

The WCYR Advocate

Williamson County Young Republicans

August, 2005

Joshua Edlin, editor

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Next Meeting

Tuesday, September 13, 2005
General Meeting: 6:30 PM
Location: Pie in the Sky, Cool Springs
Speaker: To Be Announced

Announcements

- Thanks to all the Young Republicans who participated in manning the GOP booth at the Williamson County Fair and to all who helped with the drink tent at the county picnic.
- The Tennessee Young Republican Federation (TYRF) holds a convention every two years for the purpose of electing new state officers. The convention will be held this year on September 9 & 10 in Knoxville. WCYR is offering to pay the registration fee for anyone interested in representing Williamson County at the convention. Contact David Sink for more information.

County Picnic a Success

On August 20, the Williamson County Republican Party held its annual picnic at the Magli farm on Columbia highway. According to Chairman Doug Grindstaff, the picnic was the second largest yet, following only last year's picnic in attendance numbers. Such high participation makes for a very successful picnic, but the turnout was especially impressive considering the unusually high temperature.

Every year, the Young Republicans run a drink booth to raise funds. For this year's booth we had two half-kegs of beer and a variety of soft drinks in 2-liter bottles. By avoiding buying individual cans, we were able to keep our costs down, and the fundraiser was a success.

Thanks to all the YRs who contributed their time to running the drink booth and assisting with the picnic setup. ♦

Reagan's First Inaugural Address

Due to a number of circumstances and other commitments, August's newsletter is late. In fact, it's not even August anymore. In an effort to find content of interest to our readers, I recalled recently reading Reagan's first inaugural address in a book on speech-writing. The speech is a masterpiece of Presidential oratory. So, in case you haven't read it, or at least haven't read it lately, here is an excerpt from the speech as transcribed on The American Presidency Project (<http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/>).

On the eve of our struggle for independence a man who might have been one of the greatest among the Founding Fathers, Dr. Joseph Warren, president of the Massachusetts Congress, said to his fellow Americans, "Our country is in danger, but not to be despaired of On you depend the fortunes of America. You are to decide the important questions upon which rests the happiness and the liberty of millions yet unborn. Act worthy of yourselves."

Well, I believe we, the Americans of today, are ready to act worthy of ourselves, ready to do what must be done to ensure happiness and liberty for ourselves, our children, and our children's children. And as we renew ourselves here in our own land, we will be seen as having greater strength throughout the world. We will again be the exemplar of freedom and a beacon of hope for those who do not now have freedom.

To those neighbors and allies who share our freedom, we will strengthen our historic ties and assure them of our support and firm commitment. We will match loyalty with loyalty. We will strive for mutually beneficial relations. We will not use our friendship to impose on their sovereignty, for our own sovereignty is not for sale.

As for the enemies of freedom, those who are potential adversaries, they will be reminded that peace is the highest aspiration of the American people. We will negotiate for it, sacrifice for it; we will not surrender for it, now or ever.

Our forbearance should never be misunderstood. Our reluctance for conflict should not be misjudged as a failure of will. When action is required to preserve our national security, we will act. We will maintain sufficient strength to prevail if need be, knowing that if we do so we have the best chance of never having to use that strength.



Upcoming Events

Sept 9-10 TYRF 2005 Convention

Sept 13 Sept YR Meeting

Service Opportunities

There are no currently outstanding requests for volunteers.

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Above all, we must realize that no arsenal or no weapon in the arsenals of the world is so formidable as the will and moral courage of free men and women. It is a weapon our adversaries in today's world do not have. It is a weapon that we as Americans do have. Let that be understood by those who practice terrorism and prey upon their neighbors.

I'm told that tens of thousands of prayer meetings are being held on this day, and for that I'm deeply grateful. We are a nation under God, and I believe God intended for us to be free. It would be fitting and good, I think, if on each Inaugural Day in future years it should be declared a day of prayer.

This is the first time in our history that this ceremony has been held, as you've been told, on this West Front of the Capitol. Standing here, one faces a magnificent vista, opening up on this city's special beauty and history. At the end of this open mall are those shrines to the giants on whose shoulders we stand.

Directly in front of me, the monument to a monumental man, George Washington, father of our country. A man of humility who came to greatness reluctantly. He led America out of revolutionary victory into infant nationhood. Off to one side, the stately memorial to Thomas Jefferson. The Declaration of Independence flames with his eloquence. And then, beyond the Reflecting Pool, the dignified columns of the Lincoln Memorial. Whoever would understand in his heart the meaning of America will find it in the life of Abraham Lincoln.

Beyond those monuments to heroism is the Potomac River, and on the far shore the sloping hills of Arlington National Cemetery, with its row upon row of simple white markers bearing crosses or Stars of David. They add up to only a tiny fraction of the price that has been paid for our freedom.

Each one of those markers is a monument to the kind of hero I spoke of earlier. Their lives ended in places called Belleau Wood, The Argonne, Omaha Beach, Salerno, and halfway around the world on Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Pork Chop Hill, the Chosin Reservoir, and in a hundred rice paddies and jungles of a place called Vietnam.

Under one such marker lies a young man, Martin Treptow, who left his job in a small town barbershop in 1917 to go to France with the famed Rainbow Division. There, on the western front, he was killed trying to carry a message between battalions under heavy artillery fire.

We're told that on his body was found a diary. On the flyleaf under the heading, "My Pledge," he had written these words: "America must win this war. Therefore I will work, I will save, I will sacrifice, I will endure, I will fight cheerfully and do my utmost, as if the issue of the whole struggle depended on me alone."

The crisis we are facing today does not require of us the kind of sacrifice that Martin Treptow and so many thousands of others were called upon to make. It does require, however, our best effort and our willingness to believe in ourselves and to believe in our capacity to perform great deeds, to believe that together with God's help we can and will resolve the problems which now confront us.

And after all, why shouldn't we believe that? We are Americans.
God bless you, and thank you.