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## What the pledge of allegiance means to me

1 message

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Pat Rice <easylivingpat@gmail.com>

Tue, Aug 10, 2021 at 11:57 AM

To: City Council <citycouncil@ci.stevenson.wa.us>

Dear Mayor and City Council,

I was recently falsely accused on Facebook by a Stevenson City Council member of inciting a citizen to raise the issue of the pledge of allegiance as a political maneuver against my opponent.

I am deeply troubled that I would be accused of using something as precious as our United States pledge of allegiance as a political weapon. These are the reasons such an accusation troubles me greatly, the reasons that go to the very core of the person I am:

**First, I value deeply the ideals of what our flag and country aspire to.** When I pledge allegiance to the flag and my country, I am not disavowing the mistakes we've made, but rather vowing to do my part to live up to higher ideals and principles.

**Secondly, when I recite the pledge I do so out of respect for those who have died in the name of our country.** I have been to the Vietnam Memorial and seen the 58,282 names on it. Like most normal humans, I too had a hard time keeping tears in check as I thought of all the loved ones who would never hug their husband again, or yes, in many instances, their wives again. I thought of all the children who would never see their fathers or mothers again. So yes, when I say the pledge of allegiance to the United States I am lucky enough to be a citizen of, I think of these men and women who are no longer with us. The pledge to me is my way of giving tribute to these people and everyone else who has suffered or died in defense of the ideals of our democracy.

**Yes, our country is not perfect.** As a country we have made bad and egregious mistakes. We have fought unnecessary wars, we have enslaved others, and we have discriminated and held some groups of our citizens back, so that others could prosper and be more enriched. So I agree that we have not been, nor are now, a perfect union. But when I say the pledge of allegiance it is to me anyway, my vow that I will do my part as a citizen to make our union, our country, a more perfect one.

Again, I am deeply offended a Stevenson City Council member would falsely accuse me of using something as important as our United States pledge of allegiance as a political weapon against my opponent. This is not who I am as a person.

Pat Rice