

The Constitutional DEFENDER

SupportandDefend.org

BIRTHRIGHT CITIZENSHIP:

WHAT THE FRAMERS
ACTUALLY SAID

THE REPUBLIC AT 250:

WALLS SOUND,
ROOF LEAKING

THE MIDTERM
MISSION BRIEFING:
YOUR OP ORDER



The Oath

HAS NO
EXPIRATION DATE

SACRIFICE!

1,882 DAYS In
The HANOI HILTON

CAPT. WAYNE SMITH;
STILL HONORING THE OATH



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\$5,000 for the children of those who served.

Robert Carleson took a commission in the U.S. Navy out of college. From 1953 to 1956 he served in the Far East and Korea — two years with the First Marine Division, a posting at Camp Pendleton, and a tour aboard the heavy cruiser U.S.S. Bremerton that saw combat off Korea. He went on to spend his life defending the Constitution and the idea that free people govern themselves, and founded the American Constitutional Rights Union on that conviction.

The scholarship in his name carries it forward. Each year, one student from a military family receives \$5,000 toward college, chosen for character, leadership, and a real commitment to constitutional principles.

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AT A GLANCE

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Graduating seniors & college freshmen,
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SCAN TO APPLY

Apply and read the full story
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Wayne and
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crowd in the
Commander
in Chief's
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anthem,
"YMCA".



REPORT IN.

You've been reading the dispatches. Now send one up. This magazine runs both ways – and we want to hear from you.

If you saw it, did it, or have something to say about it, we want it. Send us:

- ▶ **Letters and comments.** React to what you read. The best ones run in Letters and Dispatches.
- ▶ **Field reports.** What you're seeing where you are. Wins, warnings, the view from your corner of the country.
- ▶ **Veterans making a difference.** Someone in your community still serving, in or out of uniform. Tell us who and what they're doing.
- ▶ **Constitutional heroes and abusers.** Name the officials honoring their oath – and the ones trampling it.
- ▶ **Ideas for the fight.** How veterans can keep defending constitutional rights on the home front. Your best thinking.
- ▶ **Anything else that matters to the mission.** If it belongs in these pages, send it up.

REPORT IN:

hotline@supportanddefend.org



The Constitutional Defender

A publication of the Committee to Support and Defend



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THE COMMITTEE TO SUPPORT AND DEFEND

The Committee to Support and Defend (CSD) mission is to recruit, train and deploy veterans to save our republic, as they continue to honor their oath to support and defend the U.S. Constitution.

- CSD is a strong voice for military members, past and present.
- CSD encourages community service, leadership, and participation in elections.
- CSD educates and assists during elections to safeguard the votes of all military.

SupportandDefend.org

The Committee to Support and Defend, America's Constitutional Conservative Veterans Organization, is a project of the American Constitutional Rights Union.

TheACRU.org



MEMBERSHIP IS FREE. THE MISSION ISN'T.

We'll never charge you to join this formation. But protecting those who serve still costs something, and we take no government money to do it.

Here's our promise, and it doesn't change: membership in the Committee to Support and Defend is free. Always has been, always will be. We're not after your dues. We're after your commitment.

But commitment fills the formation. It doesn't fund it. Defending military voting rights in all fifty states, exposing the bureaucratic failures that throw out one in three military ballots, hosting the monthly muster, putting a

pocket Constitution in a new member's hands, none of that runs on air. And we take no federal grants or funding, on purpose, because independence is the whole point. So this is the part of the mission only some of you can carry. If you're able, a gift today supplies the work the rest of us are standing in formation to do.

Membership puts you in the fight. A gift keeps the fight in the field.

GIVE

\$10

\$25

\$50

\$100

Any amount you choose

SCAN TO GIVE

Give today at
supportanddefend.org/donate

Not in a position to give? Stay in formation. Your membership and your voice already matter.



THE OATH TO DEFEND AND PROTECT

Welcome to the inaugural issue of *The Constitutional Defender* Magazine, a publication of the Committee to Support and Defend, America's Constitutional Conservative Veterans Organization.

The oath to defend the Constitution doesn't expire when you hang up the uniform. That sentence sounds obvious. It isn't. Most of America has forgotten it.

Military service isn't just something you do. It represents who you are and what you became when you donned the uniform. And at the center of that transformation was an oath, one taken freely and with full understanding of what it demanded.

A veteran's oath never expires. And this magazine exists because that oath still matters. And we need our veterans to continue answering the call, right here at home, to preserve our way of life as protected by the Constitution.

Our military, our elected leaders and many others swore to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic. All citizens of this country should consider it an honor to embrace those terms. According to the original design, the power in our constitutional republic rests with us, and we should not carry that load frivolously. Simply put, we are bound to an idea, self-government under the rule of law, and that idea is under constant pressure.

Today, the battlefield on our home front looks different than what you might have experienced during your active

service. The weapons are narratives, apathy, and confusion. But the stakes are still significant.

The Constitutional Defender is for veterans and those who stand with them. It's for those who believe their service didn't end with active duty. It's for citizens who understand that the Constitution isn't self-executing and liberty isn't self-sustaining. It requires participation. It requires vigilance.

In these pages, you'll find constitutional education without legal jargon, current events viewed through the lens of timeless principles, and stories of veterans who continue to serve their communities with ballots, volunteer hours, and leadership. You'll also find practical ways to stay involved: voting, serving as poll workers, supporting election integrity, and helping ensure the republic functions as designed.

Think of this as a constitutional publication and a guide that offers a roadmap for how to make a difference.

Our goal is simple: to remind veterans that their experience, discipline, and commitment to duty are still urgently needed, right here at home.

You already know what it means to stand a watch. This magazine is an invitation to keep doing exactly that. ★

Tom McHale

Tom McHale

A Republic, If You Can **Keep** It.

We took an oath to support and defend the Constitution. Securing our elections is how we keep it. **Add your name.**

In our 250th year, the republic is under pressure from within: elections too easily exposed to fraud, foreign interference, and non-citizen voting. We've grown complacent, and we've elected leaders who won't risk a bad headline to fix it. Veterans don't have that luxury. We swore an oath. This petition puts our demands on the record, and we intend to deliver it — backed by veterans and their families — to lawmakers at the state and federal level.

WE DEMAND

- **Strict voter ID.** Government-issued photo identification. Not gym cards, not utility bills, not affidavits.
- An end to **weeks-long voting seasons.** Election Day plus seven days of secure, in-person early voting is enough.
- An end to **Ranked Choice Voting** that confuses voters and delays results.
- An end to the **mass mailing of ballots** no one securely requested.
- An end to **unsecured ballot drop boxes.**
- An end to **non-citizen voting** that dilutes the votes of citizens, and of the veterans who fought to protect them.

“*Those who vote decide nothing. Those who count the vote decide everything.*”

— JOSEPH STALIN

American elections should never resemble Soviet ones. Sign before that line gets any thinner.

SIGN THE PETITION

supportanddefend.org/protectthevote

| Already signed? Hand this page to one veteran who hasn't.



LTC ALLEN WEST · U.S. ARMY (RET.)

Executive Director, Committee to Support and Defend



SCAN TO SIGN



THE COMMITTEE TO SUPPORT AND DEFEND · A PROJECT OF THE AMERICAN CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS UNION

We never share or rent your contact information outside direct use for this petition.

Letters and DISPATCHES



This is our first issue of Support and Defend, and we're already hearing from veterans and non-veterans alike about the importance of supporting and honoring our men and women in uniform, past and present. We'd love to hear from you! You can find our email address at the end of this column.

— Mailbag

Thank you! The military, active and retired, seem to have been forgotten and often dishonored! Thank you for giving them the attention they deserve!

Marge W.

I have thought long and hard about my vote. Yes, it is important. I feel it is crucial for us to support the Commonwealth of Virginia to protect the U.S. Constitution. Godspeed and have a great day.

Douglas T.

I am pro-military, but I am not a veteran.

Stephen L.

A great reminder that CSD membership is not just for veterans, but all who support our men and women in uniform.

- Ed.

Viet Nam vet here; glad others are also fighting back.

Robert F.

I want to do whatever I can to help keep our military strong and our country great.

Nicholas D.



GEN. ED BRANDT (RET.)

General Ed. Brandt serves as a Veteran Engagement Coordinator in SW Florida for the Committee to Support and Defend. He participates in veteran engagement events and serves his community in Christian ministry.

He retired in 2020 with the rank of Brigadier General, serving in the capacity of Chief Chaplain, National Guard Bureau, and U.S. Army Deputy Chief of Chaplains, ARNG. In those dual roles, Ed served as National Guard liaison to the U.S. Army Chief of Chaplains, and directed pastoral care, policy, resources, and training for over 1,200 National Guard Chaplains and Chaplain Assistants serving 450,000 Guard Service Members. He deployed to Iraq in 2008 and received the Bronze Star for Meritorious Service.

I am a retired veteran who served 26 years, split between the Army and Air Force. I love hearing Col. West's viewpoints and knowledge! Have the utmost respect for him!

Heidi J.

Just saw Lt.Col West appear with Larry O'Connor and am compelled to join. A common-sense organization that has my back. I am telling my circle of Vets about this organization now. The more who join, the stronger our messaging can be.

William N.

Not a veteran, but nevertheless with an unashamed 26-year frontline service as an FDNY EMS Paramedic, all in Brooklyn. Seen and been through 'enough,' including 9/11/01, my personal baptism by fire. I have not and will never forget, nor apologize for remembering.

Born, raised, and still holding out in NY, right near the Revolutionary Battle of Brooklyn; this is not a coincidence in my book. Dedicated Christian man, wanting to actively please the Lord, not just passively, looking to help if I can.

Brother West, thanks for your many informative articles I've read.

Thomas B.

I'm too old to reenlist, but I'm still willing to protect my country any way I can. If that means educating the younger generation on the importance of our Constitution, I'm up for it.

Terry R.

I was not able to serve because of medical issues, but I am a proud father of two Army Officers. Thank you for remembering our country.

Thomas W.



SHERIFF ROSS TEEPLE, PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA.

Lying largely between Phoenix and Tucson, Pinal County is about the size of Connecticut. Approximately 500,000 people live in the county with major population areas in San Tan Valley, Casa Grande, Maricopa and Apache Junction. Pinal County is also home to four Native American tribes: the Gila River Indian Community, the Ak-Chin Indian Community, the San Carlos Apache Tribe and the Tohono O'odham Nation.

As an elected official honoring the most basic oath, Sheriff Teeple promises to uphold the Constitutions of the United States of America and the State of Arizona, while protecting citizens from government overreach. Pinal County Sheriff Ross Teeple started his career of service in the United States Navy as a sonar technician on a fast attack submarine in Desert Storm. After an honorable discharge, Teeple spent 12 years as an officer for the Arizona Department of Corrections and eventually became a deputy for the Pinal County Sheriff's Office. After a brief retirement, Ross Teeple took office as the 25th Pinal County Sheriff on January 1, 2025.

So needed and glad I found this organization. I am very concerned about the focus of VA hospitals being primarily for their civilian staff and not primarily for veterans. Much of the leadership there is for enriching the higher-level managers rather than improving health care.

Toni G.

God bless the United States of America!!!

Curtis T.

I hope this doesn't result in a bunch of spam emails.

James M.

Don't worry, James. We send an update email to our members about once a week. We don't share, rent, or sell your information to anyone. And you can unsubscribe whenever you like with a link present in every email. We hate SPAM as much as you do! - Ed.

I come from a family that served in the Navy. We support, defend, honor, love, and respect our veterans. And every day we pray for our military, veterans, first responders, and LEOs of all walks. Amen.

Cindy P.

God bless your organization.

Robert C.

I am proud to have served and proud that my grandfather and stepfather also served in the United States Army! I am a True Patriot and will always believe in our country and protect it with honor! I am here for a voice, to listen, and to help the cause any way I can. God bless America!

John A.



JERRY AMBROSE

The Jerry Ambrose Veterans Council of Mohave County, Inc., is named after Marine veteran Jerry Ambrose, who passed away just four months after launching a nonprofit serving veterans in Mohave County, Arizona. Today, JAVC continues his legacy through transitional housing programs, vocational initiatives, and advocacy efforts that empower veterans and their families to rebuild, recover, and thrive. <https://javc.org/>

I love the United States of America, the Constitution, the Republic, the U.S. military Branches, I.C.E. and MAGA Agendas. Number 1 is God, Jesus and the Holy Bible, for my FAITH is of the utmost importance. Protect my right to bear arms in order to continue to honor my commitment to the USA. I wished at 57 I could reenlist and serve under President Trump and Sec. Hegseth. My motivation and ambition for America and our Constitution have never been higher. I really wish I could rejoin the Army and fight and hold the front lines as I have in my past. Defend this land of milk and honey that my Lord provides for us called the United States of America. Thank you for allowing me to be part of your group and sharing information to honor God, Family and America.

James S.

Got something to say?

Send your letter, dispatch, or field report to hotline@supportanddefend.org.
Keep it under 400 words. We edit for length and clarity.

THE OATH HAS NO STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS

By Allen West

*So many of us veterans ponder...
What can I do? How can I continue to serve?*

I was confronted with that same question by a woman in South Florida back in 2007. I had been retired from the Army for three years. At the time, I was serving as an advisor to the Afghanistan National Army in Kandahar. This woman, Donna Brosemer, knew I was back on a short two-week break before returning. She asked to meet with me and challenged me to run for elected office. Of course, I laughed. That was when she told me that just because I had taken off my active duty uniform, it did not mean my service to the Nation should end.

Greetings, my fellow Veterans and welcome to *The Constitutional Defender* magazine. The American Constitutional Rights Union (ACRU)

initiated the Committee to Support and Defend (CSD) with the intent and purpose to create the largest constitutional conservative veterans organization in the country. I am humbled and honored to be the Executive Director of the ACRU and the CSD. I have always believed that those of us who took the oath upon becoming members of our Armed Services know it has no statute of limitations. And there is no better time than now for our American Veterans to continue to serve, support, and defend our rule of law—the Constitution of these United States of America.

This is why CSD was created: to give veterans a task and purpose. You remember those words. We want to encourage and enable veterans to find their “what and why.” There are so many avenues for our veterans to pursue to continue to be Guardians of the Republic. Here at *The Constitutional Defender* magazine, we want to hear veterans’ stories and share great news about civic involvement and stories of

“What CSD seeks to do is galvanize a powerful group, American Veterans, to once again take a stance for their Country.”



At CSD, we spend a lot of time on the road working with veterans to continue the mission of defending this great country.

triumph. We want Veterans to have a place to share their experiences, hobbies, and tips on entrepreneurship. We want to highlight the real one percent of our Nation: American Veterans.

It is my sincere hope to inspire more veterans who honor their oath to run for elected office. As well, let's get more of us engaged in the electoral process as election site judges, poll watchers, and poll workers ... ya know, recon and surveillance. If there is any group of people who should be the vanguard for our sacred act of voting in our representative democracy, it is us.

