

These men and women answered a call, and let us not debate the call itself because that is not what fearless men and women do. They fought a new style of warfare.

They initially triumphed, suffered defeats, and then adjusted to again bring about tactical victory for the United States.

However, it is not the tactical victory which concerns me- it is strategic shortsightedness that does. There are only two ways to end a war, a conflict or an engagement, even an "overseas contingency operation"- you either win or lose.

President Barack Obama stated that he has kept his campaign promise, he has declared success. What we saw this week was a Campaigner-in-Chief - not a Commander-in-Chief.

What we saw was another American President who does not comprehend strategic security vision, and this goes all the way back to President Jimmy Carter.

Just weeks after uncovering an Iranian-backed assassination plot on American soil, we have given a green light to Iran to expand their regional hegemonic dominance.

This desire to project their power could extend from Iran to Iraq to Syria to Lebanon to the Gaza Strip. We have once again abandoned the world's largest ethnic group without a homeland, the Kurds, to fend for themselves, trapped between Iran and Turkey.

We have left a clear pathway for the envelopment and potential demise of the modern day State of Israel.

We have once again made a politically expedient shortsighted decision in the Middle East, not one which assesses future security ramifications. These decisions always result in being seen by our enemies in that region as a sign of weakness, not strength.

How is it that the United States of America has lost such respect and standing that we could not even secure a Status of Forces agreement to protect our fearless men and women in uniform?

Truly, it is not just a budget deficit which threatens our Republic, it is even worse - it is a leadership deficit.

Yes, the death of Libyan dictator Moammar Ghaddafi is reason for freedom-loving people to celebrate, but what or who will fill the void?

We can ill afford another Egypt; just as we saw what happened after the Shah of Iran was deposed.

Furthermore, where are those 30,000 shoulder fired missiles? I fear they will end-up proliferated throughout the region, especially in Gaza Strip and possibly in Iraq. Heaven help us if they find their way to Mexican drug cartels and into America.



CW3 Tom Johnson

MOS: Army Blackhawk Pilot

Age: 33

Hometown: Boca Raton

Stationed: Fort Campbell, Kentucky

Married: Daisy Johnson

Deployed: Currently: Afghanistan- 2nd deployment

Photos of the Week



Special Delivery: Rep. West delivers UPS Packages, click [here](#).

Small Business Spotlight

As a final point involving our nation's domestic policy -- this week we found out the "misery index" in America has gone up to a 13 rating. On inauguration day the index was 7.8, meaning the latest rating represents a 65% increase.

However, we saw Vice President Joe Biden attempting to use the most despicable fear-mongering tactics in order to advocate for more federal government "stimulus" spending.

I have a simple question for the Vice President, what happened to the \$1 trillion in stimulus spending targeted to teachers and first responders?

It seems this is just another union driven payback, especially when one remembers it was Richard Trumka sitting in the First Lady's box during the Joint Session of Congress speech, where a desperate President demanded 18 times, "*Pass this Bill, now.*"

The laughable hypocrisy is that the President's American Jobs Act has not one Democrat co-sponsor in the House of Representatives, still, to my knowledge.

It is truly a leadership deficit which threatens the America "*born from the throes of armed resistance to tyranny, and nursed in the rugged arms of fearless American men and women.*"

In closing, remember the words of John Stuart Mill, "*War is an ugly thing, but not the ugliest of things. The decayed and degraded state of moral and patriotic feeling which thinks that nothing is worth a war is much worse.*"

And Plato reminds us, "*Only the dead have seen the end of war.*"

God bless and keep our fallen heroes and wounded warriors who have served in Iraq and all across the 21st Century Battlefield, as well as their families and loved ones, who stand and ensure the failures and poor strategic decisions of elected officials never allow the destruction of our beloved Constitutional Republic.

Steadfast and Loyal,



Rep. West Stands Up for Free Trade



Lisa Tropepe

Company: Engenuity Group, Inc.

Owners: Lisa A. Tropepe, P.E., Andre Rayman, P.S.M., Keith Jackson, P.E.

Services Provided: Civil Engineering, Surveying and GIS Mapping services

Years in business: 33

of employees: 20

Advertising strategy: Word of mouth, Brochures, Website

Tips for surviving the recession:

"We've made a conscious decision to keep our overhead costs down as low as we possibly can. This not only includes our employees, but our operational costs as well. We continue to struggle with our ability to deal with the never ending government regulations and mandates."

Legislative Update



*The House was not in session this past week, there is no legislative update.

Weekly Highlights

- Last week Saturday, it was a thrill to



(FORT LAUDERDALE)- "It's all about the jobs." Those words coming from Congressman West on the dock at Port Everglades, Tuesday, October 18th, as he spoke at a press conference to extend his full support for the Free Trade Agreements.

Passed in both the House and Senate, and signed by the President Friday, the Free Trade Agreements will open up free trade with Colombia, Panama and South Korea, making American exports and imports competitive, and giving American companies the confidence they need to begin hiring again.

"With South Florida being the gateway to Latin America, the Free Trade Agreements will support and create potentially hundreds of local jobs by leveling the playing field for U.S. goods and services," West said. "These long overdue trade agreements will increase exports, lower the trade deficit and stimulate much-needed U.S. economic growth."

The back-drop for the press conference was key, because Port Everglades is the largest exporter in the state of Florida, generating an estimated \$11 billion dollars in trade, impacting 55,000 local jobs a year.

"The Port is expected to grow by leaps and bounds now that this bill is passed," said Port Everglades Director Phil Allen. "Jobs will be added to all industries from truck drivers to the customs industry. We are very encouraged about the economic impact this legislation will have on the South Florida community."

Joining Congressman West at the Press Conference was Port Everglades Director Phil Allen, Jay Brickman from Crowley Liner Services, a U.S.-based shipping company out of Port Everglades, Broward County Commissioner Chip LaMarca and Port of Palm Beach Executive Director Manny Elmira. For pictures, click [here](#).

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west.house.gov

Stay Connected



attend the grand opening of the new Florida Atlantic University Owl stadium...and then attend opening night for the Florida Panther's 2011-2012 hockey season, an awesome overtime shootout victory over the Tampa Bay Lightning.

- **Monday, 17 October**, visited the UPS distribution center in Deerfield Beach and suited up in brown and made some deliveries. Hosted a coastal community forum with the United States Army Corps of Engineers to address local and county government concerns. Addressed the Broward Republican Executive Committee, great being back before the group which first welcomed me back from Afghanistan.

Tuesday, 18 October, met with the Palm Beach Civic Association Board of Directors to provide a personal Washington update on issues and perspectives. Conducted our 17th town hall meeting in the Town of Palm Beach. Addressed the Boynton Beach GOP Club, which was where we first announced running for the House of Representatives in May 2007 for the 2008 cycle. Participated in a free trade press conference at Port Everglades to highlight the economic impact of the passing and signing of the Panama, Colombia, and South Korea Free Trade Agreements. Conducted our 18th town hall meeting, along with Broward County Commissioner Chip LaMarca at Lauderdale-by-the Sea.

- **Thursday, 20 October**, flew to Orange County, CA and addressed the Lincoln Club of Orange County.

- **Friday, 21 October**, addressed the David Horowitz Freedom Center luncheon meeting on National Security and addressed a group of entertainment industry Conservatives during their regular dinner event.

- **Sunday, 22 October**, took a redeye flight back to duty in Washington.

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