

Dr. Burgess Weekly Video Address September 12, 2014 “Reacting to the President’s Speech on ISIS”

Hello, this is your Congressman, Michael Burgess. Yesterday, we paused in solemn remembrance of that terrible day 13 years ago. It was a day of evil and of horror, but also of unspeakable bravery and courage. We watched as men ran into the fire as everyone else ran away from it. We watched our new president become a war time president in an instant. But we also watched our loved ones and fellow Americans come together like never before.

Years later, we still unite in that way on September 11th. As President Bush said, our enemies did what America’s enemies have always done: They saw liberty and thought they saw weakness. But we know better.

Last night, we heard from President Obama as he vowed to destroy the Islamic State, or ISIS. The president, who spent his entire campaign condemning the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, laid out his plan to target our enemies with air strikes and the support of 475 more American troops. He stressed they would not be on a combat mission, but rather in a supporting role. But do not forget that as of today, there are more than 1,500 American troops serving in Iraq.

I was encouraged to see the president finally expressing a plan of action, rather than continuing to describe what he will NOT do in dealing with ISIS. But I was troubled by the questions that still remain. First, what changed? The president knew of this threat for months, but only just now reacted following negative polling and a low approval rating. For the American troops heading overseas to fight this brutal enemy, I can only hope the president’s plan has no basis in politics.

And as a member of Congress, I believe we need to have a vote before we act. It is true that the president has the authority to act independently of Congress, but I believe we need more information and intelligence – or at least a classified briefing – before we decide to put our fellow Americans in danger. As of yet, we have had nothing of the sort.

In the meantime, I will continue to pray for our Commander-in-Chief, our leaders, and the brave men and women who are facing this vicious enemy with courage. As for us all, we must hug our children a bit tighter tonight and remember always our steadfast American principles of freedom, optimism and hope for a prosperous future.

Thank you for taking the time to listen. May God bless you and your family, and as always, may God bless Texas.