



## Collin County Republican Review October 2007

**October Meeting:  
Thursday, October 18, 2007  
7:00 PM Meeting**

**October Meeting To Be Attendance At  
McKinney Performing Arts Center  
(old courthouse) Downtown  
McKinney**

### **CCRMC Is A Sponsor!**

Come hear opinions on the Collin County Bond package with the voting date of November 6. This is an important decision on how to spend the tax dollars in Collin County to relieve traffic congestion and prepare for the next decade.

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### **CCRMC Elections Coming @ November Meeting**

If you are interested, chip your name in or someone else's name in now.

**President**—manages direction, board meetings, general meetings.

**President-elect**—Fills in and supports the President and is the usual replacement for the President the following year.

**VP Programs**—Coordinates the speakers and programs for the meeting

**VP Newsletter**—Communicates to the membership via email newsletter and print newsletter; coordinates membership lists with treasurer.

**VP Publicity**—Maintains public image for the club including outside events like the 4<sup>th</sup> Parade.

**VP Membership**—Works hard to boost membership from the local Collin County area.

**Secretary**—Maintains official minutes of board and regular meetings.

**Treasurer**—Deposits dues and ad receipts, disburses payments authorized by board. Maintains paid membership list.

**Sergeant at Arms**—Maintains order and procedure at all meetings.

**Past President**—Retired President, overseer of the board.

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## **Membership Join Now For 2008**

Annual dues paid after October 1 will pay the remainder of 2007 and all of 2008.

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**

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### ***A Message From Newsletter***



**VP Newsletter  
Jim Bortzfield**

### **Media Bias Blatant In Iraq Reporting**

Due to my limited time schedule this month, I am reprinting a story from GOPUSA.com (Bobby Earle) that I think is relevant with the upcoming Presidential elections.

On Friday, retired Gen. Richard Sanchez gave a speech at the Military Reporters and Editors Luncheon in Washington, DC. The general used his speech to focus on the problems in Iraq. As you might have guessed, members of the media sprinted to their laptops to cover the story, quoting Gen. Sanchez as saying there is "no end in sight" and that "the best we can do with this flawed approach is stave off defeat."

Did the general make such comments? Yes. What the media is not telling you, however, is that they chose to report on only half the speech. They irresponsibly only covered the second half in which Gen. Sanchez spoke of America's "current national security condition." The first half of the speech dealt with Sanchez's criticism of the media and its coverage of Iraq. Coverage that he believes is "unscrupulous" and "agenda" driven. But did the media cover that? No. In their reporting of the general's speech, they immediately showed that the general is right. The media bias is so pervasive that they will stop at nothing to attack the Bush administration and paint a dismal picture of the situation in Iraq. Let's look at what the general had to say...

The text of Gen. Sanchez's speech can be found at the **Military Reporters and Editors web site**. The general starts by telling the audience exactly what his topics will be. The general said, "Today, I will attempt to do two things -- first I will give you my assessment of the military and press relationship and then I will provide you some thoughts on the current state of our war effort." A speech in two parts... yet only one part was covered. Here are some samples of the media's coverage of the general's speech:

**Ex-Commander In Iraq Faults War Strategy** by Josh White, Washington Post  
**Former Top General in Iraq Faults Bush Administration** by David S. Cloud, New York Times  
**Ex-general: 'No end in sight' in Iraq** by Steven Komarow, Associated Press

I encourage you to read those stories which are presumably about the general's speech, but fail to cover the first half of the speech where the general provides his critique of the media coverage. In the New York Times and AP stories, there is no mention at all of the first part of the general's speech. In the Washington Post report, the entire story is devoted to Sanchez's comments on the current military situation in Iraq and biographical data on the general. Only the very last paragraph of the story mentions Sanchez's comments about the media.

What the media chose not to cover was scathing indictment of their practices and philosophy in covering the war. The general said:

As all of you know I have a wide range of relationships and experiences with our nation's military writers and editors. There are some in your ranks who I consider to be the epitome of journalistic professionalism -- Joe Galloway, Thom Shanker, Sig Christensen, and John Burns immediately come to mind. They exemplify what America should demand of our journalists -- tough reporting that relies upon integrity, objectivity and fairness to give accurate and thorough accounts that strengthen our freedom of the press and in turn our democracy. On the other hand, unfortunately, I have issued ultimatums to some of you for unscrupulous reporting that was solely focused on supporting your agenda and preconceived notions of what our military had done. I also refused to talk to the European Stars and Stripes for the last two years of my command in Germany for their extreme bias and single minded focus on Abu Gharaib.

The general noted that many words and phrases have been used to describe him such as "dictatorial and somewhat dense," "not a strategic thought," "liar," "doesn't get it," and "the most inexperienced LtG." Sanchez blasts the media, saying:

In some cases I have never even met you, yet you feel qualified to make character judgments that are communicated to the world. My experience is not unique and we can find other examples such as the treatment of Secretary Brown during Katrina. This is

the worst display of journalism imaginable by those of us that are bound by a strict value system of selfless service, honor and integrity. Almost invariably, my perception is that the sensationalistic value of these assessments is what provided the edge that you seek for self aggrandizement or to advance your individual quest for getting on the front page with your stories! As I understand it, your measure of worth is how many front page stories you have written and unfortunately some of you will compromise your integrity and display questionable ethics as you seek to keep America informed. This is much like the intelligence analysts whose effectiveness was measured by the number of intelligence reports he produced. For some, it seems that as long as you get a front page story there is little or no regard for the "collateral damage" you will cause. Personal reputations have no value and you report with total impunity and are rarely held accountable for unethical conduct.

Sanchez told the media members in the audience that "your unwillingness to accurately and prominently correct your mistakes and your agenda driven biases contribute to this corrosive environment."

Over the course of this war tactically insignificant events have become strategic defeats for America because of the tremendous power and impact of the media and by extension you the journalist. In many cases the media has unjustly destroyed the individual reputations and careers of those involved. We realize that because of the near real time reporting environment that you face it is difficult to report accurately. In my business one of our fundamental truths is that "the first report is always wrong." Unfortunately, in your business "the first report" gives Americans who rely on the snippets of CNN, if you will, their "truths" and perspectives on an issue. As a corollary to this deadline driven need to publish "initial impressions or observations" versus objective facts there is an additional challenge for us who are the subject of your reporting. When you assume that you are correct and on the moral high ground on a story because we have not respond to questions you provided is the ultimate arrogance and distortion of ethics. One of your highly respected fellow journalists once told me that there are some amongst you who "feed from a pig's trough." If that is who I am dealing with then I will never respond, otherwise we will both get dirty and the pig will love it. This does not mean that your story is accurate.

The general made other comments about media ethics and the role of reporters, and I encourage you to read his entire speech. The media chose to only report on half of it in a blatant display of media bias. They are motivated by an agenda that seeks to destroy certain people and political entities rather than simply reporting the facts. With decreasing circulation of newspapers such as the New York Times and decreasing rates of cable outlets such as CNN and MSNBC, perhaps we can hit them in the bottom line. We are not looking for "pro-conservative" reporting. We are simply looking for reporting.

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