As I travel around the Country, I hear so many talk about how young people are not getting a solid dose of American history and civics. Here at Constitutional Defender magazine, we can begin coordinating and deploying Veterans across the country to our schools. And of course, where schools refuse, well, we can expose them. Recently, I had the opportunity to address several High School JROTC Cadets who were awarded scholarships by our local chapter of the Military Officers of America Association. That was where it all began for me, fifty years ago at Henry Grady HS in Atlanta, Georgia. This is how we, as Veterans, can continue to impact future generations by passing the torch of liberty to them.

Another great opportunity we have with CSD, and as Veterans, is to be a voice for those who are still in uniform. Matter of fact, that was the launch point of what CSD has become, during the COVID crisis, where our service members were being forced to take an experimental vaccine. We enabled Veterans to sign onto petitions and have a voice to speak up against what we all knew was an unlawful, unethical, and immoral order.

And what does it take to become a member of the Committee to Support and Defend? Nothing, just your commitment. Of course, if you want to contribute to our efforts,



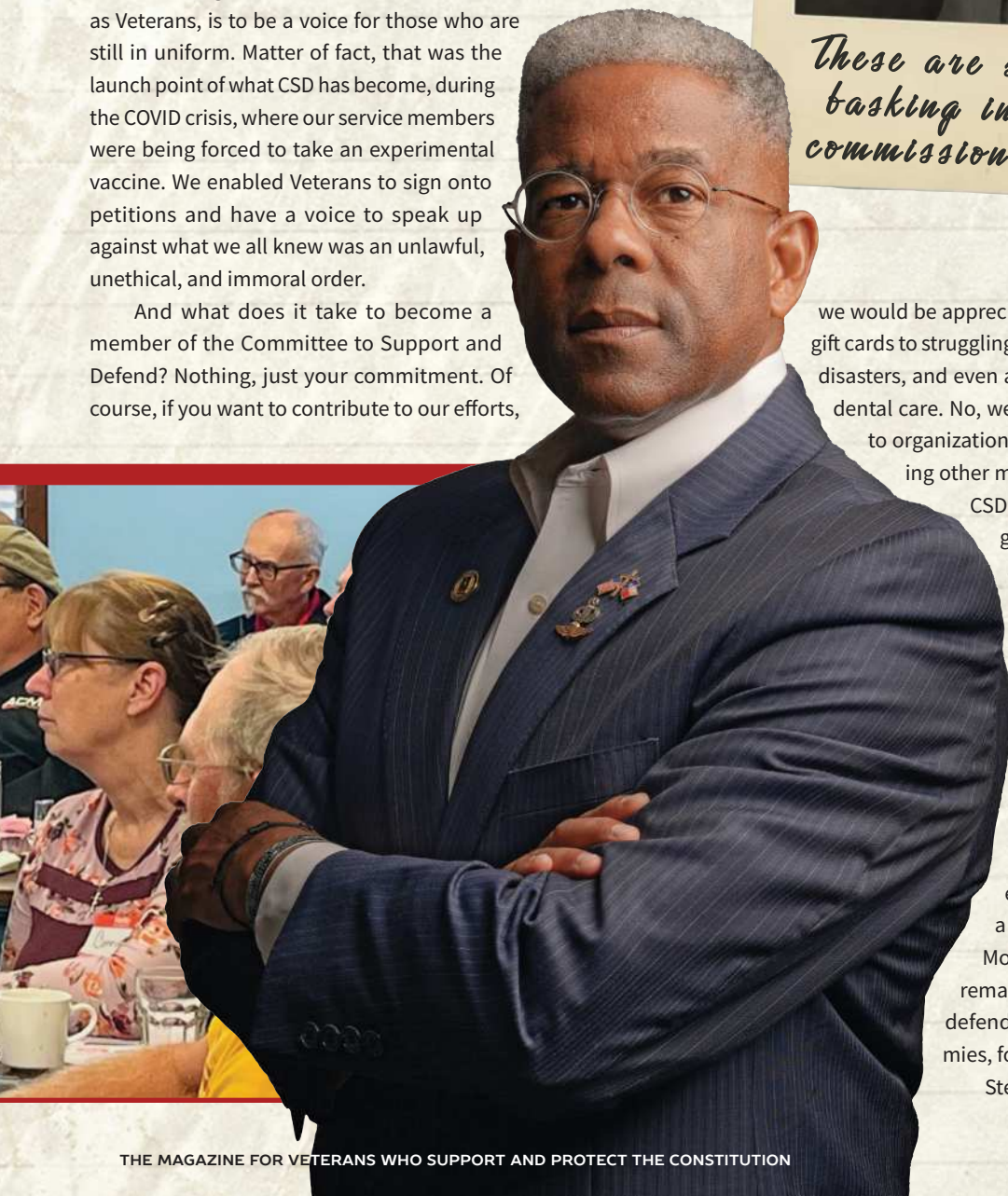
These are some proud parents, basking in the moment of my commissioning ceremony.

we would be appreciative. We have used funds to offer gift cards to struggling troops, provide relief after natural disasters, and even assisted a Veteran with emergency dental care. No, we are not trying to be a competitor to organizations that are building homes or offering other means of support to Veterans. What

CSD seeks to do is galvanize a powerful group, American Veterans, to once again take a stance for their Country and get engaged. For us to take our rightful place of honor and duty in promoting our American constitutional values and safeguarding our fundamental principles.

I look forward to seeing more of you around the Country. I also hope you will share our efforts with other Veterans. I hope you will enjoy the magazine and will become a contributor and share your stories. More than anything, I hope you will remain on the frontlines to support and defend the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

Steadfast and Loyal. ★



BIRTHRIGHT CITIZENSHIP

**By Lori Roman, Chairman & CEO,
American Constitutional Rights Union**

The Fourteenth Amendment is 433 words long. The current debate over birthright citizenship turns on five of them:

“Subject to the jurisdiction thereof.”

On March 10, 2026, the Senate Judiciary Committee held a hearing titled “Protecting American Citizenship: Birthright Citizenship for Illegal Aliens and Tourists.” Four months later, the Supreme Court took up the same question in a case built on Executive Order 14160, and got it wrong. On June 30, 2026, by a vote of 6 to 3, the Court struck down the order in *Trump v. Barbara*, holding that nearly every child born on U.S. soil, including the children of tourists and illegal aliens, is a citizen at birth. For the first time in more than a century, the country was asked to examine what the Citizenship Clause actually says and what its framers actually meant.

The text itself is conditional. A person born on U.S. soil is a citizen only if that person is also subject to the political jurisdiction of the United States. Territorial presence alone was never sufficient, and the framers said so on the record.

THE HISTORY

Senator Jacob Howard, who introduced the Citizenship Clause on the Senate floor on May 23, 1866, told his colleagues exactly whom it covered and whom it did not: “This will not, of course, include persons born in the United States who are foreigners, aliens, who belong to the families of ambassadors or foreign ministers.” That is the sponsor of the amendment, the day he introduced it, stating its limits plainly before a Senate vote. The Civil Rights Act of 1866, passed only months earlier with parallel language, had already excluded persons “subject to any foreign power.”

The context was specific. The nation had just emerged from a war over slavery. Freed slaves required an unambiguous constitutional guarantee of citizenship because the Dred Scott decision had denied them one. That is the work the Fourteenth Amendment was drafted to do. It was not drafted to convert a tourist visa into a

lifetime passport for the child born during the visit. It was not drafted to reward an illegal border crossing with a citizenship certificate for the next generation. And it was not drafted to confer American citizenship on the child of a foreign diplomat who carries immunity from American law.

BUT, WHAT ABOUT...

The usual response to this reading is *United States v. Wong Kim Ark*, the 1898 Supreme Court decision recognizing birthright citizenship for the U.S.-born son of Chinese immigrants. That case deserves careful attention, not reflexive dismissal, because its actual facts matter. Wong Kim Ark’s parents were lawful permanent residents. They were legally domiciled in San Francisco. They operated a business there. They would have been eligible for naturalization themselves but for the Chinese Exclusion Act, which barred them from the process. The Court’s holding addressed that specific situation. It did not address the children of illegal aliens, tourists, or temporary visitors. Federal agencies have stretched Wong Kim Ark to cover those categories over the following century. The Court itself never did.

ONGOING ABUSE

When the system is broken, people find ways to exploit it. Citizenship “tourism” is a very real thing.

The Chinese are manufacturing them on American soil, at scale. In May 2025, police raided an Arcadia, California, mansion and pulled 21 children out, all the legal offspring of Guojun Xuan and his partner Silvia Zhang. It has been reported that Xuan spent more than two decades as a deputy in the Xinjiang People’s Congress, the same body that helped run the Uyghur internment program, and holds leadership positions in U.S. front groups tied to the Chinese Communist Party’s United Front Work Department. He and Zhang ran their own surrogacy company out of the house. Every one of those kids is now a United States citizen, courtesy of a 14th Amendment loophole the Founders never imagined applying to a planned citizen creation program.

In similar news reports, we hear about Xu Bo, a Chinese gaming billionaire whose own company has confirmed he’s fathered “a little over 100” children through American surrogates, with the explicit goal of producing (American citizen) sons to inherit his empire. When



6 I am not sure that today's opinion will stand the test of time. The Citizenship Clause "added greatly to the dignity and glory of American citizenship." Today's opinion devalues that citizenship. I respectfully dissent.

— Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas

mistake over time does not exempt an unconstitutional policy from correction. As Former Attorney General Meese put it:

"The government's prior policies reflecting a different interpretation of birthright citizenship, even if long-standing and commonly accepted, are inconsistent with the Constitution's text and original meaning."

The Court heard that argument and rejected it. In *Trump v. Barbara*, decided June 30, 2026, a majority held that the children of tourists and illegal aliens are subject to the jurisdiction of the United States and citizens at birth, the very reading Senator Howard dis-

claimed on the floor the day he introduced the clause. We believe the Court got it wrong. So did three of its own members.

Justice Clarence Thomas, in dissent, named the cost in plain terms:

"I am not sure that today's opinion will stand the test of time. The Citizenship Clause 'added greatly to the dignity and glory of American citizenship.' Today's opinion devalues that citizenship. I respectfully dissent."

This is not a radical position. It is the position the text supports, the position the sponsor of the amendment stated openly, and the position consistent with the actual holding of Wong Kim Ark. Other Western democracies already draw this line. France, Germany, and the United Kingdom (since 1983) do not grant citizenship by mere birth on their soil. The United States remains the outlier by practice, not by constitutional command.

The Court has now read all 433 words of the Fourteenth Amendment and still overlooked the five that matter most.

Citizenship is a constitutional status with conditions attached. The Constitution, read honestly, tells us what those conditions are. One day, a Court willing to read it honestly will say so. ★

number of such persons shall bear to the whole number of male citizens twenty-one years of age in such State.

Section 3. No person shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress, or elector of President and Vice President, or hold any office, civil or military, under the United States, or under any State, who, having previously taken an oath, as a member of Congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any State legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any State, to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof. But Congress may, by a vote of two-thirds of each House, remove such disability.

Section 4. The validity of the public debt of the United States, authorized by law, including debts incurred for payment of pensions and bounties for services in suppressing insurrection or rebellion, shall not be questioned. But neither the United States nor any State shall assume or pay any debt or obligation incurred in aid of insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or any claim for the loss or emancipation of any slave; but all such debts, obligations and claims shall be held illegal and void.

Section 5. The Congress shall have power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

Attest:
 Emma M. Phelps, Clerk of the House of Representatives.
 La Fayette S. Foster, President of the Senate pro tempore.
 M. P. [Signature], Secretary of the Senate.

FALL IN.

The oath you took has no discharge date. The mission didn't end when your service did. The **Committee to Support and Defend** needs you back in the formation.

“When I was a Battalion Commander, I did not need people who agreed with me from a distance. I needed people who would stand in formation, shoulder to shoulder, ready to execute the mission. The Committee to Support and Defend operates on that same principle.

— LTC ALLEN B. WEST (RET.)

We fight for the constitutional rights of those who fight for ours. We expose the bureaucratic failures and the political actors who disenfranchise our troops. We track the legislation that affects veterans, service members, and their families, and we take action when the Constitution demands it. We recognize the sheriffs who honor their oath and confront the ones who don't. We meet every month, and we show up.

This is not a Washington think tank publishing white papers nobody reads. It is an operational mission, and every member is part of it.

You already know how to stand a watch. This is where you keep standing it.

JOIN TODAY.

Membership is free — always has been, always will be. This isn't about fundraising. It's about **force strength**.



**SupportAnd
Defend.org/join**
SCAN TO FALL IN

You're already holding one of the benefits. Fall in and get the rest.

WHAT YOU GET WHEN YOU JOIN



A Community That Has Your Six

A national network of veterans, active-duty members, military families, and patriots who believe the oath has no discharge date.



Military Voting Alerts & Updates

When legislation or bureaucracy threatens those who serve, you're the first to know. We track all fifty states so you don't have to.



Priority Invitations

First access to CSD events — local, national, and online.



The Constitutional Defender Magazine

A complimentary issue of the magazine you're holding right now.



Monthly Live Muster with LTC West

Not a webinar you sit through — a real-time formation where you ask questions and engage with fellow members.



Constitutional Rights Intelligence

Regular briefings on the issues that hit veterans and military families — from the 2A to free speech. Facts, not spin.



Pocket Constitution & Membership Card

Sent as soon as you join, so you always have the nation's owner's manual on hand.



COMMITTEE TO SUPPORT AND DEFEND

A project of the American Constitutional Rights Union · 405 5th Avenue S., Suite 2, Naples, FL 34102

SupportAndDefend.org

RECON FOR CITIZENS STILL STANDING WATCH. FIVE MINUTES. FIVE FIGHTS WORTH THE BATTLE.

ON THE DOCKET

Louisiana v. Callais
Decided April 29, 2026
6-3

The Supreme Court struck down Louisiana's congressional map, which contained two majority-Black districts drawn under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act. The Court ruled the map an unconstitutional racial gerrymander under the Fifteenth Amendment.

The Court fast-tracked the ruling so Louisiana can redraw before November.

ACTION: Watch what your state legislature does between now and August.

IN THE CHAMBER

The Save America Act, as a model

Every cycle brings a new federal voter-integrity bill. Sponsors change. Numbers change. As we go to print, the vehicle is the Save America Act. Its Senate count will have moved at least twice by the time you read this. Watch the framework, not the headline.

A serious integrity bill does three things. One: it requires documentary proof of citizenship, a passport, a certified birth certificate, or naturalization papers to register or update federal voter registration. Two: it requires states to actively remove non-citizens from the rolls. Three: it sets a federal floor that does not bend to state convenience.

The floor is the point. Current law lets an applicant attest to citizenship under penalty of perjury without ever producing a document. That hole is what the Save America Act, or whatever bill replaces it next session, is designed to close.

If this vehicle stalls, another will take its place. The principle does not.

ACTION: Track the framework, proof of citizenship, active list maintenance and federal floor, across whichever bill carries it next. And let your representatives and senators know what you think about voter identification and proof of citizenship to vote.

