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MANZULLO THREATENS AMERICAN NATIONAL SECURITY WITH CONTINUED SUPPORT OF IRAQ WAR

5 Years after 'Mission Accomplished' Violence in Iraq Climbs to 7 Month High

ROCKFORD – On the Anniversary of President Bush's bold declaration of victory aboard the U.S.S. Abraham Lincoln, Bob Abboud, nuclear engineer and 16th District congressional candidate, on Thursday called on incumbent Don Manzullo to acknowledge the damage the Iraq war has done to our military, their families, our economy and the integrity of the United States as a world leader.

"We can no longer afford this kind absent minded leadership," Abboud said.

Abboud criticized Manzullo as violence in Iraq has reached a seven month high, costing American forces 49 lives in the month of April. His comments also come on the 5 year anniversary of President Bush's declaration of victory aboard the U.S.S. Abraham Lincoln.

"After the loss of more than 4,000 American lives, countless casualties and more than half a trillion dollars, what is it going to take for Don Manzullo to step up to the plate and become a real leader, a leader that works for the security of every American," Abboud said.

While Manzullo is yet to put forth a plan that will effectively and responsibly end the War in Iraq, Abboud has come together with retired generals, a host of elected officials and numerous candidates across the country to execute a plan to bring our troops home. The plan will effectively end U.S. combat operations in Iraq and begin utilizing American diplomatic power to begin a real political reconciliation in Iraq.

"At the end of the day, it's clear that military progress in Iraq has been minimal, and with the recent flare up of ethno-sectarian violence, the political situation in Iraq continues to grow more fragmented," Abboud said. "My opponent opposes a timetable for withdrawal and hopes people will look the other way. It's time we stop spinning our problems and start solving our problems. If Don Manzullo won't change his position on the war and represent his constituents' and our country's best interest, it's time to change Don Manzullo."

Abboud warned that the stress of the Iraq war, both financially and militarily, is significantly affecting U.S. ability to deal with Iran. As Iran continues to develop nuclear technology Abboud says that the Iraq War weakens America's position to forcefully negotiate with Iran and other nations that pose a real threat to American national security.

"While Manzullo talks of progress, the results tell a different story. Military officials have already warned that our ability to respond to future contingencies is hamstrung by Congress' refusal to end its policy-of-denial and change course in Iraq," Abboud said. "This war has created a breeding ground for terrorists and more anti-american sentiment the world over – I don't believe it was ever designed to make America safer. Now Manzullo and Congress' continued support of this war is truly threatening our national security, not strengthening it. It is time for leadership that puts America first. We can no longer afford Don Manzullo."