration believed that it might look too much like an invasion. So the word was back then that we heard, the Carter administration ordered the 12 helicopters reduced to eight so it wouldn't look like an invasion, and that there were those who were engaged in the planning who said, you know what, we need 12 because the mission must have six helicopters to go forward from the staging area. These turbine engines will cross hundreds of miles of sand, and we have to count on perhaps a 50 percent loss of helicopters coming to the staging area. Since we know we need six, we want to start out with 12 so we have a better chance of getting six to the staging area.

We knew where the hostages were, and yet people in the administration,

ultimate responsibility resting with the President, decided let's take more of a chance with the people we are putting at risk, sending in as the Delta Force. Let's put them even more at risk making them go in with fewer helicopters.

And as though Delta Force at the time knew, all they knew apparently was they get to the staging area, if they don't have six helicopters, then the mission will be aborted, and they'll have to turn around and go back. And since they were ordered to come in with eight instead of 12 or more, they got to the staging area with five. These American heroes who were not given adequate resources to go in and rescue our hostages in Iran by an administration you would have thought understood and appreciated the military, but apparently did not adequately. Even though President Carter had been in the military, you would have thought he understood. They get to the staging area, there are five helicopters, and the mission is aborted.

One explanation was when one helicopter pilot was trying to lift off, once they knew it was aborted, everyone was anxious to get out. A helicopter started up. Obviously, the sand swirls and it's easy to get vertigo and lose sense of direction, and the helicopter went sideways, cut into a C-130, and we left heroic Americans on the desert floor in Iran, a terrible embarrassment. And to this former soldier, I didn't think it was an embarrassment to the Delta Force that was sent in. They were ready to fight and die, but their orders were to go in. They were sent in without adequate helicopters; and when the mission did not go forward, people lost their lives.

But as we know from the old poem:

Theirs was not to reason why

Theirs was but to do and die.

Some of them did.

I would have hoped over the years the lesson learned from Vietnam would have been not that that was not a winnable war, as our colleague here, SAM JOHNSON, could tell. After 2 weeks of carpet bombing after North Vietnam had left the negotiation table, 2 weeks of carpet bombing, they came back. And as the Hanoi Hilton prisoners were taken away, Sam said the meanest, one of the meanest officers, at the Hanoi Hilton was laughing and said: You stupid Americans. If you'd bombed us for one more week, we would have had to surrender unconditionally.

Instead of being done in the seventies, that could have been done early in the sixties. The lesson of Vietnam should have been we don't send our military, men and women, anywhere in the world on our behalf unless we give them the equipment to do the job, unless we give them the order to go win whatever it costs. Win and come home. That should have been the lesson, but it wasn't learned in Vietnam.

And it apparently wasn't learned during the failed rescue attempt under the Carter administration. But these were

American heroes who put their lives at risk for an administration that didn't fully appreciate what was involved.

General Boykin, in February 2003, had two stars as an Army general. He was commander of the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center at Fort Bragg and was about to interview with Secretary Rumsfeld for his third star nomination.

He had received two Purple Hearts: one for Grenada in 1983, the other for Mogadishu, Somalia, in 1993. He was involved as a commander in the Black Hawk Down scenario.

From 1978 to 1993, General Boykin was assigned in various capacities to Delta Force. With Delta Force, he oversaw the rescue of CIA operative Kurt Muse from a Panamanian prison and the capture also of Manuel Noriega, the brutal dictator who put Kurt Muse in that prison.

In Colombia, our hero, Jerry Boykin, helped hunt down the drug lord Pablo Escobar. He also hunted war criminals in Bosnia. He helped rescue hostage missionaries in Sudan. He tracked kidnappers in El Salvador. He spent 13 years with Delta Force. And as I mentioned before, he was not only a founding member of Delta Force but also was later its commanding officer.

