

DEAR EDITOR:

I defended you. I worked on your first campaign. In the rain, in the snow and in the cold I went door to door campaigning for you. I debated others who jeered and belittled you. I acknowledged your short comings but defended your stances. I didn't always agree with everything you said or did. I didn't like when you went back on your promise to close Guantanamo Bay. I was angered that you called Ahmadinejad after his farce of win, when all other world leaders refused. I haven't agreed with your policies in Iraq but still I defended you. I didn't agree with all aspects of your budget, but I did commend the fact that you finally were putting the unaccounted for wars into the budget, I applauded your call for transparency in government. I cringed when I learned you didn't mean it for yourself. But yet, I still defended you.

I cheered with approval on how you supported the rights of women and your monumental stance on gay rights. I couldn't believe that after all your anti-Bush statements that you continued to not only infringe on American rights by using the Patriot Act, you also continued our human rights violating tactics used by the previous administration. I defended you against ignorant and racist comments. I defended many of your actions because you have faced and dealt with more disasters than any other president in history.

I defended you during the second election. I was disenchanted but I knew your social stances were a step forward when your opponents were from a previous era. I knew that the same corporations were funding both of you but yet I still believed in you. I defended you when others called you a socialist. I wouldn't have cared if you were in fact Muslim because religious affiliation, in this country, should not matter. I died inside watching the death toll rise on innocent civilians that were considered "collateral damage" by way of drone strikes.

I defended you even though you have continued and increased the endless folly that is our drug war and your extension of that to raiding and putting pressure on honest citizens. I felt pity as you made endless promises to the Latino community, only to drop the hammer harder on them than before. I defended you when people clutched their Bibles and guns when you proposed sensible gun legislation. I was stunned when you signed the National Defense Authorization Act. I have defended you more times than I can count.

After 9/11 President Bush stood on the precipice, one decision could've place him firmly in the annals of history as a great president who rose above hatred and ignorance. Sadly he chose the latter. He should've been impeached. His cabinet and Vice President Cheney should've been brought before the world court to answer for their war crimes. You too had that moment. You have constantly tried to show the American people that you are relatable and now you've proven it. You're just like the previous president, just like the previous administration. The audacity that you now openly boast about using drones strikes against American citizens is above and beyond reproach.

At one point I would've been proud and honored to meet you; to shake your hand. But you have severely marred our flag and the memory of what it stood for. Any good you do now is just noise falling upon deaf ears.

I defended you. And you Mr. President have failed me, you have failed us.

A disenfranchised citizen,

James Ferda