DEFENDER DISPATCH

Sheriff Keith Swank — Pierce County, Washington. U.S. Army veteran. Infantry. Airborne. Thirty-three years at the Seattle Police Department, retired as a captain. Commanded the SWAT element that finally cleared CHAZ (Capitol Hill Autonomous Zone)/CHOP (Capitol Hill Organized Protest) in 2020. Remember when a bunch of protesters literally took over part of downtown Seattle and declared it their own police free zone? Elected sheriff in 2024 — the first Pierce County sheriff seated from outside the department since 1853. He runs 336 commissioned deputies, the second-largest sheriff's agency in the state.



45%

Active-duty military voter participation, 2024 election.

Down from 49% in 2020. A four-point drop in a single cycle. Not apathy.

PARTICIPATION RATE, BY CYCLE



15%

of absentee ballots requested in 2024 arrived too late to count, or never arrived at all.

ACTION

File your FPCA at fvap.gov the moment orders move you. Don't assume the system works.

SOURCE: FVAP, STATE OF THE MILITARY VOTER, 2024.

THE DRILL: HOW MILITARY CAN VOTE FROM ANYWHERE

If you wear the uniform or are married to someone who does, this issue may impact you. These two processes will help ensure your vote counts every time.

FPCA, the Federal Post Card Application. One form. Multiple Functions. Registers you to vote and requests an absentee ballot in a single step. File it every January, and again whenever orders move you, and you are ahead of the curve. Federal recommendation: at least 90 days before Election Day. Earlier is always better.

FWAB, the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot. Your backup. Plan B when a delay hits at the wrong time. If your real ballot does not arrive in time, the FWAB is a generic write-in form of federal and state candidate races that federal law requires every state to accept. Print it. Fill it. Return it. Be Counted.

The MOVE Act guarantees one thing: states must send you your ballot at least 45 days before any federal election. They miss the mark often. Communicate with them if you don't receive notification that it's in the mail or emailed to you.

ACTION: File your FPCA at fvap.gov today. Save the FWAB link. Break Glass if necessary. ★

ICE estimates that there are more than 7,000 violent illegal aliens inside his county, plus another 23,000 whose foreign criminal records cannot be retrieved. Washington's 2019 Keep Washington Working Act forbids his deputies from cooperating with ICE under threat of individual civil liability. Sheriff Swank (and many others across the country) wants the cooperation. State law and his own attorney general block it.

This spring, the Washington legislature pushed further. SB 5974 would let the Criminal Justice Training Commission strip

elected sheriffs of their certification over social media posts the state finds objectionable. In plain terms, an unelected commission could remove a sheriff the voters chose, based on what he posted online. On April 29, 2026, a Thurston County judge blocked the sections targeting elected sheriffs, and the Washington State Sheriffs Association's lawsuit is still active.

ACTION: Watch SB 5974 and the WSSA suit. This is a dangerous movement likely to spread if unchecked.

WHAT YOU ACTUALLY SWORE

By Tom McHale

Most veterans took the oath in about thirty seconds. “Right hand up, repeat after me, sign the paperwork, get on the bus.” That speed is appropriate for a swearing-in ceremony. It is not appropriate for understanding what just happened.

So let’s slow it down. Two and a half centuries into the experiment, with this magazine just getting started, it is worth reading the actual words. The oath is short, the language is dense, and almost every clause does a lot of heavy lifting.

There are three oaths to know. They are not identical, but they do share similar DNA.

THE THREE OATHS

1 The constitutional oath, Article VI, Clause 3. The Senators and Representatives ... and all executive and judicial officers, both of the United States and of the several States, shall be bound by Oath or Affirmation, to support this Constitution.

That is the original. Six words of action: *bound by Oath ... to support this Constitution*. Federal officials, state officials, judges, legislators, executives. All of them. The framers built that line into the founding document because they understood that any system run by humans needs a checkpoint where each human says, on the record, what they are committing to.

2 The enlisted oath, 10 U.S.C. § 502. I, _____, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. So help me God.

3 The officer oath, 5 U.S.C. § 3331. I, _____, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God.

Notice what is in the enlisted oath that is not in the officer oath: a promise to obey the President and the officers above you. Notice what is in the officer oath that is not in the enlisted oath: the freedom-of-conscience clause. *No mental reservation. No purpose of evasion.*

This is not an accident. It tells you who is supposed to do what.

WHY “SUPPORT AND DEFEND” AND NOT “OBEY”

Read it carefully, and you will notice that nobody in any of these oaths swears loyalty to a person. This is important and essential to our foundation of freedom and self-governance.

Not to the President. Not the Speaker. Not the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs. Not the party in power. Not even our flag.

You swear to a document. A four-thousand-word piece of paper signed in 1787 and amended twenty-seven times since.

Congress chose this language deliberately, and it chose the word *support* deliberately. Compare the

**“You swear to a document.
A four-thousand-word piece
of paper signed in 1787
and amended
twenty-seven times since.”**

“The Constitution is the boss of the boss.”

United States of America.
In Senate, May 18. 1789.
Resolved, that a Committee to consist of Mr. Lee
on the part of the Senate be appointed to join a Committee of the
House of Representatives to present to the President the Bill
entitled “An Act to regulate the time and manner of administering
certain Oaths,” after it shall be engrossed, examined and
signed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and
the President of the Senate.
Extract from the Journals.
Sam: A. Otis, Secy.
In the House of Representatives of the United States,
the 19th of May, 1789.
The House agree with the Senate in the foregoing
Resolution, and do appoint Mr. Partridge, and Mr. Floyd,
Committee on the part of this House.
Teste,
John Beckley, Clerk.

British military oath, which historically required personal allegiance to the sovereign, *His Majesty King George*. That is what the framers were running from. A monarchy might make sense if you trust the monarch. When you have the wrong monarch, your country goes off a cliff.

Our framers had been on that cliff. So they built a different kind of country and a different kind of oath. Officers do not pledge themselves to the person at the top of the command chain. They pledge themselves to the same rules that person is bound by. We all choose to be bound to the same principles.

This matters, more or less, every day in the life of the Republic. An order from a lawful superior is owed obedience. An order to violate the Constitution is not. The oath sets that priority before the first uniform is ever issued. The Constitution is the boss of the boss.

That single design choice has prevented more coups than most Americans realize.

“ALL ENEMIES, FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC”

That phrase is younger than the country.

The original 1789 oath was almost embarrassingly brief. *I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States*. That’s it. The first Congress assumed everybody knew what they meant. Having just fought a war for independence together, everyone was on the same page.

The Civil War cured them of that assumption.

By 1862, the federal government had a problem. Confederate sympathizers were still holding federal jobs. Officers who had taken the old oath had walked across the lines and were now in gray. Congress passed what came to be known as the Ironclad Test Oath, and in that legislation, the operative language got a serious upgrade. *All*

enemies, foreign and domestic, shows up there, in essentially the form we still use today.

The “foreign” part was easy. America has always understood foreign threats.

The “domestic” part was the lesson the Civil War had just taught. It became painfully obvious that the Republic could be torn apart from the inside. Citizens, even officials, even officers, could become enemies of the constitutional order itself.

Without any purpose of evasion means you do not get to plan in advance, how you intend to wriggle out of it.

It is one of the most blunt lines in federal law. It tells the person taking the oath that the words are the words.

If you ever wonder why officers in the American military are held to a higher conduct standard than almost any other profession, this clause is one of the reasons.



Every veteran reading this has, at one point, in front of a flag and witnesses, promised to defend the Constitution against threats from inside the country. That clause is not a metaphor. It was written by men who had just buried 620,000 Americans.

“WITHOUT ANY MENTAL RESERVATION OR PURPOSE OF EVASION”

This is the line in the officer oath that always trips people up. It sounds like Old English boilerplate. It is not.

The phrase has roots in older religious and legal oaths, but its modern American function comes from that same 1862 cleanup. Congress had watched men swear oaths they had no intention of keeping. So Congress wrote the loophole shut, on the record, in the oath itself.

Without any mental reservation means you do not get to swear with a private exception in your head. You do not get to say it silently unless my party tells me otherwise, unless it gets in the way of my career, or *unless the line gets too hard*.

THE OATH WAS BUILT TO OUTLIVE YOU

Here is the part most people miss. The oath has no expiration date.

There is no clause that says *until you separate*. There is no clause that says *until your enlistment is up*. There is no language that ties the obligation to a paycheck, a uniform, or a duty station. The framers and the Congresses that came after them wrote a permanent document and bound the men and women who serve it permanently.

The active-duty piece of an enlisted oath ends, yes. The promise to obey orders from a chain of command goes away when there is no longer a chain of command above you. That part is contractual.

The other part is not.

Most veterans understood this without anybody having to spell it out for them. They came home, found a job, raised kids, ran for school board, served as poll workers, wrote letters to congressmen who needed to hear from constituents. They were still standing watch.

The oath is the editorial premise of every page that follows. It is why we publish, who we publish for, and what we expect of our readers. ★

YOU'VE READ **THE COLONEL.** NOW WATCH HIM.

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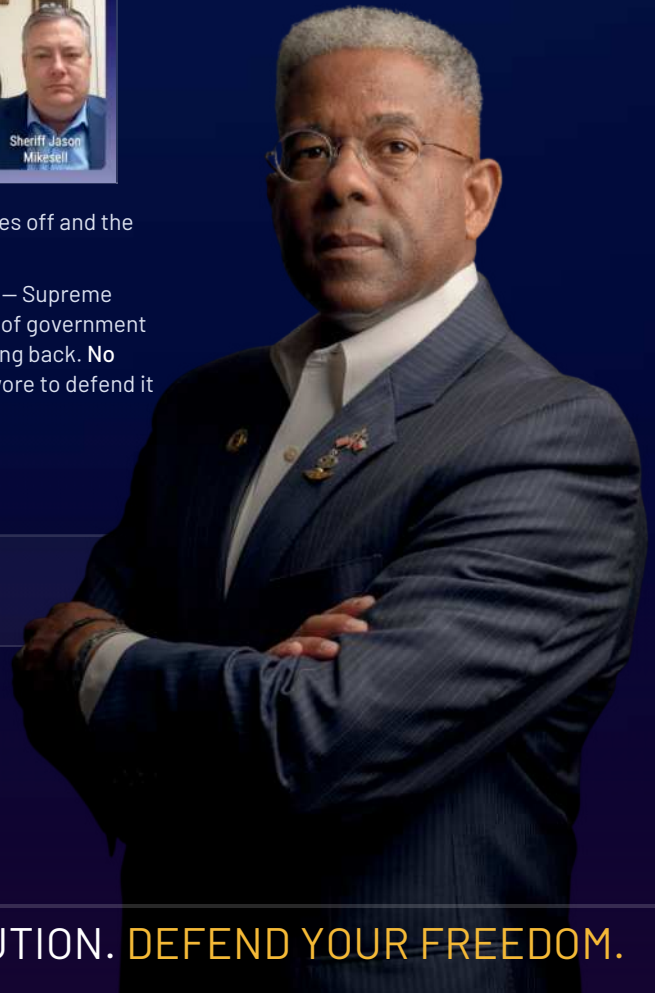
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UNDERSTAND THE CONSTITUTION. **DEFEND YOUR FREEDOM.**



THE LONG WATCH: 1882 DAYS

JANUARY 18, 1968. IT IS TEN DAYS BEFORE THE TET OFFENSIVE ...

LIEUTENANT WAYNE SMITH IS OVER NORTH VIETNAM ON HIS NINETIETH COMBAT MISSION. HE IS TWENTY-FOUR YEARS OLD, A 1965 GRADUATE OF THE AIR FORCE ACADEMY, SIXTEEN MONTHS PAST PILOT TRAINING, AND STRAPPED INTO THE FRONT SEAT OF AN F-4D PHANTOM FROM THE 435TH TACTICAL FIGHTER SQUADRON AT UBON, THAILAND.



President Donald Trump honors Captain Smith for his service to the country.

The target matters. The Air Force later describes it only as “an important strategic target.” What that means on the ground is anti-aircraft artillery thick enough to walk on, surface-to-air missiles tracking his flight, and MiGs climbing up to meet him.

Smith puts his ordnance on the target. Then the air defense over North Vietnam decides what kind of day this is going to be.

A MiG-17 closes. Smith engages. The fight is short and decisive. The MiG goes down. Smith now has a confirmed kill, what the F-4 was built to do.

THEN HIS AIRCRAFT IS HIT

The F-4 Phantom is a tank with wings, but tanks don’t fly home with their hydraulics gone. Smith tries to make it to the safety of the Gulf of Tonkin, some 60 miles away, but the plane is low and severely damaged. As he sees water in the distance, the jet suddenly goes inverted, and he and his back seater are forced to eject. He drops through the sky over enemy territory while the aircraft he just killed, a MiG, falls separately.

He hits the ground and is captured within hours.



Some pilots never make it down alive. Smith is alive, on the ground, and surrounded by the people he was just fighting. Downed pilots always faced a hostile citizenry and this is no different.

What happens next is brutal in its simplicity. From January 18, 1968, to March 14, 1973, Wayne Smith was a prisoner of the North Vietnamese. **One thousand eight hundred and eighty-two days.** To put Captain Smith's captivity in perspective, it is longer than World War II.

THE OATH AT HOA LO

The North Vietnamese called it Hoa Lo. The Americans locked inside named it the Hanoi Hilton, because gallows humor was one of the few things their captors could not take from them.

Most were aviators: pilots and crew shot down over North Vietnam. After capture, they were taken to a French colonial prison built for a different war. The first POW there, Navy pilot Everett Alvarez Jr., was shot down in August 1964. He would not come home for eight-and-a-half years.

What awaited the prisoners inside was not a camp by any law or standard of modern war. Men were beaten, starved, and left in solitary confinement for months at a stretch. Bones were broken and reset wrong. Ropes wrenched shoulders out of their sockets. As many as 114 Americans died in captivity in North Vietnam.

The prisoners resisted with the only tools they had, discipline and each other. They built and passed a covert tap code, knuckles on cell walls, to move names, orders, and encouragement that no guard could hear or understand. In 1966, paraded before a propaganda camera, Commander Jeremiah Denton blinked the word T-O-R-T-U-R-E in Morse code, confirming to Naval Intelligence what was happening while staring straight into the lens. Commander James Stockdale, the senior officer, beat and cut his own face rather than be filmed as a healthy, contented prisoner. He came home with the Medal of Honor.

They held the line because of an oath. The chain of command remained intact, and the senior men took charge. Nobody was given up on purpose.

On January 27, 1973, the Paris Peace Accords ended American involvement in the war. Beginning February 12, all 591 remaining prisoners walked out and boarded planes home in Operation Homecoming. Some had been gone the better part of a decade.

Men like Wayne Smith went in as pilots. They came out having proved that the oath holds even when everything else has been stripped away.

★



THE FIRST TEN DAYS

Smith's second Silver Star, the one awarded in addition to the one he earned the day he was shot down, covers a period most men will never experience. The ten days between January 18 and January 28, 1968.