In October of 1983, Major Boykin worked as an operations officer during Operation Urgent Fury in Grenada. During a dawn assault to free some Grenada government officials held by the Marxist People's Revolutionary Army, Boykin was shot in the arm with a .50 caliber round, splitting the bone completely in two. He was told he would never use it again, but almost miraculously his arm healed, which Boykin again believed was a God thing.

In October 1993, Colonel Boykin was in command of the Delta Force tracking down militia leader Mohamed Farrah Aidid in Somalia, during which time the infamous battle of Mogadishu took place. Some might recognize that as the Black Hawk Down scenario. That was the event.

But April 1998 to February of 2000, Jerry Boykin served as the commanding general of the U.S. Army Special Forces Command Airborne at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

From March 2000 to 2003, he was the commanding general, United States Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center, Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

In June of 2003, General Boykin was appointed deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence under Dr. Stephen Cambone, Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence.

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Lieutenant Boykin retired on August 1, 2007 and currently teaches at Hampden-Sydney College. General Boykin is the author of "Never Surrender: A Soldier's Journey to the Crossroads of Faith and Freedom" and also "Danger Close: A Novel" as well as "Kiloton Threat," a novel.

General Boykin attended the United States Armed Forces Staff College, Army War College, Shippensburg University where he received a master's degree. His badges include the Master Parachutist Badge, Military Freefall Badge, Ranger Tab, Special Forces Tabs. Medals include the Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, and the Legion of Merit with an oak leaf cluster. This is a real hero. He also received the Bronze Star, Air Medal, Purple Heart with an oak leaf cluster.

This is an American hero, ready repeatedly to lay down his life for our right to free speech, to the freedoms we know and love; and yet he was not so well treated. People thought it was inappropriate that a general would say, basically, the same things that Franklin Roosevelt did, things like Franklin Roosevelt said in his prayer on D-Day as he prayed on the radio, national radio broadcast.

And during that radio broadcast, Franklin Roosevelt prayed for our troops against those forces of evil. I believe he used the word "crusade" in there. And yet Franklin Roosevelt was never excoriated or crucified for the language he used in the prayer because people knew he cared about our troops. People knew that he cared about Americans having freedom. So they never went after Franklin Roosevelt the way they have come after Jerry Boykin.

General Boykin was invited to speak at West Point this year. My understanding is he was going to be speaking to West Point cadets at our U.S. military academy, cadets who were Christians, about how a Christian in the service of the United States reconciles his faith, his commitment to God, and his commitment to country. I would imagine most of us who are Christians who served in the United States military had those inner questions. Some of us found answers in Scripture, found answers in wise counsel, and found a peace afforded through prayer.

Wise counsel is what I get anytime I talk to General Boykin. This incredible man, this American hero, who should be an American icon, was told he really should withdraw his acceptance of the invitation to come and speak because West Point, our U.S. military academy—not the military—but the people that this administration put in place, were too embarrassed to have this American hero come speak to Christian cadets at the United States military academy where we also have a politically correct czar who monitors such things and makes sure we don't offend the people who want to kill us and destroy our way of life.

So pressure was put, gee, the military academy, those in power allowed to be there by this administration, with the political correctness in full display, didn't want to withdraw the invitation. They thought it would be better if he backed out of coming. This American hero will do anything his Na-

tion needs him to do, and he did something that I'm not sure I would have done. He said, sure, you don't want me to come, I withdraw my acceptance, I won't come. He canceled.

This American hero who has repeatedly put himself between America and harm is not afforded freedom of speech. United States military academy cadets, because of this administration's approach, surely must feel that, gee, it's not a good thing to be a Christian in America if you're going to really live your faith. It's not appropriate to wrestle with religious issues unless, of course, you're a Muslim like Major Hasan, because if you want to speak freely, in Major Hasan's case, of course, and the private who was ready to kill people in the service with him as Major Hasan did, this military with this administration's overblown political correctness would not even deal with the private who did the same kind of interview as Major Hasan, that's made the same kind of statement that Major Hasan did.

He was on the Internet basically saying if they make me deploy, I'll have to kill troops to avoid having to go face Muslims and possibly kill Muslims for one of the reasons that we're not allowed to kill other Muslims. I'll have to kill Americans.

