

# Col. Donahue Speaks Out In Support of Murtha

*Lieutenant Colonel Hal Donahue (USAF-ret.) served in Europe, Asia, and the Middle East, on the staff of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Since retiring after 20 years in the military, he has been employed as a vice president of several major energy companies. He now devotes his time to assisting military veterans and working to elect veterans and their supporters to all levels of political office. Lieutenant Colonel Donahue wrote the following statement for EIR on Sept. 10.*

**EIR** September 26, 2008

The Bush Administration began with intimidation of senior military officers. Then accelerating their tactics, they began retaliating outright against general officers who dared to give their best military advice when it countered Bush Administration “thought.” General Shinseki is the most obvious example, but over 20 general officers have retired in disgust. The results were predictable. The military became mired in the Middle East.

Then in 2006, numerous military veterans ran as Democrats. The Department of Defense appeared to selectively target veteran candidates attempting to restrict their use of hard-earned military credentials. Jack Murtha is a military icon. President Bush identified Democratic Congressman Murtha as his “go-to man” in Congress for all military issues. Military people from all over the country know “Jack Murtha” as their defender, whether in Congress or the Pentagon. Yet, when Congressman Murtha, in a true profile in courage, spoke out against how the Bush Administration was mishandling the Iraq War and the military, the entire might of the Bush Machine turned against him. Luckily for the nation, the people of Congressman Murtha’s district are made of the right stuff. Murtha’s constituents knew two things. First, their Congressman did his job, and did it well. Second, if the folks in Washington, D.C. were coming to their district to tell them what to do, those D.C. people would get nowhere—nor did they.

Now here we go again, and the Bush/Rove/McCain hate machine learned from 2006. They went out and recruited military veterans to run against the 2006 military veterans. The constituents seem aware of the tactic, and I expect all to be reelected. Congressman Murtha has opposition apparently handpicked in Washington and the candidate, a retired Reserve LTC named Russell, stands accused of running his campaign out of the Pentagon itself, while on active duty. The Bush Administration apparently escalated their use/abuse of military officers into paying full-time officers and funding them to seek political office. In addition to using Pentagon office space, telephones and equipment, LTC Russell appeared on an extreme right-wing talk show, also while serving on active duty. Now an investigation is being conducted into the whole affair. *But*, the Command of the Army Reserve at Ft. McPherson in Georgia, where the complaints are before the Inspector General and the Judge Advocate General, is “taking its time” and the elec-

tion will be decided before any findings. Is this delay, the Bush Administration politicizing the military, nothing? I will let you decide. I think the answer is an obvious yes.

Joint Chief of Staff Adm. Michael Mullen’s strong admonition in late Spring: “The U.S. military must remain apolitical at all times, in all ways. A good first step is keeping our politics private.”

Why did the Admiral say that? Because the military is sworn to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States. If the military becomes actively involved in politics, they almost by definition endanger the Constitution. This was exactly how Ollie North disgraced himself, when he deliberately lied to Congress and violated his oath as an officer. This is why so many military officers retire to oppose the Bush Administration.

I strongly support Congressman Murtha for his years of support for the military and its members, whether a general or a private, but most of all for Congressman Jack Murtha’s principled stand against an out-of-control Bush war in Iraq, which resulted in change of direction in that war.

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