

For years, Georgia's 8th grade students read in their History books about our states decision to secede from the United States back in 1861. Today our students need to look at a daily newspaper to see that talk of secession isn't just a thing of the past. Some Republican candidates for Governor are embracing it today.

In fact, four of the six Republican candidates recently said they would support Georgia's seceding from the United States of America!

This is outrageous! This is absolutely disgraceful! It's a slap in the face to every patriotic American, to anybody who has served under the American flag, and to those brave Georgians who have fought and died for our country in Iraq.

As Commander of the Georgia National Guard, I prepared and sent our troops to fight in Iraq and Afghanistan. Before that, I served in Vietnam ... and if called, I would do it again because I love this country and everything it stands for.

Democracy and freedom aren't free – they aren't even cheap. Our American form of government certainly isn't perfect, but it sure beats the heck out of anything else!

What really offends me the most is that none of these Republican secession candidates ever wore, for a single day, the uniform of our country, ever carried a weapon, or heard a shot fired in anger. Not one ever put their life on the line to protect our freedoms and liberties.

But they recklessly call for secession from America. They would, in effect, ban the American flag, and end the Pledge of Allegiance. They would say to the world that when they don't get their way, they quit. That's just childish.

That's cowardice, not leadership.

Many of us don't agree with everything that Washington politicians do, but that doesn't mean that Georgia should succeed from America. Real leadership means we work towards common sense solutions to protect American values, not just quit our country because we don't agree with other Americans.

United we stand, divided we fall.

Know this, when I'm Governor of Georgia, I won't cut and run from America. I'll stand tall and proud under the American flag. Because when I say the Pledge of Alliance ... I mean it.