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Adding insult to injury

I read the recent Washington Post article detailing the frightful conditions that dozens of wounded U.S. soldiers fighting the Iraq War have endured back here at home. I am disgusted and angered beyond words.

This article described how many of our wounded soldiers have been left to fend for themselves or to care for each other at Walter Reed hospital.

Some of these men and women are amputees -- a few even triple amputees. Many others have severe brain injuries and can barely remember their own names, yet are forced to fill out mountains of paperwork in order to receive the care they are promised.

In the past few weeks, we learned from testimony by Gen. Peter Schoomaker, the Army chief of staff, that this nation had the ability to provide better vehicle and body armor to our soldiers in Iraq. We just didn't.

Now we learn that we don't even properly care for all our wounded soldiers when they return.

Based on the apparent lack of concern from this nation's citizens and their representatives, and in spite of the proliferation of "Support our Troops" car stickers, I'd say we pay only lip service to really caring.

When I was young, my parents taught me, "If you want to know what a person cares about most, ignore what he says, and instead watch his actions." If current news headlines are any indication, we are most concerned about Anna Nicole Smith and Britney Spears.

We care about nothing.

Leading the throng of the indifferent are Ohio's own Rep. John Boehner, R-West Chester, and Republican Sen. George Voinovich.

Over the past several weeks, there have been Republicans (Chuck Hagel, R-Neb, among them) and Democrats who, acknowledging that "stay the course" is getting us nowhere, have tried to foster an honest debate over the future conduct of the Iraq War. Yet under the guise of protecting our troops, Boehner, Voinovich and most other Republicans have voted against even debating what can or should be done to bring stability to Iraq and our troops home. It seems their priorities should be reassessed.

We are about to enter the fifth year of our presence in Iraq, with no end in sight. There are nearly 3,200 dead U.S. soldiers and perhaps 200 times as many dead Iraqis. What I want to know is, what will it take, just how bad does it have to get, before the general public raises a thunderous outcry against what has been done in our names?

Historians will judge harshly, this nation that spent its time extending daylight-saving time and preventing gay marriage instead of providing proper equipment to our soldiers and first-rate care to our wounded.

Talk about emboldening our enemies. God help this nation.

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