

VoteVets.org does not speak for this vet

No organization speaks for every person with some link to it - however tenuous the link. And nobody, or group, speaks for this veteran when they use the George H. Bush line, "You're either with us or you're against us."

There is always a middle ground and all who disagree with us do not oppose our country or any of us individually. That's overly simplistic. Jingoistic.

There has been an inundation of TV ads targeting Wyoming Senator John Barrasso. The accusation in the ad is that, because Barrasso accepts campaign contributions from companies that do business in foreign countries - maybe even *with* foreign countries - that he is "one of them." That he has to "decide whose side he's on" and by implication, he's chosen to be on "their" side.

The bald speaker in the ad purports to be an "Iraq War veteran," which he may well be. But, what does that mean? Was he a reporter in Iraq like Al Gore was in Vietnam or was he in combat? Was he in the Navy, on board a ship on the water near Iraq? Or, on the ground, in harm's way?

VoteVets.org suggests the organization speaks for veterans. It is a grand claim without foundation. The website for the group indicates it is a self-appointed watchdog group of some sort, with guys like Wesley Clark involved. Most know about Gen. Clark and rejected his candidacy for president in 2004.

Many of these groups are formed by disgruntled veterans of all stripes who simply could not land network military analyst jobs so formed their own dissident group to raise funds so they could have a say at your expense - through your donations. Their website states:

"VoteVets Action Fund is a 501(c)(4) organization which primarily focuses on nonpartisan education and advocacy on behalf veterans (sic) and their families. VoteVets Political Action Committee is a federal political committee which primarily helps elect Iraq and Afghanistan war veteran candidates and educates about veterans and military issues aimed at influencing the outcome of the next election."

The issue used against John Barrasso. And it is not pronounced 'Bah rah so' as the apparent newcomer to Wyoming pronounces it in the TV ad for which the group spent \$2 million nationwide. The attack is on primarily Republican members of Congress (the only Democrat criticized is Evan Bayh, a potential future presidential candidate) and supports Clean Energy. It is an ad in support of wind energy but uses attack ads that the same "patriots" so hated the Swift Boat group using against John Kerry. They now use attack ads rather than support.

In case the spoken words don't turn enough Americans against various politicians targeted by the pro wind-energy ad, country names are scrolled down the screen as various young veterans decry elected officials stand for or against something. "Yemen, Iran, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Nigeria and Algeria" are listed. A veritable who's who list of our enemies. Where is North Korea? Cuba?

Wes Clark does not mention a connection to this group on his own website. It is inconceivable that the retired General really would link Wyoming Senator Barrasso to the terrorist attack on the USS Cole or the incident over Detroit on Christmas day. Or attack Chuck Lugar, one of our top foreign policy experts and patriots. VoteVets.org does not speak for me.

Yes. We all believe in quasi-miracles.

Susan Boyle. Scott Brown. Jaycee Dugard. Drew Brees.

Miracles do occur in this world and the United States is not the only beneficiary. The 1980 Olympics win in hockey (over the Soviet Union) was portrayed as a miracle by Al Michaels. It was an incredible victory but a miracle? Had the United States hockey team under Herb Brooks played the USSR fifty times, they may have only won that one time. Exceptional. But, a miracle? Most don't remember that the game was not for the gold medal - our US team defeated Finland for the gold medal in the '80 Olympics.

Rulon Gardner's subsequent Olympic gold medal win over Russian Alexander Karelin was also a fantastic accomplishment. But to call it a miracle sounds like someone else lifted all the weights and cows that prepared Wyoming's Gentle Giant Gardner for his incredible and unexpected victory. But, a miracle? Nah.

To term something a miracle suggests

more than reality. Perhaps the survival of all passengers on board the airplane put down in the Hudson River bordered a miracle. Or else it was an incredible professional achievement by Sully.

Susan Boyle? Her rise from anonymity to stardom was certainly good fortune. Or more. Unfortunately, there are hundreds of thousands of great singers, great musicians and great artists who are never discovered. Thanks to a television competition, she was. But, a miracle?

Scott Brown's win to take the "Kennedy seat" in the US Senate was great good fortune. An unpopular president and mediocre opponent combined with his charisma and campaign led to his victory. It wasn't close to a miracle. Drew Brees? Hey, Trent Dilfer quarterbacked a team to a Super Bowl win. No miracle.

