

Dr. Burgess Weekly Video Address May 23, 2014 “Memorial Day”

Hello this is your Congressman, Michael Burgess. This week, I’d like to take a moment to thank the bravest among us who have fought or are fighting for our freedom.

This Memorial Day, let us take a moment in the midst of the barbecue and outdoor fun to pause and think of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice to ensure those small pleasures we enjoy can continue.

Our troops have laid their lives on the line to protect our freedom, and they deserve all the respect and care our nation has to offer.

That is why it is particularly upsetting to hear some of the disturbing news out of Central Texas, where officials at several VA hospitals have allegedly altered medical records of some of the patients to conceal long wait times for veterans seeking care. Sadly, this has resulted in several deaths.

As a physician, I can remember the stress that went with issuing timely care to sick people, and I understand the urgency that comes with certain ailments. But as a member of Congress, I cannot let this stand.

That is why last week, I joined several other members of the Texas delegation in a letter urging the Inspector General to investigate these terrible crimes. The policy

at these clinics of falsifying medical records is dishonest, deceptive, immoral, and illegal.

While the Inspector General is currently reviewing these allegations in San Antonio, I want to make sure their office is also investigating any potential misconduct that may have affected veterans seeking care in these areas. Anyone they find to have been engaging in misconduct should face serious consequences and be persecuted under the fullest extent of the law.

While these alleged crimes have not been found to occur at the VA hospitals and clinics in our area, it is nonetheless important to me as a Texan to make sure this investigation is thorough and complete. Our veterans fought for our freedom, and we must fight for them now.

As always, I appreciate your comments and questions on this issue. Thank you for taking the time to listen. May God bless you and your family, may God bless our troops, and as always, may God bless Texas.

Happy Memorial Day.