



**Fw: Mr. Soike bench**  
Kitty J. Miller to: Cynthia C Johnson  
This message is digitally signed.

02/22/2010 10:20 AM

#3

Thank you,

Kitty Miller  
El Dorado County Board of Supervisors  
Supervisor Ray Nutting  
District II Assistant,  
(530) 621-5651

**LATE DISTRIBUTION**

**DATE** 2/22/10

— Forwarded by Kitty J. Miller/PV/EDC on 02/22/2010 10:19 AM —

From: rick churches <rickchurches@att.net>  
To: kmiller@co.el-dorado.ca.us  
Cc: rickchurches@att.net  
Date: 02/19/2010 10:40 PM  
Subject: Mr. Soike bench

Mr. Ray Nutting

I see this as very upsetting ! Mr. Soike a military veteran that fought for our country risked his life for our freedom, thinks of a wonderful poem buys a bench for thirty five hundred hard earned dollars for our beautiful memorial site and someone wont let Mr Soike have his wish and inscribe his poem? this is like a slap in the face of someone who gave so much and asked for so little. Mr. Soike's poem could change lives after people read it, I think it's very uplifting, honest and sincere with a touch to the heart. Lets ask ourselves what we could do for Mr Soike ? Hmm inscribe his poem on the bench and see his big smile to win his final war, with a peace of mind that his thoughts will be read and remembered for others to come.

P.S Go Mr Soike Go ! We need more men and women like You ! I Thank You for all that you have given to this Country to my Family, Friends, and all Others that enjoy the feeling of freedom !

Thank You Board Members for your time for in resolving this issue

Rick Churches  
2261 Donovan Ranch Road  
Placerville Ca 95667

2010 FEB 22 AM 10:32

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
EL DORADO COUNTY



**Fw: soick inscription**  
**Kitty J. Miller** to: Cynthia C Johnson  
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----- Forwarded by Kitty J. Miller/PV/EDC on 02/22/2010 10:20 AM -----

From: Richard Halk <halkrentals@yahoo.com>  
To: kmiller@Co-el-dorado.ca.us  
Date: 02/19/2010 10:48 PM  
Subject: soick inscription

Dear Ray

I lost many of my friends to the Vietnam War, both those who gave their lives and the ones that had their lives changed forever. My father in law was wounded in the leg in the south seas in World War Two. While lying wounded in a bunker he called in fire from his ship at the same time killing five Japanese soldier with his hand gun. He received the Navy cross in 1945. His name was Jacob H. Mc Daniels. His life was drastically changed by his experience. I believe that all of these men have bought and paid for the right that we all enjoy. When we give up the freedom of speech we have lost the most important freedom that soldiers have fought and died for since our great country was established.

Sincerely  
Richard L. Halk



**Fw: Memorial Bench fiasco**  
Kitty J. Miller to: Cynthia C Johnson  
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— Forwarded by Kitty J. Miller/PV/EDC on 02/22/2010 10:22 AM —

From: Christina Turnbull <all4him92@gmail.com>  
To: kmiller@co.el-dorado.ca.us  
Date: 02/20/2010 12:18 PM  
Subject: Memorial Bench fiasco

My name is Christina Turnbull. I have lived in El Dorado County for 27 years. I have raised five children here, my oldest son is serving in the United States Air Force. My second son plans to join the Marines after graduation. My father was in the Navy. Even in light of these facts, they are not my motivation for writing to you.

I am sure that many letter writers will focus on our Constitution and our RIGHTS that SHOULD be guaranteed. I am sure they will be eloquently stated and will accurately present the TRUTH so I will leave that for them.

I am a wife, a mommy and a proud American. I love my Country and it's people. I am thankful for our FREEDOM and our RIGHTS. What I have to say is plain and simple.

If someone wants to pay to memorialize a loved one and what they want to write is NOT vulgar or crude and does not violate basic considerations of children that may have their precious hearts or minds tainted then it should be allowed.

