

## **That is Treason?**

Over the past few weeks, I've received posts on Facebook regarding treason. It comes from both the far left and far right. For instance, there are some who accuse Donald Trump of treason because of his campaign activities and the Russians. There are some who accuse John Kerry of treason because of his activities with Iran. Even though Facebook is to be believed in every post, I decided to do a bit of research. I find it interesting. First, the US Constitution defines it as "Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying war against them, or in adhering to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort. No person shall be convicted of treason unless on the testimony of two witnesses to the same overt act, or on confession in open court." Many believe this means treason can only occur during a time of war. So the question must be asked, are we at war with anyone? This gets even more complicated. First the Constitution grants Congress the sole right to declare war. Therefore, the US is not currently at war with anyone as declared by Congress. However the President is the commander in chief of all armed forces. Then there is the War Powers Act that restricts the President from entering into war and requires the President to report to Congress within 48 hours of committing armed forces to military actions and forbids the action taking longer than 90 days. It's been basically ignored by Presidents of both parties. In 2001, Congress provided authorization to use military force to the President against those responsible for the attacks on September 11, 2001 and any 'associated forces' This authority has been used in several countries, however, not against Russia or Iran. Therefore, if you say that Kerry committed treason with Iran, you must say Trump did with Russia. If you say no to one, you must say no to the other. My opinion is neither has committed treason.

On 19 May, members of the VFW and Auxiliary will show their support to Burger King franchisees as part of the VFW's second annual Thank BK Appreciation Day. Since 2007, Burger King has contributed over \$5 million to the VFW Unmet Needs program. This program provides financial assistance to military families who have fallen on hard times as a result of deployment, injury or other military-related activities. Unmet Needs has provided nearly 9,000 Veterans and military families with more than \$10 million in financial grants. Please join us in thanking Burger King on Saturday. Sweetie and I plan on having breakfast at the BK on south 8<sup>th</sup> street.

Remember to head to Bonanzaville on 24 May for their annual Veterans Memorial Picnic. It is free and open to all Veterans, service members and families. Activities include a free meal, performance by the Red River Valley Veterans Concert Band and a short speech. It is really a wonderful event. Next week's column will have more information on Memorial Day activities.