

# More appalling facts

June 5, 2010

This week in a letter to the Speak Out section of the News a writer was “appalled” because President Obama was not going to attend Memorial Day services at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and was sending his “lackey” Vice President Biden to perform the task. The writer went on to state how it was an “affront” to veterans and their families for Obama to “ignore a tradition” which is a “responsibility” of the president.

Fine, be appalled. If you are, however, you also must be appalled by President George W. Bush who was in France on Memorial Day in 2002 and couldn't get Vice President Cheney to stand in for him so he sent Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz as his designated lackey.

You also must be appalled by President George H. W. Bush who never (never!) attended ceremonies at Arlington during his term of office and in three of those four opportunities decided to vacation in Kennebunkport, Maine instead. Vice President Quayle was the lackey of choice.

President Reagan would have to appall you, too. He missed four of his eight chances to lay the wreath on Memorial Day (although he gets a pass for one of those as he was recovering from an assassination attempt).

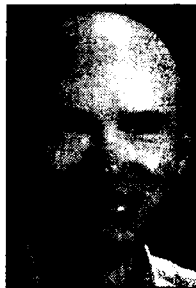
The vice president, deputy defense secretary, and Navy secretary all filled lackey duties for President Reagan.

Conversely, if you are appalled by all of these presidents for not appearing at Arlington, you must be bursting with pride over the one president in the last 30 years who had a perfect attendance record. He never missed a Memorial Day at Arlington for eight straight years. That president would be William Jefferson Clinton (<http://www.snopes.com/politics/obama/memorialsday.asp>).

Speaking of appalling, how's that BP mess coming along? All of the people who screamed for “limited government” now are asking why the government isn't doing more.

Ponder this. What would be the chance of this being funded: A massive government agency that would do nothing but be “on call” in case a deep water oil spill would occur, all the time paying thousands of people full-time salaries, and accumulating millions of dollars worth of specialized equipment. Do you think that would fly?

Or would cries of “pork”



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Today) called Marine Spill Response was ready and waiting to clean up even the most massive spills. However, MSP “... hasn't invested enough in new technologies because they get paid by how long it takes them to clean up a spill ... spending money researching new technologies that could make spill response more efficient doesn't serve the bottom line.”

Meanwhile, if the Gulf spill goes on for 100 days at the current rate it still only represents one day's worth of oil taken from the ground by BP. It's a public relations disaster for BP, but nothing that significantly affects the amount of oil they obtain.

Well, at least one part of the 582-page BP document

and “big government waste” be heard across the land? Would there be “experts” arguing that such functions would be more efficiently handled by the private sector?

Well folks, this is a perfect test of “the private sector handles everything known to man better” theory. Supposedly, a non-profit company (which in reality is funded by the oil companies according to USA

titled “Regional Oil Spill Response Plan — Gulf of Mexico” has proved to be true. In the “Sensitive Biological & Human Use Resources” section the plan lists seals, sea otters and walrus as animals that could be impacted by a Gulf spill. It's absolutely accurate that a spill would harm these animals. It's a good thing none of these animals actually live in the Gulf or they'd be in big trouble. Finally, the world has gone bonkers and I can prove it! While schools are strapped for cash all over America and teachers are being laid off in droves, at least one school district superintendent is doing just fine. Superintendent Alvin Wilbanks of the Gwinnett County Schools (Atlanta, GA) makes \$382,819 per year. That's more than the vice president of the United States and only \$17,000 less than the president. According to the director of the Georgia Association of Educational Leaders, Wilbanks deserves this salary because “superintendents have a tremendous responsibility.”

Responsibility? Responsibility! Do you mean like running the entire United States of America? Is this bonkers or what?

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