

Tim Walz – Not Worthy of Being VP

by

Phil Rasmussen

Almost immediately after Kamala Harris picked Tim Walz as her vice presidential choice, criticism of Walz's military record and gubernatorial service as governor of Minnesota was vocalized.

To understand this criticism we need to understand the military culture. Since Walz served in the Army National Guard, he was subject to the Army's 7 core values.

1. Loyalty
2. Duty
3. Respect
4. Selfless Service
5. Honor
6. Integrity
7. Personal Courage

For an understanding of these values, visit <https://www.army.mil/values/> or <https://usarmybasic.com/army-knowledge/army-values/>.

With 24 years of service in the Army, Walz fully understood these values and should have lived his public and military life according to them. There is no excuse.

Yet, toward his retirement May 16, 2005 and afterwards, Walz failed in all seven core values. While the liberal media and other Democrats have supported Walz and made excuses for his actions, they are blind to his character as a soldier. One of their sticking points is that Walz had planned to run for Congress in March 2005. His campaign office, at that time, "issued a statement in March 20, 2005 saying he still planned to run despite a possible mobilization of Minnesota National Guard soldiers to Iraq," (<https://www.factcheck.org/2024/08/attacks-on-walzs-military-record/>).

However, 3 days prior to the announcement, the Guard's Public Affairs office announce a possible mobilization of Minnesota's National Guard, specifying Walz's battalion for deployment to Iraq. Three days after the Guard's announcement, it was announced that possible deployment to Iraq would be mid-to-late 2006, a year later.

Now it is important to understand that for decades we have had Congressmen and Senators actively serving in the military reserves and National Guard units. Many veterans have called Walz's action one of cowardness, running from his duty, and betraying his country. While it was his right to retire when he did, Walz actions emulated many of those who were draft dodgers during the Vietnam War.

He showed no loyalty or respect for the soldiers he was supposed to lead. Nor did he exemplify any personal courage or selfless service. He also did not live up to his obligations of duty and honor. While these are not chargeable offences under military law, they certainly define the character of the person.

There is a term called “military imposter.” This term refers to someone who “assumes false identity or title for the purpose of **deception**,” (Merriam-Webster).

Walz has repeatedly alluded to being in combat. There are no records that he has served in any combat area, yet he continues to infer that he did. Such statements include:

- “We shouldn’t allow weapons that I **used in war** to be on America’s streets.”
- “And we can make sure that those weapons of war that I **carried in war**, is the only place where those weapons are at.”

These statements refer to his 2003 deployment to Italy in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, where he and his unit were tasked with security and training at an Army base.

Prior to his retirement, Walz was enrolled in the Command Sergeant Major School with a temporary promotion to Command Sergeant Major. The new rank would be made permanent on graduating from the school. However Walz never completed the school and dropped out when he retired. While the temporary promotion was withdrawn after his retirement, Walz was effectively demoted when he dropped out of the school (retired).

In his campaign material in running for Congress, governor, and vice president, Walz has continually been referred to as:

- “Command Sergeant Major Walz”
- “. . . rising to the rank of Command Sergeant Major.”
- “. . . a former ‘Command Sergeant Major’ in the Army National Guard. . .”

He has not made any attempt to correct this false statement or other statements regarding his military career.

While Walz says that he is "damn proud" of his military record, others vehemently disagree. JD Vance and others have accused Walz of “stolen valor.” ABC News (<https://abcnews.go.com/US/walz-previously-faced-criticism-characterized-military-service-records/story?id=112833386>) has attempted to exonerate Walz of these and other accusations.

Under the Stolen Valor Act of 2005 and Stolen Valor Act of 2013, Walz has the obligation to correct his campaign “literature,” government and political websites, and

public documents generated by himself or on his behalf from referring to him as “Command Sergeant Major Walz” or “CSM Walz.” Under both Acts, if Walz continues to claim and/or use Command Sergeant Major as his retired rank, he is guilty of Stolen Valor and should be charged with violating Federal law.

While many people may believe this is an insignificant situation, it is not. To put it into perspective, Walz was stripped of his CSM rank and demoted to a lower pay grade and rank. Had this happened under normal circumstance where he continued his service, the circumstances would be clear.

From a public and leadership perspective, when considering Walz may become Vice President of the United States, his military and public service actions become very important and call into question whether he would. . .

1. be **Loyal** to those he would serve (ie the citizens of the United States)
2. fulfill the **Duties** and obligations of office
3. **Respect** our Constitution, its laws, and American citizens
4. Demonstrate **Selfless Service** by putting the nation’s welfare and its citizens before personal desires, and political parties and agendas
5. **Honor** his oath of office, both as a former service member and that of vice president.
6. exemplify **Integrity** by adhering to moral, ethical and legal principles that our nation was built on
7. demonstrate **Personal Courage** by facing head-on those beliefs and actions that are counter to the wellbeing and security of our nation.

An open letter written in 2018 by members of Walz’s former unit:

When the nation called, he quit. He failed to complete the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy. He failed to serve for two years following completion of the academy, which he dropped out of. He failed to serve two years after the conditional promotion to Command Sergeant Major. He failed to fulfill the full six years of the enlistment he signed on September 18th, 2001. He failed his country. He failed his state. He failed the Minnesota Army National Guard, the 1-125th Field Artillery Battalion, and his fellow Soldiers. And he failed to lead by example. Shameful.

Given his past performance, it is doubtful that Walz would be able to uphold the 7 core values that should have been instilled in his 24 years of military service.