The citation is careful with its language. It says his interrogators kept "constant pressure" on him. It uses the words harassment, intimidation and cruelties. You can guess what's really behind those sanitized descriptions. It says he resisted in a manner that "served as an inspiration to others in the camp."

A twenty-four-year-old American officer, beaten and broken, refuses to break in the only way that counts. He gives the name, rank, service number, and date of birth required by the Code of Conduct. He gives them nothing they want. He earns a Silver Star for what he didn't say.

This is in the first ten days. He has 1,872 to go.

COMING HOME

March 14, 1973. Operation Homecoming. The cargo door of a C-141 opens at Clark Air Base in the Philippines. The men who walk down the ramp are, in many cases, much thinner versions of those who arrived in Vietnam. Some can barely walk, but they still salute.

Smith is thirty years old. He has spent the back half of his twenties in a cell.

The country he comes home to is not the country he left. The war is unpopular. The men who fought it are treated as its byproduct. America moves on to other things.

He built a life. He told the story when asked, including in PBS's Florida Stories of Service and the VETS: Stories of Service episode, and in podcast interviews.

A man who survived 1,882 days in Hanoi could be forgiven for spending the rest of his life in the background, figuring he's given enough already. Wayne Smith chose the opposite.

A NEW LIFE PERSPECTIVE

Wayne Smith knows something most of us will never know.

He knows what it feels like to have everything stripped from you, including the assumption that you will see your country again, and to choose, with no audience and no possibility of reward, to keep faith with an oath he swore in a chapel in Colorado Springs when he was eighteen years old.

He knows that the oath did not expire when the cell door opened. It did not expire when the medals were pinned. It did not expire when he retired. It does not expire because he is now in his eighties.

He knows the watch is not a thing you stand at one age and stand down from at another. You stand it until you cannot.

Those hard-earned lessons have served him, and through his efforts, others, well.

Most people would consider graduating from the Air Force Academy, earning pilot's wings, becoming a Weapons Test Pilot at Eglin Air Force Base, then heading to Vietnam to fly 90 missions as an F-4 fighter pilot, a full career, not to mention spending over five years in the brutal conditions of an enemy POW camp — the infamous Hanoi Hilton. That was enough to earn a young Captain Smith two Silver Stars, the Legion of Merit, two Distinguished Flying Crosses, two Bronze Stars, seven Air Medals, and the Purple Heart.

But upon his return home, Wayne Smith was just getting started with life — and serving his country. He embarked on a successful business career, becoming a senior executive at Air Products and Chemicals, Executive Vice President and COO of MidAmerican Energy, and Chief Operating Officer of B.F. Goodrich.



Capt Wayne O. Smith, USAF '65

WAYNE O. SMITH
USAF Class of 1965

Retirement has been just as busy. Wayne has served with numerous veterans groups and projects, including Naples Spirit of 45, VFW Post 7721, the inaugural Honor Flight, and Wreaths Across America. He and his wife, Lois, have also chosen to invest in the next generation, working with at-risk kids through New Beginnings.

THE OATH NEVER EXPIRES

The oath has no expiration date. That is the lesson Wayne Smith's life keeps teaching, if you're paying attention. He swore it at eighteen. He kept it for 1,882 days in a Hanoi cell. He is still keeping it. The country he came home to had moved on. He didn't. That choice, made quietly and repeatedly for more than fifty years, is the one that actually counts. To every veteran reading this: the words you raised your hand for did not expire when you took off the uniform. They do not expire now. There is still a watch to stand. Wayne Smith is still standing his. The rest of us, especially those who once swore the same oath, can stand ours. ★

TWO AND A HALF CENTURIES ★ UNDER THE SAME OATH ★



*The first shot of the American Republic was fired by
a man whose name we do not know*

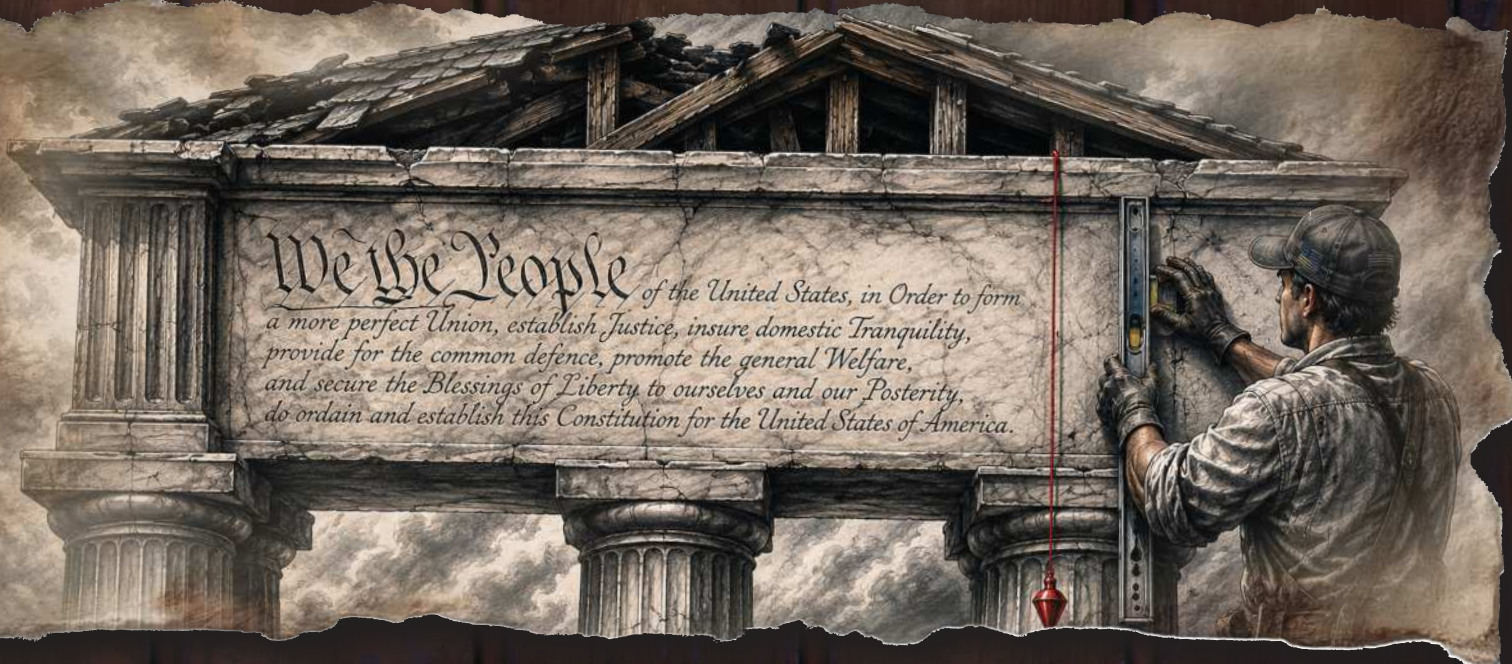
Around dawn on April 19, 1775, somewhere on the green at Lexington, Massachusetts, a musket discharged. Seventy-seven militiamen stood in formation. About 700 British regulars stood opposite them. When the smoke cleared, eight Americans were dead. The British marched on toward Concord and, throughout their travels that day, ran into something they had not anticipated — every armed man in Middlesex County. By sundown, seventy-three British soldiers had been killed and another 174 wounded. The road back to

Boston was a sixteen-mile gauntlet of skirmishes and ambushes. The colonies were at war.

Nobody on either side of that battle fully understood what they had just started.

It took the Continental Congress fourteen more months to declare what had become obvious by then. On July 4, 1776, fifty-six delegates finalized a document that did three things at once. It announced a new country. Yes, our name came from the Declaration of Independence. It





indicted a king. It staked out an idea so radical that monarchs across Europe choked on their tea: that governments derive their authority from the consent of the governed, and that when they violate that trust, the governed have **not just the right but the duty** to throw them off.

The men who signed it understood what they were doing. They were not signing a petition or commenting on a social media post. They were committing treason, in writing, using their legal names. Most of them had families. Most of them owned property and businesses. Several of them lost all of that before the war was over. Hancock signed his name large enough that George III could read it from across the room.

in western Massachusetts were taking up arms against their own state government over debt and taxes. Shays' Rebellion did not topple anything, but it terrified the men who had built the new order. They had not fought a king for eight years to watch the experiment dissolve into mob rule just six years in.

The Constitutional Convention of 1787 was supposed to amend the Articles. Instead, behind closed doors and shuttered windows in Philadelphia's summer heat, fifty-five delegates threw the Articles away and started from scratch.

They argued for four months. They debated representation,

“A republic, he told her. If you could keep it. That last clause is the deal.”

The Declaration was a piece of paper. A bold piece of paper, certainly. But paper does not win wars.

What followed was eight years of starvation, betrayal, mutiny, frostbite, smallpox, and luck. Washington lost more battles than he won. The Continental Army nearly disbanded over unpaid wages more than once. The Hudson nearly fell. The South nearly fell. France nearly stayed out. The whole project hinged on a thousand decisions that could have gone the other way and very nearly did.

When Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown in October 1781, the band reportedly played "*The World Turned Upside Down*."

But in hindsight, perhaps winning the war was the easy part.

Between 1781 and 1787, the new country tried to govern itself under the Articles of Confederation and discovered that thirteen jealous states with no real federal authority do not make a country. It is a disaster in slow motion. The states printed their own money. They taxed each other's goods. They failed to pay the army that had won them their independence. By the winter of 1786, farmers

slavery, the office of the presidency, the powers of Congress, and how to balance a strong central government against the liberties of free men. They compromised, and several of those compromises were ugly. For example, the Three-Fifths Compromise put off a reckoning that would later require 620,000 American lives to settle.

But what they produced, finally, on September 17, 1787, was a document of seven articles and roughly 4,400 words that has now governed the longest continuous constitutional republic in human history.

Two years later, the first Congress added the first ten amendments. The Bill of Rights was not an afterthought. It was the price several states had demanded for their agreement to ratification. It was also the founders' acknowledgment that even the system they had just built could come after the citizens if their rights were not protected from that system in advance. The Constitution documented the power structure. The Bill of Rights drew the lines that this power was not allowed to cross.



“They were betting on us. Two hundred and fifty years later, the bet is still in the black. For now.”

When Benjamin Franklin walked out of the State House that afternoon, an old woman is said to have asked him whether the delegates had given the country a republic or a monarchy.

A republic, he told her. If you could keep it.

That last clause is the deal.

TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY YEARS ON, THE REPUBLIC STILL STANDS

That is not nothing. Across the same span, France has cycled through five constitutions and several empires. Russia has been a Czarist monarchy, a Soviet state, a federation, and now something harder to name. Most of Europe has redrawn its borders so many times that the maps in your grandfather's atlas are relics. We are, by a comfortable margin, the longest continuously self-governing nation on earth.

"Still standing," however, is a status report. When the government is "by the people," freedom is a process.

If you brought a competent platoon sergeant in to walk the lines and report back, here is roughly what he would tell you.

THE INSTITUTION IS STILL STANDING

The Constitution itself is intact. It has been amended twenty-seven times, most recently in 1992, and not in any way that has fundamentally altered its structure or shifted its center of gravity. The federal architecture, three branches, two chambers, fifty states,

holds. The Supreme Court remains a real court, deciding real cases on legal grounds, even when it decides them in ways half the country dislikes. The military oath is unchanged from the one most readers of this magazine swore. The peaceful transfer of power has happened sixty times in a row, including under conditions that would have shattered weaker systems.

That is the load-bearing wall. It is sound.

THE INSTITUTION IS WOBBLING

Election administration is uneven from county to county and state to state. Some precincts run like a Swiss watch. Others run like a dysfunctional neighborhood association. The infrastructure is patched together from local volunteers, aging equipment, and a small army of clerks doing honest work for not much money. It is not collapsing, but it is also not robust.

Civic literacy has fallen off a cliff. A majority of American adults cannot name the three branches of government. A solid minority cannot name a single right protected by the First Amendment. We have produced two generations of citizens who can identify forty-seven Marvel characters and zero of their own elected representatives.

Public trust in nearly every institution, courts, press, Congress, churches and the military itself, in some surveys, sits below where it was when most of you raised your right hand. Some of that distrust is earned. Some of it is manufactured. All of it is bad news for our country.

Congressional courage is in short supply. Hard votes are routinely punted to courts and agencies or delayed for future congresses. The branch the founders expected to be the most aggressive is, on most days, the most timid. Article I was supposed to be the lion of the system. It now spends most of its day on its hind legs, focused more on reelection than making difficult and well-reasoned decisions.

State and local government, oddly, is in better shape than the federal government in many places. Plenty of small-town councils, county commissions, and state legislatures still function the way the framers expected the whole system to function: people you can drive to, vote on, and replace. That is critically important. Our Republic has always run on rails laid in courthouses and county clerks' offices, and most of those rails are still in service.

The arguments the founders foresaw are, frankly, the same arguments we are still having. Federal power versus state power. Liberty versus security. The judiciary's reach. The relationship between religion and the state. Hamilton and Jefferson would recognize most of our quarrels and would have strong opinions on every one of them. They would also be unsurprised that we are still having them. They knew the questions did not have permanent answers. That is why they gave us a Constitution and not a book full of detailed policies and procedures.

The arguments that would have surprised them are fewer than you might think. The internet would have stunned them as a technology and not at all as a political problem. They lived through the rise of the printing press and the partisan press, and they understood exactly what unfiltered mass communication does to a republic.

What might have genuinely surprised them is the soft authoritarianism of bureaucracy, the sheer volume of unelected administrative power, and the willingness of free citizens to trade pieces of their own self-government for the convenience of being managed.

That is the situation report. The walls are sound, but the roof is leaking. The garrison is undermanned, and a fair number of the troops have forgotten why they are at the post.



This is the Republic now in the custody of the generation reading this magazine.

MAINTENANCE REQUIRED

The founders were not romantics. They did not believe the Republic would operate on autopilot. They constantly wrote and spoke about its fragility. Adams said our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people, and was wholly inadequate to the government of any other. Madison warned that a popular government without information is either a farce or a tragedy. Washington's farewell address was, in large part, a worried letter to a country he wasn't sure would still be there in fifty years.

They were betting on us. Two-hundred-and-fifty years later, the bet is still in the black. For now.

And veterans are the cohort the founders had in mind for a time like this.

You already know what an oath is. You have already accepted that some things are worth more than your comfort. You have stood in conditions most of your fellow citizens cannot picture. You have led people. You have been led by people. You have buried friends. The civic muscle the Republic needs in its third century is the muscle most Americans never develop and most veterans built before they were old enough to rent a car.

The Republic does not need you to do anything spectacular. The ante, or absolute minimum requirement, is for all of us to vote in every election and to make the effort to be informed about candidates and issues.

Once voting becomes a commitment, it needs five things, in roughly this order.

It needs civic literacy. Not yours, ours. Most American adults do not understand the basic architecture of their own government, and a frightening number cannot name the document that serves as its owner's manual. Veterans,





of all people, can carry that fight into Rotary clubs, classrooms, JROTC programs, and Sunday school rooms without sounding partisan, because the Constitution is not partisan. Speak at a high school civics class once a year, and you will have outperformed most of Congress.

