Let’s be clear. While demanding great patriotism from other Americans, particularly our troops and their families, Mr. Bush and his friends are not behaving like patriots.

Bush could have engineered his tax relief so that it would encourage employment of Americans in America. He could have cut the payroll tax or worked for national health insurance.

But Bush gave the tax reductions to the wealthiest Americans via income tax reduction and estate tax elimination. In those forms the funds can and largely will be spent abroad. Thanks for your patriotism.

Mr. Bush could have balanced the budget and protected the American economy. Instead he made the US a giant debtor to foreign creditors, increasing American financial vulnerability. Thanks for the patriotism.

Bush could have supported research into energy sources that do not depend on Middle Eastern oil. Middle Eastern oil has financed terrorists, supported corrupt dictators, and threatened western leaders with price rises whenever Middle Eastern dictators don’t like western policies.

Instead Mr. Bush put his research dollars into ways to use Middle Eastern oil to make “alternative” fuels. Thanks for the patriotism.

Mr. Bush could promote progress against global warming. As the globe warms, more of Canada and Russia will become liveable and less of the US, pushing world power north. Instead he concluded that global warming was on its way and we should just learn to cope. Thanks Mr. Bush.

Mr. Bush could have protected America’s role as the center of genetic research and bioengineering with a reasonable policy about cloning. Instead he has sent cloning research abroad. British labs are now poised to lead the world. Thanks Mr. Bush.

Mr. Bush could have protected Americans from terrorism. He could have made an effort to prevent weapons of terror from reaching our shores through shipping
containers. Or in baggage on regular commercial airlines that is not checked at all while the Homeland Security Administration makes a big show of checking grandmothers for nail clippers. Instead Mr. Bush buckled to the shippers. Thanks for the patriotic leadership.

Bush could have followed the war in Afghanistan with an aggressive campaign to track and defeat the terrorists. The Bush Administration could have put its energies into investigative work, following the money and taking advantage of international cooperation to track terrorists. The Administration could have put its efforts into hardening American targets against attack. Instead Mr. Bush started a war which had no relation to American security.

Bush could have leveled with the American people about Iraq – that this War was not about weapons of mass destruction or about al Qaeda. He could have protected American standing worldwide and American lives from an unnecessary war. Instead he has engaged in a war which operates as the most effective recruitment campaign to swell the ranks of terrorists, while al Qaeda regroups elsewhere. Thanks Mr. Bush.

The list goes on.

Patriotism comes from the heart. Bypass anyone?

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