

Abilene Reporter

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Office oaths and public profanity

Sworn oaths for our elected representatives from the president down to local officials contain the patriotic pledge to “support and defend the Constitution of the United States.”

Most honor it, but a few dishonor it if politically expedient. Freedom of speech is one of our most cherished Constitution liberties as Americans.

A professional football player did not stand during the national anthem last year to protest racial discrimination, which he had the lawful right to do. Overreaction by those who do not respect freedom of speech provoked more publicity than it warranted.

A pompous president disregarded his sworn oath, demeaned our Constitution and degraded the presidency by publicly cursing the player and his mother — seen and heard by most Americans, including children.

Professional football owners and players responded by displaying their opposition to this foul-mouthed defamation of a player exercising the fundamental freedom of every American. Their actions did not disrespect the flag, anthem, veterans, God, motherhood, apple pie or anything but the pernicious president's public profanity. We must now endure boorish bellyaching from those who, like Trump, show no respect for constitutional freedom of speech.

Vacuous vulgarians resort to nasty name-calling because they cannot address a subject with intelligence or integrity. It reflects the belligerent behavior of bigoted blowhards. Most Americans realize this and respect our right to constitutional freedoms, but a foolish few do not.

“It is not a good thing if parents would be embarrassed to have their children repeating the president.” -
Sen. Ted Cruz (Texas Republican)

— John Compere, Baird



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