It needs election integrity at the precinct level. Not the cable-news version. The actual version. The version where you sign up to be an election judge, a poll worker, or a poll watcher. The kind where you sit at a folding table for fourteen hours on a Tuesday and watch every ballot get processed cleanly. The Republic is not defended by social media posts. It is defended by people who show up, in person, and stay until the count is done. The same kind of person who stood watches at 0200 understands this in their bones.

It needs veterans running for office. All politics is local, so start there. School boards. County commissions. City councils. State legislatures. The pipeline to federal office runs through small towns and often thankless positions. The country produced far more veteran legislators in 1976 than it does today, and the difference is visible in the quality of the debate. The character traits that make a good platoon leader are the same traits that make a good county commissioner: clarity, accountability, the ability to take a difficult decision and own it. The country needs that on the school board more than it needs another lawyer.

It needs mentors for the next generation. The eighteen-year-old in your neighborhood who is thinking about enlisting, or thinking about voting for the first time, or thinking about whether any of this still matters, is asking some version of Franklin's old woman's question. Republic or monarchy? Real or theater? They are looking for someone to give them a straight answer. They will take that answer from a veteran when they will not take it from a teacher, a politician, or a screen. Be that person.

The hour you spend with a teenager who is on the fence about civic life is worth a hundred hours of arguing with strangers online. No one has ever "won" an argument on Facebook, but many have changed lives by investing in our youth.

It needs citizens who hold officials to the oath that those same officials swore. Yours has not expired. Theirs has not either. Every federal officeholder, military and civilian, takes essentially the same oath you took, with the same operative phrase: support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic. When a sheriff, a senator, a school board member, or a sitting president violates the Constitution they swore to uphold, the appropriate response is sustained, lawful, organized pressure from the people who know what an oath actually means. Phone calls. Letters. Meetings. Primary challenges. Court filings. Recall elections — the full kit of citizenship.

Five things. None of them dramatic. All of them load-bearing.

The founders gave us a republic. They were honest about the terms, and the deal has always been conditional. The condition is clear: each generation would have to choose to keep it. The oath was written to outlive the men who first took it. So was the Constitution. So was the country itself. None of the three has ever been self-sustaining. Nor were they supposed to be.

In 2026, two-and-a-half centuries in, the country is in better shape than its loudest critics claim and worse shape than its most cheerful defenders pretend. The truth, as usual, requires careful observation and thoughtful perspective. The veterans of this Republic have always been the people best equipped for both.

We don't get to know whether there will be a 300th anniversary. We do get to decide whether there will be a 251st. ★



Wear Your Support.

**Honor Their Service.
Defend Liberty.**

Official ACRU and Committee to Support and Defend merchandise for Constitutional Defender readers.



CSD Navy T-Shirt

American made materials & manufacturing

XS-3XL | \$20 + shipping



Puff Embroidery Hats

ACRU red/white | CSD black/steel

with American flag patch | \$30 + shipping

**Every CSD hat and shirt proudly represents America's
constitutional conservative veterans and the freedoms they
fought to protect.**

SupportAndDefend.org/shop

D-DAY

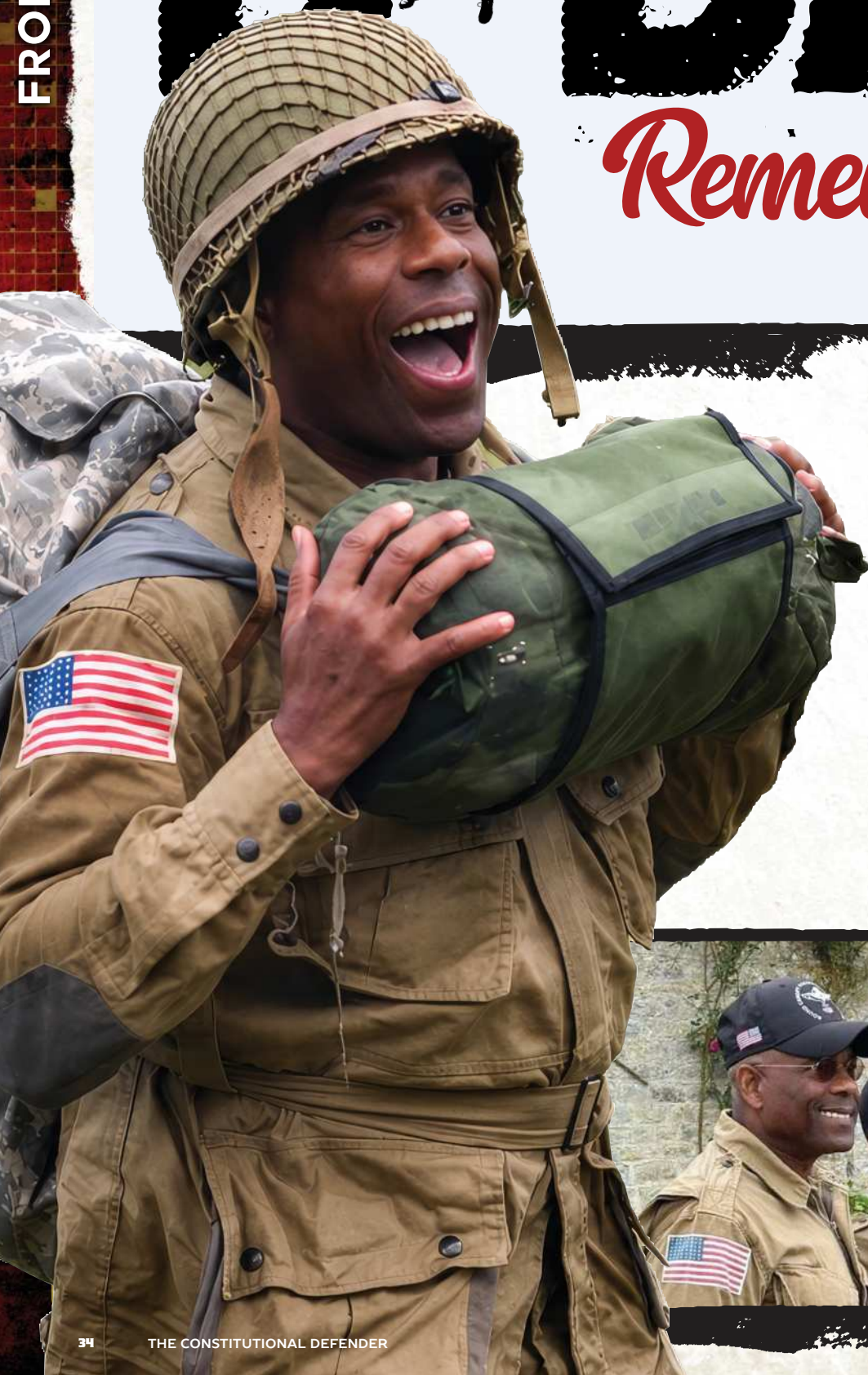
Remembrance

As the country's leading constitutional conservative veterans' organization, the Committee to Support and Defend has a primary mission to hit the pavement. We meet with veterans and veterans groups across the country to discuss how we can, collectively, address the challenges facing this nation.

Here is a quick look at some of our more recent activities in the field.

THOUGHTS ON LEGACY FROM LTC ALLEN WEST'S TRIP TO NORMANDY, FRANCE

I wanted to try to capture thoughts after another incredible visit to Normandy for the 81st anniversary of D-Day. I am reflecting on the word legacy, which I think this trip and this time are all about. I was part of a trip that brought over 25 conservative college students from the





Young America Foundation. It gave me such true joy to watch the faces of these young people as they witnessed the remarkable feats of courage achieved here 81 years ago. Several of the students were moved to tears as the grounds fell silent and taps played.

I am part of a group called the Round Canopy Parachuting Team, based in Palatka, Florida. The reason behind our organization is to preserve and honor the memory of the American paratroopers, especially those who jumped into the Normandy drop zones. Most years, I jump with the team. This year, due to a recent surgery, I had to observe. The weather was typical: windy, cool, and rainy. It reminded us all of the decision that General Eisenhower had to make 81 years ago. We jumped into a drop zone near the town of St. Martin de Varreville. It was there that men of the 101st Airborne Division were tasked with

taking the village, securing Exit #4 for the follow-on forces landing at Utah Beach, and eliminating supporting German artillery, missions they accomplished.

As I exited a C-47 aircraft that flew 81 years ago, I looked down and saw a gathered crowd. In that crowd were the 25 college students, who had never witnessed an airborne drop.

However, what was most memorable for me was being at Utah Beach, pondering the accomplishments of the men of the 4th Infantry Division, of which I was a member. As I stood there in my M1942 paratrooper uniform, there walked a family of four, Mom, Dad, and two sons. The Dad was dressed as a 101st Airborne paratrooper, the two little sons as members of the 2nd Ranger Battalion, who scaled the cliffs of Pont du Hoc, and Mom was in period 1940s attire, down to the hairdo. No,

they were not Americans; they were French. I thought about what it took for them to acquire the period uniforms, which they wore impeccably well. But mostly, I considered that Dad dressed as a young trooper must have walked the beaches with his Dad. Or perhaps his Dad, or certainly his Grandfather, had served or was part of that liberation from the tyranny of Naziism.

Sadly, I thought about how many American families would be dressed in World War II D-Day uniforms on June 6th. All over Normandy, you will find those dressed as our troops were, and driving and riding in period vehicles in impressive condition.

Legacy. What are we doing in our very own country to pass it on to the subsequent generations? I have to wonder how much news coverage was given to D-Day. How many people



I will keep coming back to Normandy every year and jumping for as long as my body allows.

walking the streets in America were even aware? Eighty-one years ago, our Nation was quite aware, and held its breath and lifted up prayers for success. Is teaching our kids to hate our Nation part of the legacy that the Boys of Pointe du Hoc, scaled the cliffs to preserve? Is that what the Bedford Boys of the 29th Infantry Division gave their lives for? Is that why men of the 1st Infantry Division

withstood the crucible of, Bloody Omaha? Is that why the men of the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions jumped in the middle of the night behind enemy lines?

I will keep coming back to Normandy every year and jumping for as long as my body allows. I look forward to the day when I bring my entire family here and let my grandsons walk those beaches and watch PaPop

jump from a C-47 aircraft. I will tell them the story of the utter bravery that was performed here, and they will walk around in their very own paratrooper uniforms when I take them to Sainte-Mère-Église and Carentan.

Parents, and Grandparents, what shall be your legacy?

Steadfast and Loyal.



VIRGINIA MORNING MUSTER

A regular and popular event, at the Morning Muster. LTC Allen West hits the road, visiting cities across the country to discuss strategies to preserve our Constitutional Republic with veterans.



ARMED FORCES DAY

On May 16, 2026, VFW Post 2555 turned Golden Valley's Veterans Park into a proper hometown Thank you. Armed Forces Day; free entry, free food, games and giveaways, kids gaming trailers, line dancing, even free haircuts for veterans. All of it pulled together so a community could honor the people who served it. Gina Swoboda kept the day moving as master of ceremonies, Lt. Col. Allen West took the mic as featured speaker...and the best part? Every dollar raised stays right here, making the park better for the next generation of families who comes to remember.



AMERICAN LEGION POST 135 NAPLES, FLORIDA

Friday, March 6, Lt. Col. West was pleased to meet with so many wonderful veterans at the American Legion Post 135 in Naples during a visit to Southwest Florida. We are looking forward to seeing them again at our Veterans & Valor event coming up on November 11, 2026, in Bonita Springs, FL.



HOW ONE VETERAN FOUND THE WORK AND HOW YOU CAN TOO

We love to thank veterans for their service. Jean Clark thinks thanks is cheap. He'd rather show up.

And here's the thing: so can you. That's what this article is really about. Not just honoring one remarkable veteran, but showing you how just one person can make a difference.

Clark served years across six branches and components, Army and Air Force, active and reserve. When the uniform finally came off, the mission didn't end. He went looking for ways to keep serving, and he found them everywhere. Standing a flag line at a stranger's funeral. Tracking down the



forgotten ashes of a veteran nobody claimed and giving them a proper resting place.

Leading a motorcycle procession so a grieving family feels the honor their loved one earned. Jumping out of a WWII C-47 over Normandy, in period uniform, because people should remember.

None of it required a complicated plan or a big budget. It required showing up. The organizations he works with, the Patriot Guard Riders, the Missing in America Project, the Committee to Support and Defend, and Honor Flight, are volunteer outfits that need exactly one thing from you: a willingness to give what time you can.

So read this as more than a profile. Read it as ideas and proof that your individual efforts can matter.

Why do you invest your time in veterans' issues? What inspired you to get involved after you retired from active duty?

I am an Army, Air Force, Army National Guard, Air National Guard, Army Reserve and Air Force Reserve Veteran who served from 1975 to 2009 when the Air Force medically retired me from Active Duty. Although I have over 34 years of varied service, enlisted and commissioned, it all adds up to 14.5 years of active duty, 20

years of Guard and Reserve time across various branches, with a few overseas trips. The time I spent in service to my country created a deep-seated pride in America and a strong desire to support those who have served their country.

I was outraged when the inevitable return of coffins from troops thrust into harm's way was inappropriately met with protests, demonstrations, and even celebrations by some unfeeling Americans. In 2005, while I was still on Active Duty, the "Patriot Guard Riders" were formed in Kansas to "Stand Tall

and Silent" between the demonstrators and the families in order to preserve the earned Honor, Dignity and Respect being shown to those "Who Gave All."

The simple fact that the Constitutional Rights and Freedoms of those committing these vile insults were being protected by the same persons being buried and ridiculed was appalling and disgusting. I felt compelled to assist in any way I could to help protect the Honor, Dignity, and Respect needed during difficult times.

"I joined the organization in 2013 to do a little extra and help preserve the dignity and respect at Military funerals in Texas."

Although the Military does a decent job taking care of veterans, sometimes they need assistance in other areas, such as how to navigate the systems to get needed care. A completely voluntary Military Force is invaluable, and our veterans are a valuable commodity, worthy of assistance. As a former Commander, I learned how some of these organizations worked and frequently still give advice, write letters for former members of my units, and, over the years, am used as a job reference as well as a sounding board. Sometimes we all need a little boost or assistance, and I am happy to help a veteran when I can.

What are examples of how you get involved?

Founded in 2005 to shield families of fallen heroes from those who would disrupt the services of their loved ones, the Patriot Guard Riders (Patriotguard.org) has grown to include thousands of members across all 50 states in the U.S. We are a 100% volunteer 501(c)(3) organization. There is no charge for the Patriot Guard Riders to honor a funeral with their presence. As our membership has grown (approximately 330,000 members nationwide), so has the scope of our mission. We also honor first responders. Additionally, we have an active Help On The Homefront (HOTH) program, which provides assistance to our veterans and their families.