What's wrong with this picture? It certainly wasn't a problem for the greatest American general, the greatest American leader in the history of the world, a general named George Washington. He believed so fervently in the same things that Jerry Boykin believed in. At one point, he issued an order that you couldn't take God's name in vain. His approach was, how can we ask God for blessings and protection with the same mouth that is taking His name in vain? I can assure you when I was in the Army, that was not a standing order.

George Washington is the only person in the history of the world—just down the Hall he is depicted in a painting resigning. He did the unthinkable. King George couldn't believe it. He led a military in a revolution, won the revolution as head of the military, tendered his resignation, gave back all the power and went home.

Recently, I stopped for refueling in the Maldives Islands. One of the leaders during a luncheon, we were talking, said, we have to constantly worry about the possibility of a military coup. This man on the other side of the world said, see, because we never had a George Washington who set the proper pattern here.

George Washington was a man of faith. Anyone who doubts that can read Peter Lillback's book "George Washington's Sacred Fire." Well, there's an article yesterday, from Todd Starnes:

The U.S. Military Academy pressured a retired U.S. lieutenant general to withdraw from speaking at a West Point prayer breakfast after Muslims and atheists complained, Fox News has learned. Retired Lieutenant General William Boykin was scheduled to deliver a speech at West Point on February 8,

but late Monday the military academy released a statement saying he had decided to withdraw from speaking and would be replaced by another speaker. However, a source close to the controversy told Fox News & Commentary that Boykin was pressured to withdraw. "It was very clear they wanted General Boykin to withdraw," said the source who asked not to be identified.

□ 2140

And after you see what they've done to an American icon like General Boykin, you certainly understand why. "He asked them to rescind the invitation, but they were reluctant to do that. So he said he would take them off the hook."

Theresa Brinkerhoff, a spokesperson for West Point, told Fox News & Commentary that the U.S. Military Academy "did not decide this for him."

Nothing is worse than political correctness and mistreatment of military heroes than dishonesty in doing so.

"After a conversation with our chaplain, Lieutenant General Boykin decided to withdraw," Brinkerhoff wrote in an email.

Boykin, a former senior military intelligence officer, had been criticized for speeches he made at evangelical Christian churches where he said that America's enemy is Satan, that God had put President Bush in the White House, and that a Muslim Somali warlord was an idol worshiper.

That was enough to decide to try to destroy an American hero.

Army Times has an article, "Retired 3-Star's West Point Invite Draws Protest," all about the controversy. New York Times, "General Withdraws from West Point Talk."

The message is coming loud and clear to our military: If you're a Christian, if you're a person of faith, as demonstrated through George Washington's life and times, you better keep your mouth shut or this administration and those who are in charge of political correctness will see to it that you regret being so.

There's another article by Rebecca Leung, "The Holy Warrior," it's entitled, another interesting article. This goes right along with this administration's zeal to avoid recognizing the enemy against us.

I, along with DANA ROHRBACHER, STEVE KING, LORETTA SANCHEZ, we met with Northern Alliance leaders, including General Dostum, the hero in fighting the Taliban. Now, these are Muslims. Some try to paint us as xenophobes, Islamophobes.

Isn't it interesting, that term came as a strategy to try to scare off, embarrass, humiliate people who stood up for what was right against Muslim terrorists who want to destroy us, trying to intimidate us into not using the word "Muslim." For heaven's sake, we know. They're our Muslim friends. The Northern Alliance, they're our allies. They're Muslims. We talked about it. We met with some Baluchs from southern Pakistan, their leaders there. They're Muslim. They're our friends. They don't want to destroy us. They want to support us, and some of us want to support them.

And yet this administration has such a wrongheaded approach to those who

want to destroy our way of life. It can best be illustrated in this chart illustrating political correctness run amok.

