

# The way I see it

By Jim Koenig

For more than two centuries Americans have bled and died defending our great nation, fighting under a flag that represents freedom and justice for all.

"Old Glory" has flown proud during every armed conflict our country has engaged in.

For this reason alone most military men and women hold a special place in their hearts for the flag and what it stands for. There are some among us, however, who seem to have little respect for what flag and country mean.

You've seen them. They are the ones who make a mad dash for a building when "To the Colors" is played at 5:30 p.m. daily, or proudly state that they will leave the barracks only when retreat is over so they won't have to salute.

I wonder why these present day military volunteers refuse to pay honor to our flag. Why did they join our ranks? If not for duty, honor, God and our great country, why are they here?

It scares me to think that I may someday go into combat with these same people who show no visible signs of patriotic character in peace time at McNair.

Rendering honors to the flag is highly esteemed by all the services. And rightfully so. We have sacrificed brave men and women to keep America, American.

When the bugle plays "To The Colors" all persons, in or out of uniform, should stop, face the flag (or music if the flag cannot be seen) and stand at parade rest. Civilians should stop and stand with their hands at their sides. After "To The Colors" is played, the



bugle will sound retreat as the flag is lowered.

A soldier in uniform comes to attention and salutes. While in civilian clothes the person places their right hand over their heart until retreat is completed.

There is one reassuring note, for every person who sarcastically scorns our flag, there are hundreds of young soldiers who love and highly respect our nation and its flag. They are ready to give their very lives for its defense if called upon to do so. These people are Americans in the truest sense.

## Two-star tells it like it is

In a recent letter to commanders, Major General John W. Woodmansee, Deputy Commanding General, V Corps said, "Our Army will be required to win the next war against more numerous forces who are equipped with advanced technology weapons. To win that war we must be better disciplined, better trained, both at the individual and collective level, tougher mentally and physically, and more committed to our buddies and our units."

The two-star General went on to say, "We must be capable of doing many things well, despite difficult and dangerous circumstances."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★