I joined the organization in 2013 to do a little extra and help preserve the dignity and respect at Military funerals in Texas. I've been a Texas Ride Captain in the Patriot Guard Riders since 2014, where I lead motorcycle processions and flag lines to ensure the veteran receives their earned Honor, Dignity and Respect. Funerals are not the only events attended by the PGR. We also get involved in Unit Send-Offs, Unit returns, Honor Flight send-offs and Returns, Homes for Our Troops dedications and groundbreaking, Veterans Centurion birthdays, Tunnel to Towers Home Giveaways for disabled veterans, and Pony Express runs that take cremains to Arlington, VA.

Another organization that is near and dear to my heart is the Missing In America Project (miap.us). Also a non-profit, our mission is to locate, identify and inter the unclaimed cremains of American veterans. There are numerous volunteer positions within the organization that research, verify, and coordinate locating abandoned cremains, researching family

(Right) Note the escort vehicle that accompanies the team while on the road.



(Left) A handoff between riders.



(Right) This volunteer rider has prepared a place of honor for the final journey of two fallen veterans.



(Left) A Pony Express Run is a team effort. Groups of riders from different chapters coordinate to escort and deliver unattended cremains to a final resting place.



connections, validating veterans status (eligibility for national cemetery inurnment), confirming if there are no family or friends to get the veteran to a national cemetery, coordinating pickup, and dignitary transfer as we become the Veteran's Next Of Kin, and move them to be inurned with their brothers and sisters in a local national cemetery.

At least twice a year, I'm involved with the Round Canopy Parachute Team (rcptusa.org). This group honors the actions and deeds of Allied paratroopers from WWII onward. We wish to provide a place that offers standardized, safe parachuting activities and fosters a sense of community among our team members. For RCPT, commemorating the past, supporting veterans, and supporting our members make round canopy parachuting "more than just a jump." RCPT-USA is based in the southeast United States, but participates in round canopy static line events across the U.S. and internationally in partnership with European Chapters.

Additionally, I am involved in a number of local veterans groups in my community, in which I actively participate and serve as a guest speaker as needed. I have also been a guest speaker on Veteran-Related topics for church groups and other service organizations.

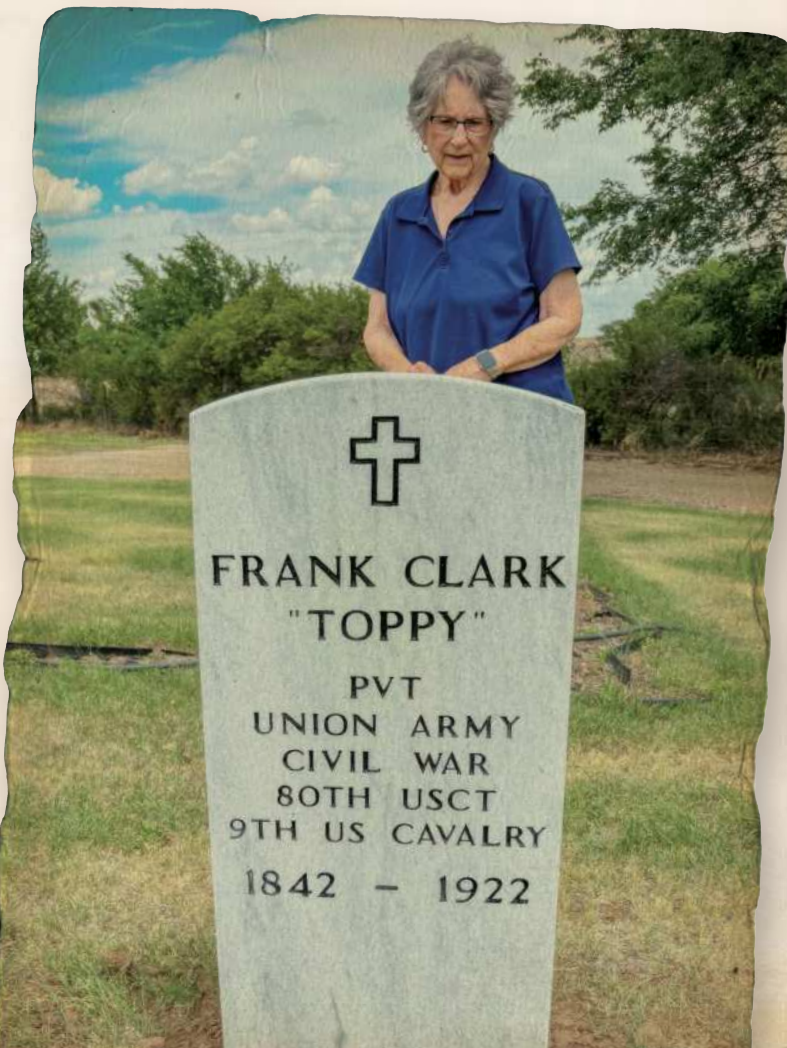
What does your volunteer work look like on a day-to-day basis?

Regarding my role for PGR, the organization does a great job of notifying volunteers about upcoming opportunities to serve. I'll get an email or text, usually several days before the funeral service. This gives volunteers time to determine if they can assist and plan accordingly. You simply show up at the given time and place dressed appropriately for the function, where a Ride Captain will brief the group on the upcoming event. The event will normally involve an Honor Flag Line, perhaps a funeral procession with Law Enforcement Support (on motorcycles), a church service, graveside services, a birthday party, a unit going away or homecoming, or a disabled veteran home giveaway. After the briefing, you will stand in a flag-honor line, then return the flags to the service vehicle and be dismissed. Of course, if you are a Ride Captain or a Flag Captain, your duties and responsibilities are increased as expected with any leadership role accepted. Those leadership roles assist with coordinating the function, organizing equipment, organizing personnel, organizing processions when needed and briefing and dismissal upon completion.

A MIAP day can be very similar depending on what role you choose. There are State Coordinators, Ride Captains, Genealogy Researchers, Escorts, General Coordinators, and Volunteers. Traditionally, members reach out to funeral homes and/or mortuaries to inquire about abandoned cremains. Occasionally, the office may be contacted by contractors, remodelers, or individuals who have come into possession of unknown or abandoned cremains and don't know what to do with them. Researchers and genealogists gather whatever they can and contact the national Veterans Database to verify whether the cremains are those of a veteran, and if so, they are entitled to be inurned in a local national cemetery. We locate relatives of the cremains to facilitate their transfer. If attempts to locate relatives have failed, we become the Legal Next Of Kin and take control of the cremains to move them to a national cemetery for inurnment. Most recently, the Texas MIAP has coordinated and inurned groups



(Above) So that all will remember. A new headstone and military honors. (Below) Frank "Toppo" Clark's final resting place.



FRANK CLARK
"TOPPO"
PVT
UNION ARMY
CIVIL WAR
80TH USCT
9TH US CAVALRY
1842 - 1922

CSD MEMBER TONY DULANEY MEETS NEED THROUGH MISSION MEALS

A core principle of the Committee to Support and Defend (CSD) is that meaningful change begins at the local level. Across America, veterans continue serving long after their military careers end by identifying needs in their communities and taking action. CSD member Tony Dulaney is a shining example of that commitment.

In Brunswick, Georgia, Tony founded Mission Meals, a volunteer-driven effort through American Legion Post 9, that provides freshly prepared meals to veterans and veteran families



facing difficult circumstances. Whether recovering from illness, experiencing financial hardship, or simply needing a helping hand, local veterans receive not only a meal, but also a reminder that their community cares.

What started as a conversation quickly became a mission. Launched in early 2026, Mission Meals has already served more than 150 meals to local veterans while operating on a remarkably modest budget. The program demonstrates that meaningful community impact does not require a massive organization — just dedicated people willing to serve others.

Mission Meals reflects the very best of the CSD mission—empowering veterans to remain engaged, lead by example, and strengthen their communities. It is proof that service does not end when the uniform comes off, it can simply take on a new form right where you live.



of veterans' remains simultaneously, resulting in a lengthy, detailed service at the conclusion of a long funeral procession, involving the local ROTC, PGR, and other Veterans Service Organizations.

What other types of organization can readers of this magazine support?

Honor Flight is another honorable organization with a viable mission. Their mission is to celebrate America's veterans by inviting them to share in a day of honor at our nation's memorials. In furtherance of this common goal, we have the enormous privilege of showing our nation's veterans the appreciation and honor they deserve. Participation in an Honor Flight trip gives veterans the opportunity to share this momentous occasion with fellow veterans, remember the fallen, and share their stories and experiences. Honored veterans always travel free of charge, thanks to generous donations to the organization. While initially focused solely on America's World War II-era veterans, Honor Flight Network has expanded its mission to include those who served during the Korean War and the Vietnam War. The Honor Flight TLC program also honors veterans of any era of service who are critically ill.

How much (or little) commitment does it take to make a difference?

As with all volunteer opportunities, you get out of it what you put into it. You can give as much or as little as you desire and as your other obligations permit. Depending upon my schedule with the family and responsibilities, I try to get out and attend at least one or two events every few weeks. If you assume a leadership role within these organizations, you can expect to be a little busier than usual at first, but after training, it will taper off. I have found that when an individual

connects with an opportunity, they tend to get a little carried away and risk burning out quickly. Pace yourself; the opportunities will still be there, and there is enough to go around for everyone.

What would you tell a veteran reading this?

I believe that one should always be involved in something bigger than himself, it lends to perspective and minimizes undesirable egocentric behaviors. Being involved and giving your time also creates a feeling of accomplishment at the end of the day, while correspondingly "filling your heart."

A personal motto of mine in reference to my volunteer work, (and one I try to keep central in my thinking) is...

"There are many other things I could be doing today, but nothing is more important than what I am doing right now!"

Respectfully,
Mr. Jean "Dae Wi" Clark
Ride Captain, Patriot Guard Riders

Major Jean F. Clark, USAF (Ret.), serves as a Veteran Engagement Coordinator for the Committee to Support and Defend, leading conservative veterans across Texas. In that role, he organizes get-out-the-vote outreach, mobilizes veteran members in his state, and supports statewide Muster events alongside Lt. Col. Allen West. It's the same idea that runs through everything else he does: the oath didn't expire when the uniform came off. If you're a veteran who wants to keep serving, CSD is recruiting Veteran Engagement Coordinators in states across the country. Learn more at SupportAndDefend.org/vec or reach out to vec@supportanddefend.org.



THE MIDTERM MISSION BRIEFING

YOUR OPERATIONS ORDER FOR NOVEMBER 3, 2026



KEY DATES:

2026 GENERAL ELECTION
MARK THESE.
PUT THEM ON THE FRIDGE.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2026

General Election Day

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2026

The 45-day mark. Every state must transmit absentee ballots to military and overseas voters on or before this date for the November federal election.

YOUR STATE'S VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE

This varies. Some states allow same-day registration. Some close the books thirty days out. Confirm yours at [vote.gov](https://www.vote.gov).

YOUR STATE'S ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST WINDOW

This also varies.

YOUR STATE'S MAIL BALLOT RETURN DEADLINE

Some states count ballots postmarked by Election Day. Others require receipt by Election Day. Check before you trust the postmark. These rules are constantly changing.

LATE-SUMMER PRIMARIES STILL AHEAD

If your state primary has not happened by the time this issue lands, the late-summer calendar is when many of the most consequential nominations get decided. Confirm specifics with your Secretary of State.

WHY THIS MIDTERM MATTERS MORE THAN MOST

The 2026 midterm decides a Senate, a House, three dozen governors, and the people who actually run elections in half the country. It will not be sold to you that way. Midterms get marketed as a referendum of some sort. But it's not that simple.

A midterm decides who confirms judges. Who writes the federal budget. Who chairs the committees that oversee the Pentagon, the FBI, and the spending bills that move every dollar that touches a soldier's life. It decides who certifies the next presidential election. It decides who draws the district maps your kids will vote inside for the next decade.

If you served, you already understand the rule. In an ideal world, the hard work happens between the major operations. November 3, 2026 is the next major operation. Treat it that way.

PRIORITIES

Please consider and prioritize accordingly these three "free citizen" responsibilities.

1 CONFIRM YOUR REGISTRATION: Not "I think I'm registered." Confirm it. Active-duty members, your registration follows your domicile, which usually means the last state where you lived before service. Civilians, your registration is associated with your current address. Did you move recently? Or even in the past year or two? Your registration may already be flagged for cancellation. Take ninety seconds today and check at [vote.gov](https://www.vote.gov) or your state election office. You can also find all the information you need by visiting [supportanddefend.org](https://www.supportanddefend.org). Valuable election information and a link to our voting resources by state map is right on the home page.

2 VET YOUR CANDIDATES: Not by party. Vet them by their oath. Every candidate on your ballot, federal, state, county, school board, will swear an oath to support and defend the Constitution. Most of them will mean it. Some will not. The Five Questions listed later in this article will help you tell the difference.

3 BRING PEOPLE: A registered voter who shows up alone adds one to the ballot count. A registered voter who walks in with three friends, a neighbor, and a cousin impacts five. Do the math. The cheapest, fastest, most underused voter outreach in American politics is the conversation you can have at your own kitchen table or the results of a simple offer to head to the polls together.

Secretaries of State maintain statewide voter roll database and set election rules in most states. Twenty-six of those offices are on the ballot in 2026. Of that twenty-six, four sit on top of presidential battlegrounds and will shape how the 2028 election is administered before you ever cast a ballot in it.

ARIZONA

The office that certifies results in one of the closest presidential battlegrounds in the country.

MICHIGAN

Democrat-held, on a state Donald Trump carried in 2024. Election administration here will set the tone for the Upper Midwest.

NEVADA

Decides voter roll maintenance and mail ballot rules in a state that consistently determines outcomes by less than two percentage points. Your vote does count.

WISCONSIN

Sets the policies for a state that decided the last two presidential elections by less than one percentage point.

ACTION

Know your secretary of state by name. Know who is running to replace them. Vote that race like the rest of your ballot depends on it. It does.

A clean national snapshot of what is actually in play this November.

U.S. SENATE

One-third of regular seats are up for a six-year term. Two additional special elections will fill seats vacated by Marco Rubio (Florida) and JD Vance (Ohio) after they joined the administration in early 2025. Democrats are defending the smaller share of seats. The narrow margin currently in the chamber means a handful of races will decide who chairs every committee in 2027.

RACES WORTH WATCHING:

Georgia. Michigan. Maine. North Carolina (open after Senator Thom Tillis's retirement). New Hampshire. Iowa. Texas. The Florida and Ohio special elections.

U.S. HOUSE

All 435 seats. In the House of Representatives, every seat stands for reelection every two years. The chamber that originates spending and impeachment turns over from scratch this November.

GOVERNORS

Thirty-six state governorships are on the ballot, plus territorial races. Fifteen incumbents are term-limited and cannot run again. Several more, including Iowa's Kim Reynolds, Minnesota's Tim Walz, and Wisconsin's Tony Evers, are likely not seeking reelection. That is a generational reshuffling of who runs states.

RACES WORTH WATCHING:

Florida (open). Georgia (open). Texas. Arizona. Michigan. Pennsylvania. Wisconsin (open). Ohio (open). Nevada. Maine (open).

