

Friends of Robert C. Byrd Committee

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BYRD FIGHTS BACK AGAINST FALSE OUT-OF-STATE ADS – SENATOR SAYS ‘WEST VIRGINIANS DESERVE THE TRUTH’

U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va., is fighting back against Republican television ads that make outright false claims about his service for the people of West Virginia.

“These slick, out-of-state ads rely on falsehood and trickery. They do not tell the truth. These ads, coming so far in advance of the election and playing fast-and-loose with the facts, are some of the worst kind of campaign tricks,” Byrd said. “I will not sit quietly and let these national Republican ads lie to the people of my state. False, misleading, and deceptive ads will not go unanswered.”

In response to these negative ads, paid for by the Washington, D.C.,-based National Republican Senatorial Committee, Byrd has launched a television ad of his own that features West Virginia veterans, including a veteran of “Operation Iraqi Freedom.” The advertisement begins to air today.

“West Virginia’s veterans believe in Senator Byrd. They know that he is always standing up for them and for the men and women of the Armed Forces, including our National Guardsmen and Reservists. That’s why they wanted to stand up for Senator Byrd,” said Ned Rose, chairman of the Friends of Robert C. Byrd Committee.

The ad, entitled “Truth,” features Sergeant Jared Towner, a native of Wood County and an “Operation Iraqi Freedom” veteran who served in the Parkersburg-based 1092d Combat Engineer Battalion in Iraq for a year. While there, Sergeant Towner was his platoon machine gunner and a combat lifesaver. His company removed improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and provided mobile security for civilian contractors who were rebuilding roads, schools, and other infrastructure projects.

"I'm Jared Towner and I served in Iraq. Senator Byrd has been fighting for us, bringing jobs to West Virginia, funding schools and hospitals, protecting our flag and supporting our troops," Towner tells the people of West Virginia.

Senator Byrd closes the ad, telling the people of West Virginia, "I am Senator Robert Byrd. I approved this ad because the people of West Virginia deserve the truth."

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The ad script and supporting facts are below. To watch the ad, please go to: <http://byrd2006.com>.

Senator Byrd television ad – "Truth"

Ad Script	The Facts
<p>Out of state special interests are running false attack ads against our senator, Robert Byrd.</p> <p>Their agenda? Privatize Social Security and tax breaks for companies that ship our jobs overseas.</p>	<p>FACT: The Washington, D.C.-based National Republican Senatorial Committee (NRSC) paid for \$53,000 worth of television advertisements in the Charleston/Huntington media market beginning on July 29, 2005.</p> <p>FACT: Washington Republicans continue to press for a privatized Social Security system.</p> <p>NRSC Chairman Elizabeth Dole has repeatedly made the case this year for privatized Social Security. [CNN, "Inside Politics," 4/25/05; Greensboro News & Record, 1/2/05]</p> <p>And Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist supports privatization. In March 2005, Leader Frist demanded that Congress support privatizing Social Security. "We need to do it this year -- not next year, but this year," said Frist on the Senate floor. [Washington Post, 3/4/05]</p> <p>FACT: The national Republicans have used their majority in Congress to pass tax breaks for companies that close operations in America and reopen in countries with lower labor and environmental standards.</p> <p>This year, NRSC Chairman Dole and Majority Leader Frist led the GOP caucus in voting to keep tax incentives for offshore companies. Earlier this year, Senators Dole and Frist led 52 of their Republican Senate colleagues in voting against an amendment to the Fiscal 2006 Budget Resolution that would have repealed tax incentives for domestic companies that move their manufacturing plants to offshore locations. [S. Con. Res. 18, 3/17/05, Vote #63]</p>
<p>I'm Sergeant Jared Towner and I served in Iraq. Senator</p>	<p>FACT: Federal investments that Senator Byrd has directed to West Virginia has led to thousands of new</p>

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jobs.

