

## **A Shameful Pattern of Disrespect**

### **Top 10 Reasons Why Donald Trump is Unfit to be Commander in Chief**

1. Trump, who received a medical deferment for what he later admitted to an advisor were fake bone spurs to dodge the draft during Vietnam, repeatedly told radio host Howard Stern in the 1990s that avoiding sexually transmitted diseases was his personal Vietnam.
2. In 2015, Trump disparaged Sen. John McCain, a decorated and injured Vietnam veteran who was held captive for 5½ years and refused an early release unless his fellow prisoners were freed. Trump said, “He’s not a war hero. He’s a war hero because he was captured. I like people that weren’t captured.”
3. While running for president in 2016, Trump hosted a televised fundraiser for veterans. He said the funds raised would be distributed to charities, but according to court documents, the Trump Foundation improperly used \$2.82 million it received from that fundraiser. Trump was fined \$2 million by a judge for deceptive practices tied to the event.
4. During the 2016 presidential election, the parents of a soldier who was killed publicly criticized Trump, who compared their sacrifices as a Gold Star family with his own experiences, saying he sacrificed a lot by employing thousands and thousands of people.
5. On Memorial Day 2017, President Trump and White House Chief of Staff Gen. John Kelly went to Arlington National Cemetery and visited the grave of Kelly’s son, who died in Afghanistan in 2010. The president turned to Gen. Kelly and said, “I don’t get it. What was in it for them?” That same year, after four U.S. soldiers were killed by militants in Niger, President Trump told the grieving widow of Sgt. La David Johnson, “He knew what he signed up for.”
6. President Trump told a group of military leaders in the summer of 2017 that he knew more about winning than they did, adding, “I wouldn’t go to war with you people. You’re a bunch of dopes and babies.” While planning a parade with the same military leaders, Trump said, “Look, I don’t want any wounded guys in the parade. This doesn’t look good for me.”
7. In 2018, President Trump canceled a visit to the Aisne-Marne American Cemetery near Paris. He reportedly told staffers, “Why should I go to that cemetery? It’s filled with losers.” During that same trip, President Trump said nearly 2,000 U.S. Marines who lost their lives at Belleau Wood during World War I were “suckers” for getting killed.
8. In 2019, President Trump complained to military officials after a severely injured Army captain sang “God Bless America” at an event. He said, “No one wants to see that, the wounded.”
9. While running for president again in 2024, Trump told an audience at his golf club in New Jersey that the Presidential Medal of Freedom awarded to civilians is better than the Medal of Honor. “It’s actually much better, because everyone gets the Congressional Medal of Honor — that’s soldiers. They’re either in very bad shape because they’ve been hit so many times by bullets, or they’re dead,” Trump said. He then referred to Miriam Adelson, a Medal of Freedom honoree and Trump campaign donor and said, “She gets it, and she’s a healthy, beautiful woman, and they’re rated equal.”
10. At a memorial ceremony in Arlington National Cemetery in 2024, Trump campaign officials ignored rules against political activity at the burial sites and got into an altercation with a cemetery employee who tried to prevent campaign staffers from taking photographs in a restricted area. Trump dismissed the issue, later posting a thumbs-up picture of himself smiling at a soldier’s grave.