STATE LEGISLATURES

Hundreds of state legislative seats are on the ballot. State legislatures draw congressional maps, decide whether your state requires voter ID, and write the absentee ballot rules your service members live under. They are the most consequential and least covered elections on your ballot. Look up your own race. Find your candidates. Ask them lots of questions.

BALLOT INITIATIVES

Watch your state's ballot for proposals on voter ID, proof of citizenship, ranked-choice voting, and election administration. These pass or fail by the people who show up. Far too many referendums have been gamed to pass ridiculous, and binding, laws. They almost never get the attention they deserve. Worse, they are almost never presented to the public honestly in a clear, pros and cons fashion. There are always agendas and big money behind these efforts.

VOTING INFORMATION CENTER

Saving our Constitutional Republic hinges on one thing: patriotic Americans getting in

Here, you can find important election deadlines from your state and learn how to become a poll watcher. Free and fair elections are the bedrock of our freedom, so don't let election

Visit the Voting Information Center to learn about election issues in your state and how to get involved.

SupportAndDefend.org/vic

THE FIVE QUESTIONS

Questions to consider when vetting a candidate:

- 1 Does this candidate treat the oath as a duty or a formality?**
Listen to how they talk about the Constitution. Do they cite it, argue with it, defend it?
- 2 Where does this candidate stand on the rule of law when their own side breaks it?**
Anyone can defend the Constitution against the other team. The test is what they say when their team is the one out of bounds.
- 3 Does this candidate believe elections need integrity, or just outcomes?**
Voter ID, proof of citizenship, voter roll maintenance and absentee deadlines. A serious candidate has thought about all four.
- 4 What has this candidate actually done, outside of a campaign?**
Service? Business? Volunteer work? What is their record? Campaign rhetoric is free.
- 5 Would you trust this candidate to be right when nobody is watching?**
Character is what shows up in a closed-door committee vote at 11 p.m. when no constituent is in the room. Vote for the candidate you would trust at that hour.

If you cannot answer three of these five with confidence, you have more research to do before Election Day.

BRING SOMEONE WITH YOU

PUTTING UP YARD SIGNS AND MAKING DONATIONS TO STRONG CANDIDATES ARE FINE, BUT IF YOU REALLY WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE, THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE. HAVE CONVERSATIONS.

FIND ONE VETERAN IN YOUR CIRCLE WHO HAS FALLEN OUT OF THE HABIT OF VOTING. OR MAYBE A SPOUSE WHO NEVER QUITE FINISHED THE FPCA AFTER THE LAST MOVE. OR PERHAPS A NEIGHBOR WHO KEEPS MEANING TO REGISTER AND HAS NOT. WALK THEM THROUGH IT. STAY WITH THEM UNTIL IT IS DONE.

YOUR OATH DID NOT COME WITH AN EXPIRATION DATE. NEITHER DID THEIRS.

STAND A WATCH.

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP). At the top, there's a navigation bar with links: Election Forms and Materials, Voting Assistance Guide, FAQs, Links, Contact, and Translate. Below this is a search bar with the placeholder text "Looking for Something?". The main header features the FVAP logo and the text "Voting assistance for Service members, their families and overseas citizens". A secondary navigation bar includes links for Military Voter, Overseas Citizen Voter, Voting Assistance Officers, Election Officials, and General Information. The central banner has a dark blue background with the text "Military and overseas citizens can vote. Wherever they are." Below this is a large image showing hands writing on a ballot, with a globe in the background. A red button with a ballot icon says "Request your ballot now". Below the button, smaller text reads: "Registered and requested a ballot, but still haven't received it? Fill out a FWAB here." At the bottom of the banner, it says "155 Days until the November 03 General Election".



If you are on active duty or a reservist called to active duty, this section is for you. If you are married to someone on active duty, this section is for you. If you are an adult dependent old enough to vote, this section is for you. Three forms, two timelines, one phone number. Memorize them.

STEP 1: **FILE THE FPCA. EVERY JANUARY.** **AND AFTER EVERY MOVE.**

When you move even within the same state, add the election office of those you formally need to contact with updated information. The Federal Post Card Application does two jobs in one form. It registers you to vote at your home of record or current address, and it requests an absentee ballot for every federal election that year. One form. Two outcomes.

File it every January. Even within the same state. Federal recommendation: at least ninety days before any federal election. Earlier is always better.

You can complete and submit the FPCA online at fvap.gov. Most states accept it by email, fax, or mail. Print a copy for your records.

Lastly, establish comms with your local election office for future official notifications and bookmark the election website for future reference or break-the-glass moments.

STEP 2: **WATCH THE CALENDAR.** **SET UP REMINDERS,** **DON'T PROCRASTINATE,** **AND TRACK YOUR BALLOT.**

Federal law requires every state to transmit your absentee ballot at least 45 days before a federal election. That requirement comes from the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act, known as the MOVE Act. For November 3, 2026, the 45-day mark falls on September 19, 2026.

That is the law. The law and the post office are not the same thing. States have missed the mark before, and overseas mail can run two to three weeks each way. If you are deployed, embarked, or stationed somewhere mail moves slowly; build your timeline around the military postal service, not the statute. How the ballot comes to you is your choice. It can be mailed to your military post office where you receive mail, or it will BE sent by electronic mail...

If your ballot has not yet arrived thirty days by mail before Election Day, move to Step 3.

STEP 3: **USE THE FWAB.** **IT IS YOUR BACKUP,** **NOT YOUR SECOND CHOICE.**

The Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot is a generic, federally guaranteed write-in ballot. If your real state ballot has not arrived in time for whatever reason, the FWAB fills the gap. Federal law requires every state to accept it for federal offices. Many states also accept it for state and local races. So, if Plan B needs to be executed due to delay, don't hesitate to download the FWAB at fvap.gov. Write in your candidates by name or by party. Sign it. Return it by your state's deadline. If your real ballot arrives later and you vote with that ballot and return it, your real ballot replaces the FWAB. You have not double-voted. The law accounts for that.

YOUR VOTING RESIDENCY **STAYS YOURS**

Under the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, your voting residency does not change when the military moves you. You vote where you lived when you put the uniform on, unless and until you decide to establish a new domicile somewhere else on purpose. For example, even with permanent change of station (PCS) orders to Germany, you remain a voter in your previous state of residence or registration. Similarly, if you are a Floridian, orders to Fort Liberty do not make you a North Carolina voter unless you choose it.

That protection covers your spouse, too. If you and your spouse share a domicile in Texas and the Army moves the family to Italy, your spouse votes in Texas.

Remember, the Federal Voting Assistance Program announces dates and deadlines of all federal races on the ballot, and you will receive advance notice by email. Sign up for alerts at the FVAP GovDelivery Portal.

YOUR PHONE NUMBER

Federal Voting Assistance Program: 1-800-438-VOTE (1-800-438-8683). Email: vote@fvap.gov. Web: fvap.gov. Every base, ship, and embassy has a Voting Assistance Officer whose only job is to help you complete these forms. Find yours. Use the resources. They exist for exactly this.

A NOTE FOR SPOUSES, **FAMILY READINESS GROUPS, AND OMBUDSMEN**

THE SINGLE BIGGEST REASON MILITARY BALLOTS DO NOT GET COUNTED IS NOT FRAUD. IT IS TIMING. A SPOUSE WHO KNOWS THE FPCA / 45-DAY / FWAB SEQUENCE CAN KEEP AN ENTIRE UNIT'S FAMILIES UPDATED ON VOTING DEADLINES THROUGH A DEPLOYMENT, A PCS, OR A HOMEPORTR CHANGE. PASS THIS SECTION AROUND TO FRIENDS AND FAMILY. PRINT IT AND PIN IT TO THE FAMILY READINESS GROUP BOARD. ★≡

THE DRILL:
HOW A SERVICE MEMBER
CASTS A BALLOT FROM ANYWHERE

VETERANS AND VALOR 2025

**SOME NIGHTS YOU REMEMBER.
NOVEMBER 11, 2025
WAS ONE OF THEM.**

Veterans Day. The Vineyards Country Club in Naples, Florida, was filled with people who came to say thank you, in person, to the men and women who earned it. The Committee to Support and Defend, a project of the American Constitutional Rights Union, hosted the evening, with Executive Director Lt. Col. Allen West and Chairman and CEO Lori Roman leading the ceremonies.

The most important guests were the hundreds of veterans in the room. Other guests from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and local government were on hand, along with Mrs. Ginni Thomas, who came from Washington, D.C., to introduce legendary singer Lee Greenwood. Mr. Greenwood gave moving performances and topped it off with his signature song. The event sold out, and judging by the room, nobody was in a hurry to leave.



Lois and Captain Wayne Smith



(Left) Air Force Veteran and Florida State Representative Yvette Benaroch and LTC Allen West. (Below) DHS Senior Counselor Keith Pearson and Brandi Pearson, LTC Allen West, Lewis and Helene Stahl.



(Left) Veteran and Commissioner Dan Kowal and Lauren Maxwell. (Below) LTC Allen West, Jennifer and award-winning singer-songwriter Ira Dean. (Below left) ACRU CEO Lori Roman presents Lee Greenwood with the Live Free Empowerment Award, honoring the voice that empowers our nation to Live Free.



Lee Greenwood, Commissioner Chris Lombardo, LTC Allen West



(Above) ACRU CEO Lori Roman and Committee to Support and Defend Ambassador General Ed Brandt. (Below) Captain Wayne and Lois Smith lead the crowd in the Commander in Chief's unofficial anthem, "YMCA."



(Above) DHS Senior Counselor Keith Pearson does the "Trump Dance." (Below) Marine veteran Elizabeth Valdez and LTC Allen West.



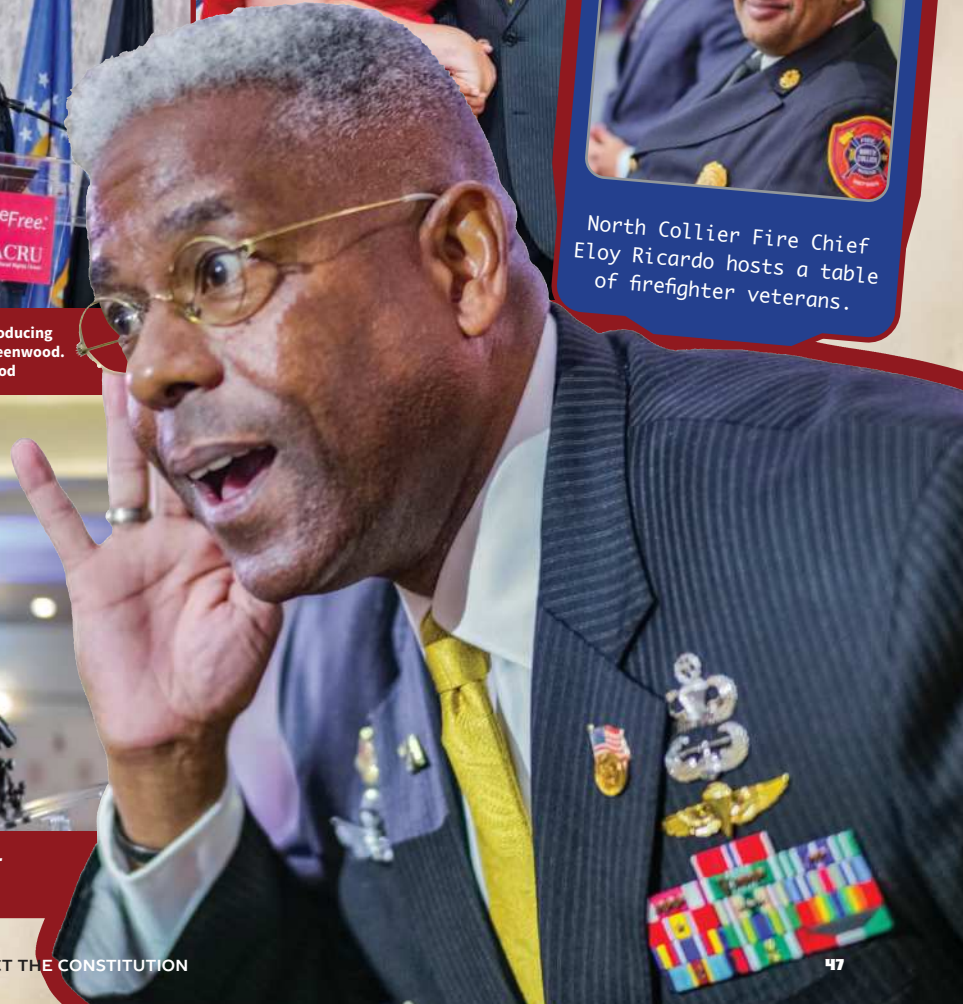
North Collier Fire Chief Eloy Ricardo hosts a table of firefighter veterans.



Larry Rice, Jr., Vice Commander, VFW Post 7721.



(Above) Ginni Thomas introducing Country Music singer Lee Greenwood. (Below) Lee Greenwood



(Right) LTC Allen West leads veterans in their respective military service songs



Wayne and Lois Smith with ACRU CEO Lori Roman and CSD Executive Director Allen West



(Above) Veteran and Commissioner Patrick Dearborn, Lisa Dearborn and CSD Executive Director LTC Allen West. (Below left) VFW Jr Vice Commander Post 7721 shakes the hand of WWII veteran Daniel B. Mjolsness. (Below right) Captain Wayne Smith shows his CSD Valor Award to the crowd.



Collier County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard



DHS Senior Counselor Keith Pearson, ACRU CEO Lori Roman, Collier County Sheriff Kevin Rambosk, Lewis Stahl



ACRU/CSD Team with Lee Greenwood

The highlight of the night was the CSD Valor Award, presented to Captain Wayne Smith, who spent 1,882 days as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam. His full story appears elsewhere in this issue, and it's well worth your time to read. The evening also honored Daniel B. Mjolsness, a World War II veteran who delighted the packed room with brief remarks.

This event wasn't a quiet sit-down affair. Col. West led veterans in the room as they sang their respective military service songs with a bit of spirited branch rivalry. And all of the attendees stood to dance and sing to the Commander in Chief's unofficial song "YMCA" led by Captain Wayne Smith and his wife Lois.

As Lee Greenwood would say, "God Bless the USA!"

Enjoy the photos!



