

The WCYR Advocate

Williamson County Young Republicans

September, 2005

Joshua Edlin, editor

Officers

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Next Meeting

Tuesday, October 11, 2005
General Meeting: 6:30 PM
Location: Pie in the Sky, Cool Springs
Speaker: To Be Announced

Announcements

- The Tennessee Young Republican Federation (TYRF) held their bi-annual convention on September 9 & 10. New officers were elected that will serve for the next two years. Congratulations to Justin Pitt, Kimberly Pitt, and Kevin Douglas for their participation in the new leadership.
- WCYR will be participating in the Adopt-a-Soldier program. If you are interested in more details, contact Belinda Sink.
- State Senator Jim Bryson will be holding his annual Jimbalaya fundraiser on October 28, 2005.

New TYRF Officers Elected

On September 10, the Tennessee Young Republican Federation convened to elect new statewide officers to serve for the 2005-2007 term. The new officers are as follows:

Chairman:	Drew Daniel	Shelby County
Vice Chairman:	Justin Pitt	Williamson County
Secretary:	Don Johnson	Shelby County
Assistant Secretary:	Kimberly Pitt	Williamson County
Treasurer:	Reuben Watkins	Bledsoe County
General Counsel:	Justin Joy	Shelby County
East TN Director:	Clint Kirk	Knox County
Middle TN Director:	Kevin Douglas	Williamson County
West TN Director:	Robyn Crawford	Shelby County
National Committeeman:	Darrin Kirkus	Putnam County
National Committeewoman:	Stephanie Hundley	Knox County ♦

Reagan's First Inaugural Address

I recently read 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.



Upcoming Events

Oct 11 Oct YR Meeting

Oct 28 Jimbalaya

Service Opportunities

There are no currently outstanding requests for volunteers.

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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.

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. ♦