The 9/11 Commission report was prepared in a bipartisan fashion before people knew that the Organization of Islamic States, the Islamic Society of North America, CAIR would make such attacks on those who dare to point out that even though it's not the mass Muslim population who are our enemy, there are those small groups within the Muslim community who want to destroy our way of life. How can you understand and anticipate your enemy's actions, the enemy that has sworn to destroy you, unless you study what they believe and you understand what their approach is and you understand that people like Ahmadinejad—I'm running out of time.

Well, let me conclude by just pointing to this chart. In the commission report, 322 times Islam is mentioned; jihad is mentioned 126 times. And now it is inappropriate, under this administration, to mention jihad. It's inappropriate for our Justice, Intelligence, State to talk about jihad. It doesn't mention al Qaeda. It doesn't mention Hezbollah, Hamas, sharia.

This administration has run aground, and they have brought their ship right on top of real American heroes.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CARSON of Indiana (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week on account of business in the district.

PUBLICATION OF COMMITTEE MATERIALS

STANDARDS FOR THE ELECTRONIC POSTING OF HOUSE AND COMMITTEE DOCUMENTS & DATA
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION
COMMITTEE RESOLUTION 112—

Adopted on December 1, 2011

STANDARDS FOR THE ELECTRONIC POSTING OF HOUSE AND COMMITTEE DOCUMENTS & DATA

Resolved, That the following regulations, collectively referred to as the "Standards for the Electronic Posting of House and Committee Documents & Data", are hereby adopted, as follows:

XML STANDARDS

Committees are encouraged to post documents in XML when possible and should expect XML formats to become mandatory in the future. The Office of the Clerk will update XML standards as required to support these documents. The XML standards will be publically available at <http://xml.house.gov>.

FILE NAMING STANDARDS

The Office of the Clerk will publish and maintain naming standards for each document to be posted. These standards will facilitate automated searching and uploading of such documents. Files will be posted using permanent URL links. These links will facilitate outside and committee usage of these files. In addition, permanent URL links will allow each archived committee website to maintain functionality.

COMMITTEE DOCUMENTS

The Committee on House Administration further directs that the Clerk provide additional functionality on the centralized website for House documents to support committee documents; until the completion of such functionality, House committees are responsible for posting committee documents in a searchable PDF format in an appropriate location on the committee majority's website. XML versions of documents, when available, should be posted at the same location.

VIDEO REQUIREMENTS

Committee video of hearings and markups will be stored by the House to meet requirements for archiving, access, searchability, and authenticity.

ADDITIONAL REVIEW AND REISSUANCE

To ensure documents are made available in user-friendly formats that preserve their integrity, these standards will be subject to periodic review and reissuance by the Committee on House Administration. It is the intent of the Committee to implement standards that require documents to be electronically published in open data formats that are machine readable to enable transparency and public review.

In accordance with the Speaker's initiative to increase transparency of House and committee operations, the Committee on House Administration, as directed by House Rules, has established the following standards for posting House and committee documents and data electronically. These standards will be phased in and subject to periodic review and reissuance. The standards are intended to ensure that Members and the public have easy, advance access to legislation considered by the House and its committees.

DOCUMENTS AND DATA COVERED BY STANDARDS

The following House and committee documents and data files are covered under these standards:

House Documents:

Bills to be considered by the House; Resolutions to be considered by the House; Amendments to be considered by the House; Conference Reports to be considered by the House.

Committee Documents:

Committee rules; Bills to be considered by the committees; Resolutions to be considered by committees; Prints or other legislative text intended to serve as the base text for further amendment; Meeting Notices; Witness Lists; Witness testimony; Truth in Testimony disclosure forms; Public notices; Amendments adopted by committees; Committee record votes.

Although not required by House rules, committees are encouraged to post additional committee documents online, including oversight plans, committee transcripts, committee prints, and committee activity reports.

HOUSE DOCUMENTS

The Committee on House Administration directs the Clerk of the House to establish a centralized website where Members and the public can access all House documents in a downloadable, open format within the time frames established by House Rules. This centralized location shall be established for House Documents no later than January 1, 2012.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills