

## **Posts of Hate and Fear on Facebook**

Memorial Day 2016 was a success, the bridge ceremony at 0700 was performed honorably by the Moorhead American Legion and Moorhead/Dilworth VFW color guard units. The two color guard units performed ceremonies at many cemeteries in area. The 1100 program at the Moorhead Armory was very well attended and again the color guard units, members of the Legion, Legion Auxiliary, VFW, VFW Auxiliary and Curt Cannon, Clay County Veterans Service Officer provided a solemn program honoring our departed comrades. I expected Facebook posts would be as solemn and respectful, however, that is not the case. So here is my soapbox article.

Several of my Facebook 'friends' have increased their posting and sharing of hate and fear and I am tired of it. When I entered the US Air Force on 23 July 1964, I took the following oath "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." There was no ending date of the oath, nor did it identify the President. Therefore, I must assume that I am still bound by that oath. One of my biggest complaints about the hate and fear is at those who attack our President. LBJ was our President when I enlisted, Obama is our current President. Each four years we hold an open and free election and have a peaceful transition of power, even when the Supreme Court had to decide an election. I voted for some of the candidates elected between 1964 and now and I sometimes voted for the other candidate. I've voted for candidates of both major parties. I've agreed with and disagreed with policies of past Presidents, but I don't think I ever became disagreeable or spread hate and fear. It really bothers me when someone posts hate and fear about our President, current or former. A few examples from the past year are that President Obama was going to order the Army to invade Texas, that President Obama was going to appoint himself President for life and cancel the 2016 election, that President Obama is not an American and some question his religious beliefs. This reminds me of the 1960 election when many people voted against JFK because he was Catholic and would bow to the wishes of the Pope. My other issue is with the widespread promotion of fear from Facebook posters. The fear of immigrants when most of us are descendants of immigrants, the fear of other religious beliefs when our country was founded on the freedom of religion and the latest fear of who uses the bathroom. I salute Target for its policy. I was at the Duluth Target last week, I used the bathroom and found that all the rest of the people in the bathroom were doing the same. We needed no bathroom police and I didn't need my birth certificate. So here is my plan. I am going to keep track of Facebook posts from 'friends' and if over 50 percent of the posts contain hate or fear, those people will no longer be friends. Consider yourself warned!