

July 10, 2009

TO: Mayor Carl Brewer and Wichita City Council

As a society, its not often we Americans take time out of our busy day to reflect on the contributions to liberty and freedom made possible by our Veterans. The vast majority of our population (over 95%) has never had to sacrifice in the defense of our country, and in today's world, most feel sacrificing consists of standing as the flag passes in review.

There are, however, organizations that think of and understand the meaning of the words Duty, Honor and Country every day. Unfortunately, with few exceptions, the ranks of politicians are not among them.

Both in Washington and at the state level, we see leaders who would sell their countries principles for votes. Their allegiance is to whatever flag is politically correct at the time, and the voice of the people is ignored because the new attitude is that their constituency works for them, not the other way around. How sad it would be if it has filtered down to the local level as well.

Mayor Brewer and Councilman Skelton are the only military veterans serving on the board, which will make the decision to locate a Vietnamese Memorial, honoring a foreign military, within the boundaries of Wichita Veterans Park. A recent statement was made how the Vietnamese community does not ask for much. So, too, the Veteran. The Veteran of this country did not ask to go to war, but they went. They do not want to die for our liberty, but they do. They do not demand respect for their service, but they deserve it and have earned it. Their position in life was not won because they can talk a good game, promise things they have no intention on delivering, and they do not look at their own well being and manipulate others to assure they maintain power. The Veteran, unless tainted by the world of politics, is true to himself and his country, first and foremost.

When all is said and done, the outcome of this decision will rest on whether the Mayor and Council do the right thing, or the politically correct thing. Do you side with those who would die for your freedom, or do you go after the easy vote and try to solidify your base to remain in power? Do you respect the wishes and recognize the service of our country's Veterans, or do you respect the wishes and the service of a foreign government above it. We are about to see where your allegiance lies. We are about to see if you believe in Duty, Honor and Country. Please give us faith in our elected officials once again.

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Birthplace of the Patriot Guard