

Speech Delivered by Terry Stulce at the CORRE Meeting, July 19, 2006

I want you to know a little bit about me and what I stand for.

But first I want you to know... that I know... who YOU are:

You are America's best and brightest. I am humbled to stand before you today.

I know you have worked on projects which have provided America with the technological edge to win World War II and the Cold War.

This country owes you respect, gratitude, and a secure retirement.

I was born in Friendship, Tennessee, and after five years my family moved to the "metropolis" of Snow Hill. My dad was a farmer, and my mother was a seamstress in a chair manufacturing company.

I went to the University of Tennessee on an ROTC scholarship. The day I graduated I was commissioned a second lieutenant in the United States Army.

Six months later after attending Airborne School, Ranger School, and Infantry Officer's Basic Course, I was leading a platoon of paratroopers in Vietnam. Having survived the Tet Offensive of 1968, I was awarded another tour of duty in 1970 to 1971 with the 69th and 79th Border Ranger Battalions.

When I came home I wanted only to live in peace far from the maddening crowd and away from the limelight. But in 2002 I saw my country being led in the wrong direction, a path toward destruction.

It was a path of unilateralism, preemptive war, torture as official policy, abuse of constitutional limits and international law, and the economic repression of middle and working class Americans.

It will take us a decade to clean up this mess. I recommend that we start NOW by:

1. Balancing the budget and enacting REAL debt reduction.
2. Correcting the disastrous course in Iraq.
3. Increasing the minimum wage.
4. Providing affordable health care for all Americans.
5. Cleaning up the corruption in Congress and in our Executive Branch.

We can start right here in Oak Ridge.

I know that this group has struggled unfortunately without much success to have your pension grievances addressed, even though you have been given LOTS of promises.

I am committed to:

1. A standardization of DOE pensions both for contractors and for those directly employed by DOE.
2. The creation of a standard COLA formula for DOE and contractor retirees.
3. The incremental restoration of pension levels lost because of a lack of cost of living increases.
4. Offering a SURVIVING SPOUSE OPTION to all retirees at a two percent reduction.
5. Creation of a pension governing board which equally represents retirees and contractors (if the contractors are willing to contribute to the retirement fund), and chaired by a DOE ombudsman appointed by Congress.

I would appreciate your vote and support. For further information, please visit my website at www.terry06.com.

Thank you very much, and God bless you.

Submitted by
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