

May Day Reaffirms Loyalty, Recognizes US Heritage

BY DEBRA BODENSTEDT
 Jr. Vice Commander, VFW Post 791, Yankton

In response to Mr. William J. Collen's recent letter regarding the flying of U.S. flags on May 1 (*Press & Dakotan*, May 8), Loyalty Day is observed on May 1 in the United States. It is a day set aside by Congress for the reaffirmation of loyalty to the United States and for the recognition of the heritage of American freedom.

It was VFW post 791 of Yankton that placed the flags and honored local Police, Sheriff, Fire and EMT personnel with a dinner and program that evening. This is a long-standing annual tradition, and sadly one that is not well known nor well attended.

The current proclamation:
 BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
 A PROCLAMATION

Over 150 years ago, as a civil war threatened to dissolve our Union, President Abraham Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address. Defining the American experiment as "conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that 'all men are created equal,'" he resolved that our Nation "shall not perish from the earth." He understood that what makes America most worth preserving are our founding ideals. These ideals compelled colonists to rise up against an empire, and they have sustained generations of service members through the darkest days of war.

In the United States of America, we do not define loyalty as adherence to any single

leader, party, or political platform. When we make big decisions as a country, we necessarily stir up passions and controversy. These debates are a hallmark of democracy; they allow us to trade ideas, question antiquated notions, and ensure our Nation's course reflects the will of the American people. Yet even as we disagree, we remain true to our shared values and our common hopes for America's future.

On Loyalty Day, we renew our conviction to the principles of liberty, equality, and justice under the law. We accept our responsibilities to one another. And we remember that our differences pale in comparison to the strength of the bonds that hold together the most diverse Nation on earth.

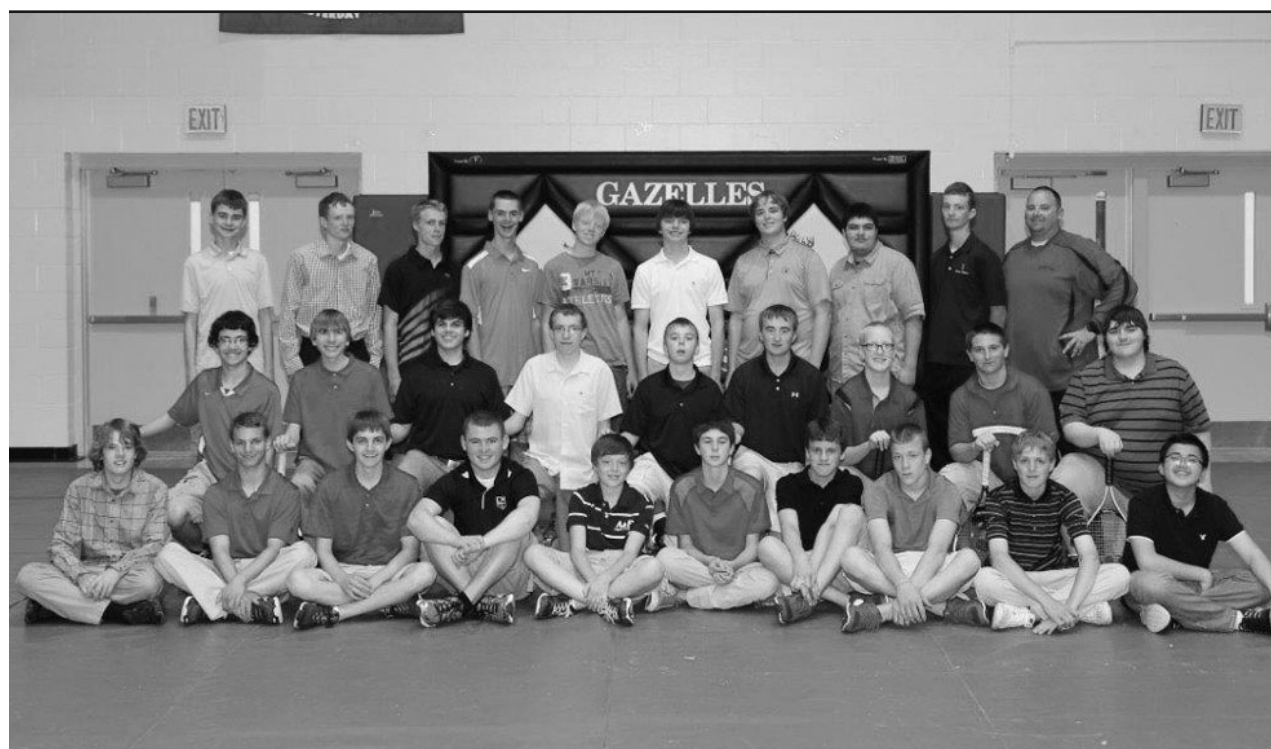
In order to recognize the American spirit of loyalty and the sacrifices that so many have

made for our Nation, the Congress, by Public Law 85-529 as amended, has designated May 1 of each year as "Loyalty Day." On this day, let us reaffirm our allegiance to the United States of America and pay tribute to the heritage of American freedom.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 1, 2014, as Loyalty Day. This Loyalty Day, I call upon all the people of the United States to join in support of this national observance, whether by displaying the flag of the United States or pledging allegiance to the Republic for which it stands.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand fourteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-eighth.

Congrats on a Great Year & Good Luck in the Post-Season!



2014 Boys Tennis

Front row: left to right - Oliver Kotalik, Jason Shindler, Brandon Frick, Ben Jensen, Isaac Klimisch, Gerrit Dykstra, Guthrie Scoblic, Ray Wermers, Hunter Rockne, Giang Nguyen

2nd row: left to right - Michael Maldonado, Mason Ballard, Turner Frank, Riley Vogt, Tanner Dykstra, Ben Mooney, Austin Ahlers, Nathan List, Daniel Nowak

3rd row: left to right - Avery Brockberg, Logan Megard, Luke Rockne, Mat Jensen, Paul Fanta, Ethan Klimisch, Jacob Smith, Malan Moody, Greg Hauer, Coach Brady Muth

**State Tennis
 May 22 - 24
 Rapid City**



**State Golf
 May 19 - 20
 Pierre**



2014 Girls Golf

Front row: left to right - Linze Cowman, Amber Livingston, Ashley Bilbrey

Back row: Nicole Mueller, Tasha Mueller, Stephanie Schwartz, Kasey Erickson, Ashley VanMeeteren, Payton Pierce, Reagan Kolberg, Alicia Gregoire, Becky Frick, Amy Pierce, Darian Tramp, Rachel Frick, Kirsten May, Coach Brett Sime

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