Good afternoon, everyone. I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you today.

I am SGT Michael Marceau, U S Army, retired. I live in Maryland.

I am joining today with thousands of other veterans and military family members to speak out against the stupid arch that the president wants to build just outside the hallowed grounds of Arlington National Cemetery.

We know that tens of millions of Americans oppose the arch as being too expensive. They would rather see our government working to address economic issues affecting people in every state that to construct a memorial to a would-be dictator.

Americans are struggling to feed their families, to put gas in their cars, and to find affordable healthcare. Let's not forget his ill-thought out and constantly changing tariffs, which raise prices on many items that we use every day. During the past month 53,000,000 Americans have voted early to say that our country is going in the wrong direction and that we need to reverse course.

He says the arch will honor veterans. Like every other comment he makes, this is a lie. Remember how he "Honored" Sen John McCain in July 2015? On a trip to France in 2018 he called veterans "suckers and losers." The only thing the arch will honor is his vanity and ego. There is more honor in the body parts I left in Vietnam in 1970 than in his big, bloated, bruised body.

If he really wants to honor veterans [and thank us for our service], he can do so by ending his war of choice against Iran, which is costing Americans ONE BILLION DOLLARS every day. He should also cancel his proposal to eliminate 30,000 jobs at the Veterans Administration and he should fill the 40,000 slots that are currently vacant. This will ensure that veterans get the healthcare, especially mental healthcare, we have earned and deserve, and will prevent some of the 22 suicides that occur every day among veterans.

I am a 100% disabled Vietnam veteran and I am eligible to be buried at Arlington National Cemetery. I do not want my time after death to be ruined by the view of a second rate memorial to a 5 time draft dodger which would block my eternal view of the Lincoln Memorial.

I think Americans understand that taking care of all of our veterans and service members is much more important than erecting a monument to the vanity of a 34 time time convicted felon.

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