Jaycee Dugard. Give that miracle status. Held hostage for 18 years, she seems to have survived the ordeal unbelievably well. Score this one a miracle.

Some of the bills that were introduced this Session

HJ12 - A JOINT RESOLUTION proposing to amend the Wyoming Constitution by creating a new section specifying that the federal government shall not interfere with an individual's health care decisions and prohibiting any penalty, fine or tax imposed because of a decision to participate in or decline health insurance, or to pay directly or receive directly for health care services.

Co-sponsored by Representatives Lubnau, Buchanan, Quarberg and Simpson and Senator Bebout.

Note: DOA

These folks must not have cable. They must not have newspapers in their area either. Otherwise, they'd realize that when states try to poke a thumb in the eye of the federal government by actions such as this, the feds simply threaten to withhold road funds until the state concedes. Wyoming told D.C. that we didn't have to lower the speed limit, allow right turns on red lights, raise the drinking age, etc. Remember how long each of those defiant positions lasted?

HJ02 - A JOINT RESOLUTION requesting Congress to cease and desist from enacting mandates that are beyond the scope of the enumerated powers granted to Congress by the Constitution of the United States.

Co-sponsored by Representatives Illoway, Anderson, R., Brechtel, Childers, Edmonds, Harvey, Lubnau, Madden, McOmie, Miller, Moniz, Quarberg, Shepperson, Simpson, Wallis and Zwonitzer, Dan and Senators Anderson, J., Bebout, Case, Cooper, Dockstader, Martin, Meier and Ross.

Note: Recommended Do Pass 50-8-2

See above comments. What effect does a Bill that "requests" someone to do something have? None.

HB84 - Gold star license plates. AN ACT relating to motor vehicles; authorizing a special license plate for parents of soldiers who die during military service; specifying fees; specifying qualifications to receive the special license plate; granting authority to promulgate rules; specifying requirements for the design of the special license plate; and providing for an effective date.

Co-sponsored by Representatives Blikre, Cohee, Davison, Goggles, Lubnau and Petersen and Senator Hines.

Note: Recommended Do Pass 56-2-2

Nothing wrong with this noble gesture. How many parents would the special license plate be available to? Read on ...

HB103 - Cancer prevention and awareness - special license plates. AN ACT relating to motor vehicles; authorizing a special license plate for support of cancer prevention and awareness; specifying use of the funds donated for the special license plate; specifying qualifications to receive the special license plate; granting authority to promulgate rules; specifying requirements for the design and continued production of the special license plate; and providing for an effective date.

Co-sponsored by Representatives Esquibel, K., Carson, Davison, Gilmore, Goggles, Pedersen and Throne and Senators Dockstader and Esquibel, F.

Note: Failed introduction 31-26-3

A special license plate for a very limited number of motorists when a death is related to combat or other military service but not for countless motorists for what could be the death of thousands due to cancer? This inconsistency particularly torques me because February 17th is the tenth anniversary of my wife's first diagnosis with breast cancer. Clowns!

<p>742 Cimarron Drive Gorgeous townhome in a very quiet neighborhood. Spacious interior with large rooms. Lovely kitchen with granite countertops, pantry and lots of cabinet space. Living room has gas fireplace. Main floor master BR and laundry. Basement is professionally finished and would make a great family room and/or rec room. More features include walk-in closets, vaulted ceilings, large linen closet, front covered porch and fenced back with vinyl deck. This home has so much to offer. \$232,000</p>	 <p>\$232,000</p>
<p>wesellcheyennehomes.com 802 E. Lincolnway -- 634-2997 Cheyenne, Wyoming</p>	<p>Assist 2 Sell "Full Service with Savings!"</p>

**Come on by and weigh something.
It doesn't cost much.**

Freight, Military, Trailers & Trucks, Livestock, Salvage, Metal & More
UP TO 100,000 POUNDS -- 4' AND 70' SCALES -- GROSS & TARE WEIGHTS

Cheyenne Public Scales

802 W. 21st St. (between Snyder and Reed Ave.)

307.634.2758

187-200