



## Collin County Republican Review January 2008

**January Meeting:**  
**Thursday, January 17, 2008**  
**6:30 PM Social; 7:00 PM Meeting**  
Location: New Republican HQs (Directions below)  
**Proud to be an American**

The theme for our January meeting is "Proud to be an American." We will view a slide presentation narrated by John Wayne depicting the beauties of our country.

Second, we will hear from Sharon Rowe, Collin County Elections Administrator, who will expand upon the tremendous privilege of casting a ballot of our chosen candidate and you may have the opportunity to volunteer as a staff worker during the elections.

Next, we will get an update on what is happening in Iraq. Col. Kim Poole, USMC, who has just returned from Iraq will share some enlightenments.

Join us for an informative and entertaining evening.

Richard Dodson, Program Chairman

### Directions to 8416 Stacy Road, McKinney

From SH 121 -- go north on CUSTER RD to the second stop light -- Custer & Stacy Rd (aka FM720). There's a CVS Pharmacy on the SE corner of Custer & Stacy/FM720/3537. Turn east (right) onto STACY RD (aka FM720/3737). The shopping center where the office is located is approx. 1/2 mile on the left. (You will pass the ASPCA on the right then cross a bridge. The shopping center immediately following is on the left. It's comprised of 5 buildings. The HQ office is in the building on the left closest to Stacy Rd). You may also get there from Alma Road too by going N from 121 and zigzagging around the ball fields to Stacy.

### CCRMC 2008 Board

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## Membership Renewal / Join Now For 2008

The 2008 elections should be an exciting time in Collin County. Get involved! Dues are now due for 2008. Business card ads run thru March of each year so renew now!

The CCRMC has two levels of new membership. Renewals are \$25 for members and \$10 for an associate spouse. New membership is \$30 and \$15

Business card ads are available for the entire year for \$35 including one free advertorial.

Send to: **CCRMC, P.O. Box 868014, Plano, TX 75086-8014**

### A Message From The President Mark Rutledge



#### 2008

In most organizations, the incoming President would write his first letter to the membership about what a great year it is going to be, how many good things are in store, and sundry happy things all about the upcoming year. However, if I were to write something to that effect now I would be well behind the times. Collin County effectively experiences a two-month election cycle and by the time you read this we will be almost 1/3 of the way through it. I cannot say this is going to be an exciting year for the CCRMC because it already *is* an exciting year. Primary races are in full tilt, candidate forums are in the works, we are greeting our brave troops returning from harm's way, and many other club and party activities are underway. Don't let the fun pass you by. Interesting and enriching programs will be a constant feature of CCRMC meetings. There will be many opportunities presented to you to interact with your elected officials and candidates, and to have a voice in the political process. I look forward to seeing YOU at the meeting this month and I happily anticipate your continued membership in the club. 2008 is going to be, nay, *it already is* a very good year!



### **Congressman Sam Johnson addresses December 2007 CCRM attendees**

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#### **A Message From Newsletter VP Newsletter Jim Bortzfield**



#### **In God We Trust? Who Hires These Guys?**

Special thanks to Mark Rutledge and Richard Dodson for a great program at the December meeting. The following day, I was pleased to see a "community opinion" by Congressman Sam Johnson, who had attended our meeting the day before, in the *Dallas News*. To read the entire comment, click or copy/paste from here: [http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/city/collin/opinion/stories/DN-north\\_johnson\\_1223edi.ART.North.Edition1.3753080.html](http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/city/collin/opinion/stories/DN-north_johnson_1223edi.ART.North.Edition1.3753080.html)

Quoting Congressman Johnson; "After allegedly receiving a single complaint on the issue, the Department of Veterans Affairs recently banned a popular flag-folding ceremony from funerals in all national cemeteries because it referenced God and the national motto "In God We Trust." The traditional ceremony includes a recitation with each of the 13 folds of the American flag. Why would anyone want to censor the graveside expression of religion of grieving family members whose loved ones served our nation? "

"Purging our nation of its historical references to God and the banning of religious expression is offensive and outrageous. This nation was founded in the quest for religious freedom.

"No one has the right to limit free expression of religion or the authority to erase our nation's history. "

As for me, I will shout, "God bless America!" every chance I get. "

Thank you Congressman Johnson for representing us well! As a result of Congressional intervention, Veterans Affairs has reinstated the policy IF IT IS REQUESTED.

I could only pound my head and say, "WHAT?" I followed up with a Google search and found this in FOXNEWS.

Veterans Affairs has a policy that allows for a full military funeral, which includes the playing of taps and the folding of the flag in respectful silence. Upon request, family can have honor guard read special recitations, which include religious symbolism."

A complaint was filed to the White House after one of those recitations was read incorrectly. Steve L. Muro, the director of the National Cemetery Administration's field programs office, ordered cemetery directors to stop the readings.

"There are no federal laws related to the flag that assign any special meaning to the individual folds of the flag," Muro wrote in a memo obtained by FOXNews.com. "The National Cemetery Administration must not give meaning, or appear to give meaning to the folds of the flag by endorsing or distributing any handouts on "The Meaning of Each Fold of an Honor Guard Funeral Flag."

The stopping of the recitations has caused a furor among veterans.

At issue are secondary meanings attached to the folding of the flag. As the honor guard makes the 13 folds — traditionally representing the original colonies — they recite "the first fold of our flag is a symbol of life, the second fold is a symbol of our belief in the eternal life, etc."

A complaint about the recitation for the 11th fold — "in the eyes of a Hebrew citizen, represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon, and glorifies, in their eyes, the God of Abraham, Issac and Jacob" — garnered a complaint and prompted the ban.

The Sept. 27 ban was an effort to create uniform services throughout the military graveyard system, spokesman Mike Nacincik said, adding the 13-fold recital is not part of the U.S. Flag Code and is not government-approved.

The full Fox News story can be read here.

<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,306186,00.html>



For the benefit of all, I have noted this ceremony below.



The honor guard pays meticulous attention to correctly folding the American flag 13 times.

The 1st fold of our flag is a symbol of life.



The 2nd fold is a symbol of our belief in eternal life.



The 3rd fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing our ranks who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of our country to attain peace throughout the world.



The 4th fold represents our weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in time of war for His divine guidance.



The 5th fold is a tribute to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our Country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but it is still our country, right or wrong."



The 6th fold is for where our hearts lie. It is with our heart that We pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States Of America, and the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.



The 7th fold is a tribute to our Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that we protect our country and our flag against all her enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of our republic.



The 8th fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day.



The 9th fold is a tribute to womanhood, and Mothers. For it has been through their faith, their love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great has been molded.



The 10th fold is a tribute to the father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of our country since they were first born.



The 11th fold represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies in the Hebrews eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.



The 12th fold represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in the Christians eyes, God the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit.



The 13th fold, or when the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost reminding us of our nations motto, "In God We Trust."



After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington, and the Sailors and Marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones, who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for us the rights, privileges and freedoms we enjoy today.

There are some traditions and ways of doing things that have deep meaning. In the future, you'll see flags folded and now you will know why.

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