These jobs include those at the FBI Complex in Clarksburg, the many federal agencies in the Eastern Panhandle, and the Bureau of Public Debt in Parkersburg. These facilities have also helped to spur significant private-sector growth in the Mountain State. For instance, the biometrics initiative that Senator Byrd is spearheading with the Department of Defense in Harrison County is opening the door to other technology related jobs in that region. Byrd's work has also boosted the efforts of entrepreneurs. Last month, for example, Touchstone Research Laboratory in Triadelphia was awarded the prestigious "R&D 100 Award" for its cutting-edge work. Company President Brian Joseph said that it was Senator Byrd's work that "allowed us to move research forward and expand to accommodate the work that had to be done."

FACT: Senator Byrd has written legislation to expand the federal investment in schools and make good on the funding promises of the "No Child Left Behind Act."

On many occasions, Senator Byrd has pressed to invest new funding in our schools. He has voted to fully fund the "No Child Left Behind Act" and improve the quality of our nation's schools. [Recent votes include vote 35, 3/10/2004, Murray amendment to fully fund the No Child Left Behind Act; vote 343, 9/10/2003, Durbin motion to provide an additional \$450 million for teacher quality programs; vote 330, 9/9/2003, Reid motion to waive procedural budget rules and allow passage of a Byrd amendment to increase funding for the Title I program in the Elementary and Secondary Act by \$6.15 billion]

FACT: Senator Byrd has worked to invest new resources in health care and take advantage of new technologies to expand health care in rural communities.

Earlier this year, Senator Byrd announced that his work had led to the start of a new pilot project, called 'HEALTHeWV,' designed to utilize technology to better treat patients in rural counties in West Virginia, starting in Wayne County. He has also invested critical new resources in health care facilities at West Virginia University, Marshall University, the West Virginia School for Osteopathic Medicine, the University of Charleston, and Shepherd University, as well as the Charleston Area Medical Center (CAMC).

FACT: Senator Byrd is cosponsoring legislation (S. 1370, authored by Republican Senator Bob Bennett of Utah) that would criminalize flag burning.

Senator Byrd has voted to protect America's flag from

desecration and punish those who would burn it to incite violence. For example, on 3/28/2000, Byrd voted for the McConnell-Bingaman bipartisan amendment which imposed a fine of up to \$100,000 and/or up to one year imprisonment upon any person who destroys or damages flag with primary purpose and intent of inciting or producing imminent violence or breach of peace, and in circumstances where person knows this action is reasonably likely to produce this outcome; imposes fine of up to \$250,000 and/or up to two years imprisonment for stealing a flag belonging to U.S. and intentionally destroying or damaging that flag, or stealing flag while on Federal property; and defines "flag" as any U.S. flag made of any substance, in any size, in a form that is commonly displayed as a flag and would be taken to be a flag by reasonable observer.

FACT: Senator Byrd has pressed to make sure that financial resources go to the American troops in harm's way, and not for big special interest contractors like Halliburton.

Senator Byrd, in a letter dated February 6, 2003 – a month and a half before the Iraq war began, asked Secretary Rumsfeld “to initiate an immediate review to insure that our troops are receiving the proper equipment for the environment in which they are being deployed.” If Secretary Rumsfeld had followed Senator Byrd’s advice, the shortages in body armor would have been discovered before the war.

Senator Byrd has repeatedly voted for additional armor for troops [Vote 199, 7/21/05, Warner amendment on Humvee armor; Vote 117, 5/10/05, Supplemental Appropriations conference report; Vote 109, 4/21/05, Supplemental Appropriations bill; Vote 108, 4/21/05, Bayh amendment on Humvee armor; Vote 163, 7/22/04, Defense Appropriations conference report; Vote 149, 6/24/04, Defense Appropriations bill; Vote 146, 6/23/04, Defense Authorization bill; Vote 112, 6/14/04, Dodd amendment for reimbursement of families who bought body armor for troops].

Senator Byrd voted against giving \$18.4 billion in taxpayer funds to rebuild Iraq. This is the same reconstruction money that was supposed to bring peace to post-war Iraq, but is now ending up in the pockets of large defense contractors, like Halliburton.

FACT: Senator Byrd is right; the people of West Virginia deserve the truth.

I'm Robert Byrd and I approve this ad because the people of West Virginia deserve the truth.

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