I am a Christian and I take no offence at the mention of God, in fact, I am blessed to see it. I know that allowing a Christian to make reference to God also allows peoples of other faiths, that I do not agree with, to also make reference to their understanding of who God is. Is that not what our soldiers died to protect?

This argument is a sad waste of time and a worthless argument! Stop the silliness and get back to living in AMERICA!

Sincerely  
Christina Turnbull  
Garden Valley Ca



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District II Assistant,  
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— Forwarded by Kitty J. Miller/PV/EDC on 02/22/2010 10:22 AM —

From: "Richard Smith" <Frogman@internet49.com>  
To: "Ray Nutting Office" <kmiller@co.el-dorado.ca.us>  
Date: 02/20/2010 12:29 PM  
Subject:

Ray: I agree one hundred percent with every word in your letter and will back you to the hilt concerning this matter. The word God/god and to a lesser degree the word heaven, when used in this way, are generic and have throughout the ages have been used to describe a higher authority. Most religions of the world refer to a god of on sort or another, making the word not Christian specific. Roman emperors were considered to be god's along with Egyptian pharaohs and so on. It was not uncommon for civilizations to worship a whole passel of god's at one time. The argument that God and heaven, used in the context to be inscribed on the bench, are of a specific religious nature would be the work of those with nothing better to do.

#### Amendment 1

“**Congress** shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech”.... While Congress and the Board of Supervisors are not the same thing, the spirit of the amendment indicates that government should not say “yea or nay” in matters concerning religion. Therefore Soike should be permitted under freedom of speech to inscribe his bench in accordance with his choosing as long as it is in good taste. This would be a free speech act put forth by Soike, who is not acting as an agent of government.

The ground were the bench rests belongs to the county, therefore all of us. We have chosen this to be hollowed ground in memory of those stood their ground in our stead. This ground and this bench memorializes struggles past and should not provide the future grit for those who have a dull old ax to grind. Let them find ground less tender.

This would be my argument to those who would try to make the case that this is a religious inscription, which it is not.

R Smith Garden Valley



**Fw:**  
**Kitty J. Miller** to: Cynthia C Johnson  
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02/22/2010 10:26 AM

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District II Assistant,  
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----- Forwarded by Kitty J. Miller/PV/EDC on 02/22/2010 10:26 AM -----

**From:** Loretta Clinton <tahitankid@att.net>  
**To:** kmiller@co.el-dorado.ca.us  
**Date:** 02/20/2010 01:30 PM  
**Subject:** Re:

I have been very concerned about this issue since reading the first e-mail from "Tea Party". I am a daughter, wife, mother, and grandmother of both former and active duty military. I believe the attempt to stop the writing of this message on the bench at the Veteran's Memorial is a slap in the face of all military and/or their families. Your arguments are precise, well stated, and free of the usual semantic "garbage" encountered in issues such as this.

As an aside, referring to the "of" and "from" wording in the first Amendment, I have been in many arguments over the correct word. This is the first time I have read a political representative publicly voice this attempt at substitution. It is very important.  
Loretta Clinton



**Fw: Bench controversy**  
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— Forwarded by Kitty J. Miller/PV/EDC on 02/22/2010 10:26 AM —

From: Elizabeth Stein <lovesjesus35@yahoo.com>  
To: kmiller@co.el-dorado.ca.us  
Date: 02/20/2010 01:43 PM  
Subject: Bench controversy

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Dear Mr. Nutting,

I just wanted to point out that Thomas Jefferson's letter regarding the separation of church and state is NOT part of our constitution. The original intent of the founding fathers was as you said simply to prohibit the government from establishing a "state" religion. I agree with your assessment that we are to be free from government imposed religion while being free to worship according to the dictates of our own consciences. I hope Mr. Soike is allowed to put his message on the bench especially since he paid for the opportunity to do so.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Elizabeth Stein