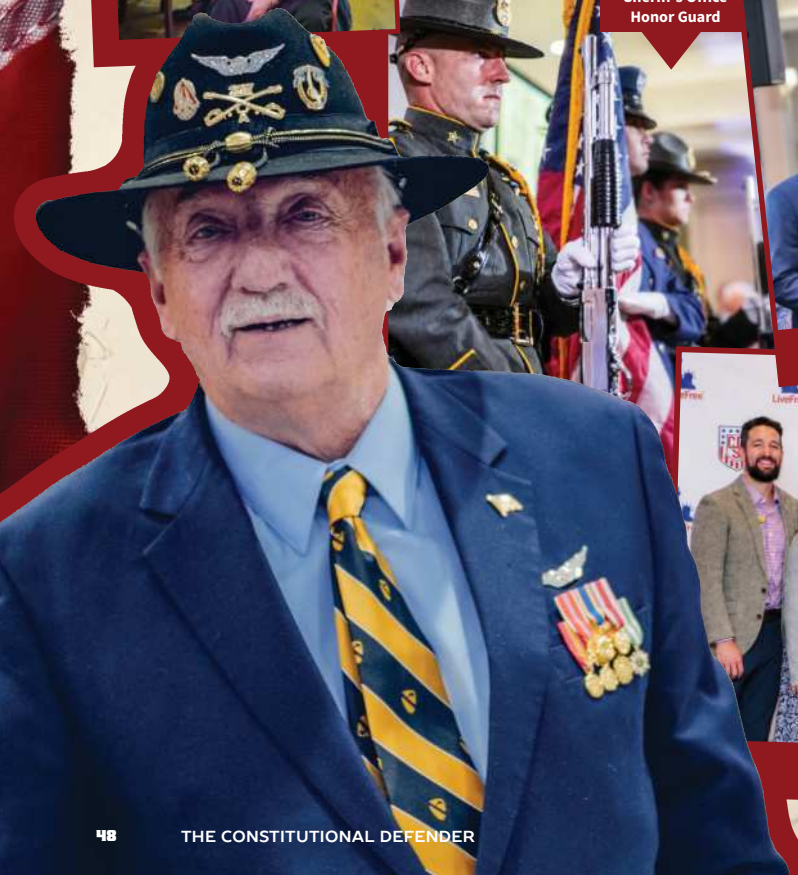
COMMITTEE TO SUPPORT AND DEFEND
supportAndDefend.org



Lee Greenwood sings God Bless the USA



(Above) Captain Wayne Smith offers remarks after receiving his CSD Valor Award. (Below) WWII veteran Daniel B. Mjolsness shares remarks on current issues





Veterans & Valor



Celebrating 250 Years of Freedom!



Ira Dean

Chart-topping Country Artist and
SWFL Native



LEE GREENWOOD

Legendary Voice of "God Bless the USA"



Lt. Col. Allen West

Executive Director
ACRU & Support and Defend

Wednesday, November 11, 2026

Hyatt Regency Coconut Point
5001 Coconut Road
Bonita Springs, FL 34134



Get your tickets at
supportanddefend.org/vv26

Hosted by the Committee to Support & Defend
a project of the American Constitutional Rights Union

STANDING IN THE BREACH

HOW THE ACRU AND THE COMMITTEE TO SUPPORT AND DEFEND ARE BACKING THE SHERIFFS WHO REFUSE TO SURRENDER THEIR OATH

A 19-year-old girl named Dacara Thompson had just graduated from high school. In August of last year, she was kidnapped, and for nine days, searchers looked for her. They found her badly decomposed body along U.S. Route 50 in Maryland. The man charged with killing her, Hugo Hernandez Mendez, was a criminal illegal alien who had already been arrested for DWI in Montgomery County. He was released. There was no 287(g) program down there to flag him; no cooperation with Immigration and Customs Enforcement to hold him.

A quick pause. What's 287(g)? "The 287(g) Program enhances the safety and security of our nation's communities by allowing ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) to partner with state and local law enforcement agencies to identify and remove criminal aliens who are amenable to removal from the U.S." (ICE.gov)

It's that simple. 287(g) documents and formalizes a working relationship between law enforcement organizations.

"If Prince George's, Maryland, had ICE or 287(g) been in effect in that county," says Wicomico County Sheriff Mike Lewis, "he would've never gotten out on the DUI charges."

That is the whole argument, told by a single lost life. And it is not one story. In eastern New Mexico, Curry County Sheriff Michael Brockett describes a criminal illegal immigrant released from a neighboring county jail who got behind the wheel drunk and killed someone within hours. "That was somebody that didn't have to die," Brockett says. "Had 287(g) been fully utilized, and had the system been working the way our citizens expect law enforcement to work together, then somebody would be alive right now."

This is the problem that the American Constitutional Rights Union and the Committee to Support and Defend created the Defender Program to confront.

THE SQUEEZE

We have talked to many sheriffs, and the pattern is clear. These are duly elected constitutional officers, answerable to the people of their counties, and a coordinated machine is working to strip them of the authority to protect those very same people.

In Colorado, Teller County Sheriff Jason Mikesell partnered with ICE early and cleaned the cartels out of his county in about six months. The state's response was not gratitude. "They started using the ACLU to sue law enforcement organizations," Mikesell says. "They went after us because we were making the biggest impact in Colorado at the time." Then came the "masterstroke." Colorado created an anti-law enforcement fund: fines of up to \$50,000, levied personally against an officer for so much as a phone call to ICE, funneled into an account "that pays the ACLU to sue us again." The state weaponized the officers' own paychecks against them.

Mikesell will not be moved. When the ACLU first called and told him to play ball or be sued, he hung up, called ICE, and built a partnership. "We'll pack a lunch," he told them. People have come to his jail to tear down the American flag flying over it. "Our flag still waves above our jail," he says. "And nobody's ever been able to take it down."

The legislatures supply the legal cover. Maryland's Senate Bill 245 would abolish every 287(g) agreement in the state, barring sheriffs from any formal cooperation with ICE while leaving them free to partner with the DEA, ATF, the Secret Service,



ACRU Honors Sheriff Brad Coe and Kelly Perry of Kinney County, Texas, with The Defender Award.



Sheriff Charles A. Jenkins, Frederick County, Maryland along with Sheriff James T. Dewees and the Honorable Haven N. Shoemaker, Jr., both representing Carroll County, Maryland, receive The Defender Award.

and the U.S. Marshals. Cecil County Sheriff Scott Adams runs one of the few remaining jail-model programs in Maryland. Since 2019, his office has screened more than 12,000 people booked into his detention facility, identifying removable offenders ICE didn't even know were in custody. Kill the program, and that early-warning system goes dark. "We talk about common sense," Adams says of the bills aimed at him. "This just doesn't have any."

In Washington State, the 2019 "Keep Washington Working Act" cut off cooperation with ICE entirely. Pierce County Sheriff Keith Swank has a blunt name for it. "They call it the Keep Washington Working Act," he says, "but it's really the keep violent, illegal aliens in our community act, because all it is is designed so that law enforcement cannot work with ICE." Swank counts more than 7,000 violent

criminal illegal aliens in his county, plus another 23,000 whose foreign records he can't even access. As Allen West put it while interviewing Sheriff Swank, **that is roughly the strength of two U.S. Army combat brigades, sitting inside one county, with the state telling the sheriff he can do nothing about it.**

And when the laws aren't enough, the states come for the sheriffs themselves. **Washington's Senate Bill 5974 sets subjective "qualifications" for running for sheriff, including a review of a candidate's social media and political affiliations,** with a state commission empowered to decertify a sitting sheriff for speech it dislikes and hand the office to a county executive's appointee. "The sheriff is the last person in Washington State standing in front of tyranny," Swank says. In Minnesota, the pressure arrives by letter. Mille Lacs County Sheriff

“An illegal alien committed a crime, you picked up the phone, and ICE came to help. The cooperation was strong.”

can Constitution Rights Union



Allen West presents the Constitutional Defender Award to Sheriff Rambosk of Collier County, Florida.



Sheriff Eric J. Severson, Waukesha County, Wisconsin, Receives ACRU Defender Award.



To date, the Committee to Support and Defend has presented over 200 awards to sheriffs and other law enforcement officials across the country. We salute these law enforcement professionals for standing up to the pressure of politicians and activist groups who continue to promote dangerous policy choices over the safety of Americans.

To see the full list, and let us know about law enforcement officials in your area who are faithfully honoring their oath, please visit the Defender Initiative website at theacru.org/defenders. There, you can also let us know about law enforcement leaders who are not honoring their oath.

**Learn more
about the
Defender Initiative**



Kyle Burton got one from Attorney General Keith Ellison threatening an official opinion against his ICE agreement. Burton read it and kept working. He has also collected the hate mail, postcards calling him and his deputies "Gestapo Scum," which he says he will save for a scrapbook someday.

THE SOLUTION IS NOT COMPLICATED

Here is what gets lost in the noise: none of this is radical. The sheriffs aren't asking for new powers. They're asking to do the job the way it was done for decades.

Brockett remembers it. "When my career started, we had a very close relationship with

Model, which acts as a force multiplier during routine police work; and the Warrant Service Officer Program, which authorizes deputies to serve ICE warrants inside their own jails.

It works, and it works quietly. Burton's task force agency has assisted in roughly ten apprehensions with ICE. "There were no use-of-force issues," he says. No protests, no kicked-in doors, no chaos. That is the point the sheriffs keep making: **a controlled transfer inside a secure jail is safer for everyone**, the public and the officers alike, than forcing ICE to hunt fugitives through neighborhoods because the locals were barred from cooperating. "Immigration enforcement's going to happen in your community whether you agree with it

or not," Burton says. "If you don't get involved in that process, you're gonna have no say in what that looks like."

Coordination between local and federal agencies. Honest border security. Sheriffs free to enforce the law they swore to uphold. As Lewis says, **"Without border security, there is no Homeland Security."** That's the solution. The hard part

isn't designing it. The hard part is defending the men and women willing to carry it out.

WHAT THE ACRU AND CSD ARE DOING ABOUT IT

The American Constitutional Rights Union was founded in 1999 to be a bulwark, an opposing voice to the ACLU. The Committee to Support and Defend, among other things, aims to give veterans a voice so they can continue defending this Constitutional Republic. Border security is national security. The Defender Program is that mission made specific. It does two things at once.

First, it recognizes the defenders. The program honors law enforcement leaders

who keep their constitutional oath by working cooperatively with ICE to identify, process, and detain dangerous immigration offenders under 287(g). The ACRU Defender Award is more than a plaque. For a sheriff being sued, smeared as a Nazi, and threatened by his own attorney general, it is public proof that he is not standing alone, and a national platform that tells his story far beyond his county line.

Second, it exposes the oath breakers, the officials choosing an open-borders ideology over the safety of the citizens they were elected to protect, and it backs the defenders with muscle—public awareness and pressure and legal guidance and assistance, such as filing amicus briefs in support of law enforcement involved in litigation. That is the program in action, recognition where it's earned, exposure where it's deserved, and a legal shoulder behind the sheriffs holding the line.

This is also where the Committee to Support and Defend comes in, and the fit is natural. The sheriffs in these pages took an oath. So did the veterans of CSD, to support and defend the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic. The Defender Program is where those two oaths meet: warriors who once defended the nation abroad now standing behind the lawmen defending it at home.

Lewis offered a warning that ought to travel well past Maryland. "What's in your backyard today," he said, "will be in your front yard tomorrow." His county sits 1,500 miles from the border, and the crisis found it anyway.

The sheriffs on the pages that follow refused to let it win. The ACRU and the Committee to Support and Defend intend to make sure they never have to stand in that breach alone.

Learn more at theacru.org/defenders.



Did You Know?

Section 287(g) of the U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act allows the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to delegate immigration enforcement authority to state and local law enforcement officers, enabling them to work with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to identify, process, and detain immigration offenders.

the Federal Immigration Services," he says. An illegal alien committed a crime, you picked up the phone, and ICE came to help. The cooperation was strong. It fell apart, in his telling, under an administration that withdrew federal partnership and left local cops holding a bag of catch-and-release criminals.

The fix is the partnership itself, formalized in Section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, which lets ICE delegate specific immigration authority to trained state and local officers under federal oversight. It runs in three models: the Jail Enforcement Model, which screens and processes removable aliens already arrested on local charges; the Task Force

Not a Webinar. A Muster.

Once a month, the formation assembles online. You bring the questions. The Colonel answers them, live.

“ This is not a webinar where you sit and listen. This is a muster, a formation, where you participate. Ask me questions directly. Share what you are seeing in your community.

— LTC ALLEN B. WEST (RET.), EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Pull up a chair. Every month, LTC Allen West goes live with CSD members to work through what's actually happening in the country, what it means for the Constitution, and what you can do about it from where you sit.

This isn't a lecture. It's a conversation. Type your question into the chat and get an answer from a retired Lieutenant Colonel and former

Congressman who has spent his life on both ends of the oath. Tell him what you're seeing in your county. Hear what other veterans are seeing in theirs.

No app to install. Join from your phone, your computer, or your tablet. Register once and the link comes to your inbox.

Live every month · Hosted by LTC Allen West · Free for CSD members
Ask questions live in the chat · No app required · Phone, computer, or tablet

Register & win CSD gear — a hat & shirt

RESERVE YOUR SEAT

supportanddefend.org/muster

Not a member yet? Membership is free, and the muster invitation arrives every month. Join at supportanddefend.org/join



SCAN TO REGISTER



Edwin Meese III receives the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, at the White House on October 8, 2019.

“I believe strongly that partnered with ACRU we have a real chance to preserve the freedoms and liberties we hold dear.”



“As Attorney General in the Reagan Administration, I committed myself to conserving and expanding freedom. It was my position that our Constitution, its text, and the original intention behind it, demanded nothing less. To argue otherwise would be to risk, as Abraham Lincoln said, ‘blowing out the moral lights around us.’

That’s why I’ve, again, taken up my sword in defense of our Constitution and am fighting a very real and present danger to our nation. I serve on the board of an efficient and important organization, the American Constitutional Rights Union. I believe strongly that partnered with ACRU we have a real chance to preserve the freedoms and liberties we hold dear.”

— Edwin Meese III

75th Attorney General of the United States (1985–1988). Counselor to President Ronald Reagan. Recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Founding board member, American Constitutional Rights Union.

The American Constitutional Rights Union

ACRU empowers Americans to Live Free by protecting our God-given rights as outlined in the U.S. Constitution.

All people are created equal, endowed by their Creator with unalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

The government’s purpose is to protect our God-given rights, not to restrict them, nor to invent new rights.

The judiciary’s purpose is to interpret the U.S. Constitution as written, not to make selective interpretations, nor to legislate.

The free exercise of religion, the right of private organizations to associate freely, the right to free speech, the right to keep and bear arms, the right to own and exercise dominion over property, and the right to elect representatives in free and honest elections are essential rights to be protected, not undermined, by our judiciary and federal executive branch agencies and departments.

Stand with us at theacru.org

American Constitutional Rights Union • 405 5th Avenue South, Suite 2, Naples, FL 34102





405 5th Avenue South
Suite 2
Naples, FL 34102

COMMITTEE TO SUPPORT & DEFEND

The Committee to Support and Defend (CSD) mission is to recruit, train and deploy veterans to save our republic, as they continue to honor their oath to support and defend the United States Constitution.

Join the Committee to Support and Defend today. Membership is free.

supportanddefend.org/join



WHAT YOU GET WHEN YOU JOIN...

- ☒ A Community That Has Your Six
- ☒ Monthly Live Muster with LTC Allen West
- ☒ Military Voting Alerts and Action Updates
- ☒ Constitutional Rights Intelligence
- ☒ Priority Invitations
- ☒ Pocket Constitution and Membership