

## Eagle Forum of California's Annual Event Honoring the Constitution

Eagle Forum of California held their 21st Constitution Day Celebration in honor of the 234th birthday of the Constitution on September 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> at the Lecture Hall of William Jessup University in Rocklin, CA. The theme was "Progressive Education - the Greatest Threat to our Constitution Today!" Between the two days, there were over 100 people who attended.

The speakers were all excellent, and Brad Dacus, President and Founder of the Pacific Justice Institute, did an outstanding job as our MC for both Friday evening and all day Saturday. He also gave an outstanding talk himself and served as the auctioneer for the live auction at the end of the program. With his cute sense of humor, he made it very entertaining and brought in lots of money for student scholarships. He even auctioned off the balloons. We all decided if he wants a second career beside being an attorney - that should be it.

**Pledge and Music:** Steven Harmer, an Iraqi vet, who is a student at WJU, led the pledge for both Friday evening and Saturday morning. Beautiful patriotic music was provided by various musicians. Friday evening, Zoe Britton played prelude music on the piano and played and sang "On Eagles Wings" which was Phyllis Schlafly's favorite song. Zoe is a very talented member of the music team of the Destiny Church of Rocklin. The music Saturday morning was provided by pianist Susi McOmber and soprano Cheri Shoemaker, who led us in the Star Spangled Banner, followed by a beautiful arrangement of God Bless America.

**Friday Evening:** All of the speakers were honored with special awards for their courage and boldness in standing for and speaking out for truth, correct principles, and liberty. The awards were presented to them by State President Orlean Koehle.

**Julianne Benzel**, former Rocklin high school history teacher gave the opening prayer and was the first speaker. She told her story of how she dared to question and speak out against the approved "walk outs" by students participating in an anti-gun protest. She suggested that students should then be allowed to have a "walk out" for pro-life or other conservative views. That did not go over well with the "woke" administration, and she was put on leave. Julianne did not try to go back to teaching. She tried to make a difference by running for Congress. She was honored with the "Courageous Teacher" award.

**Alex Newman**, from Florida, was our keynote speaker. He flew in from Dallas, TX that morning after having completed five other speaking engagements in one week. He is the popular, award winning, journalist who writes for *the Epoch Times*, *the New American*, and *World Net Daily*. He gave an excellent talk with slides and videos backing up all that he said tracing how we got to our present, progressive (communist) state in America and its threat to our Constitution." He spoke of the terrible sex ed that is being taught, the gender confusion, the "wokeness" and now Critical Race Theory in our schools and universities. He encouraged parents when they see that the school house is on fire, that is not the time to take out a petition or to run for school board, but that is the time to run into the building and remove their children. That is how serious the state of our schools is now today with the progressive education that has taken over. Alex and his wife are homeschooling their five sons and he encouraged all parents to do the same. He received a standing ovation as he was presented with a handsome "Bold Eagle Trophy!"

**The Honorable Sue Frost** was the concluding speaker. She has been elected twice with the highest number of votes as the Supervisor for the 4<sup>th</sup> district in Sacramento, and this year she is serving as the Chair for the board. She often stands alone as the only conservative vote against the liberal decisions being made by the rest of the board. She recently created and serves as President of the GorillaLearningInstitute.org. to help "build strength through knowledge." Her topic was: "What I, as an Elected Official and the Head of an Educational Organization, am Doing to Try to Make a Difference in Education, and What You Can Do Too." She also received a beautiful silver soaring Eagle trophy inscribed with "Outstanding Leadership Award."

Below are pictures from Friday night taken by state board member, Gary Bosely. More pictures can be seen at <https://rocklin2021.shutterfly.com/74>



*Julianne Benzel, Brad Dacus, Orlean Keohle, Marilyn Johnson, and the Honorable Sue Frost*



*Attendees: Kathryn Murrey, founder and leader of Save Our Sonoma and Liz Ritchie, Director for Contra Costa County Eagle Forum*

**Saturday from 9:00 am. to 4:00 p.m.** A beautiful invocation was given by Martin McOmber, the husband of the pianist Suzi McOmber. He is a retired attorney and former Bishop of a congregation of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Santa Rosa. (He and Suzi now live in Roseville.)

After the music and pledge, Orlean Koehle introduced the MC Brad Dacus, whom she considers as an adopted son. She told of his beautiful wedding 21 years ago that she attended. She told of how much he and his law firm, the Pacific Justice Institute, have done for individual Christians and churches over the years, representing them free of charge as they stand up for their civil liberties and first amendment rights. He now has affiliate branches of PJI in 12 other states and a daily radio show called the Dacus report that goes out to over 700 stations across the nation.

**Brad Dacus:** He first spoke about all the many cases that he and PJI are involved in because of the COVID vaccines. He told the audience that the only exemption that is really standing is a religious exemption, but it cannot be a standard form given out by a church, signed by your pastor. That does not work. It needs to be your own personally written statement of how this vaccine is a violation of your firmly felt religious beliefs. You need to even quote scriptures, such as: I Cor. 3:16-17, that tells us that our bodies are temples of God, and we are not to let anything defile it.

Brad suggested that you speak to your pastor and see if there could not be some sort of a church, home school co-op arranged, where maybe two days of the week, home school parents could come together and use the church building for classes, such as: music, art, drama, sports, which are hard to do at home by a single family.

He spoke of higher education and how we need to be especially leery of letting our children go to just any college. We need to investigate them thoroughly before choosing the best one. Even private Christian colleges have been influenced by the “woke, progressive” movement and are leading Christian students astray.

**Dr. David Lehman,** who holds two PhDs in theology, a former chapter leader for Eagle Forum in Orange County: He gave a brilliant slide presentation showing the fallacies and untruths of the teaching of evolution that have permeated our schools and universities today. He showed pictures of the most prominent evolutionists and what they believed and taught. He also showed pictures of some of the most complex functions of the human body like the eye and the ear, how they could not have happened by chance. They are the miraculous creations of an ingenious creator. He also taught us how it is impossible to include the teachings of evolution along with the teachings of creationism. It is not through evolution that God created the earth. There is no proof of any of this. There is not a single fossil record showing that one specie is evolving into another. Yet, the schools and universities are still pushing evolution on children as if it is true science and the only explanation for how the universe and all of us came to be. This is destroying young, innocent students’ belief in God, and many are declaring that they are now atheists. How can students stand up for their God-given rights when they do not believe in God? These rights then come from government and “where government giveth, government can taketh away.”

**Steve Jackson:** He is also from Orange County and serves on both the local chapter and state chapter of Eagle Forum. He has taught classes on the Constitution for over 25 years. He gave a power point presentation showing how the Constitution was a miracle created by divinely inspired founding fathers and such a miracle only happens once. Yet now we have people who are trying to push an Article V convention (AVC) on us, to open up the Constitution for revision and reconstruction to add new amendments to it, pretending that this will get Congress to finally adhere to it. If they are already ignoring it, what good will new amendments do?

**Judi Caler:** Judy is from Nevada City and serves as the lobbyist for National Eagle Forum, as well as the AVC issue director for Eagle Forum of California. She added to what Steve Jackson told us, giving an update of what is going on now, how each of the various groups wanting an Article V convention, are pushing forward with various strategies to try to make this happen by getting more state legislators to adopt their amendment resolutions. The worst is Mark Meckler and the Convention of States group. He pretends to be a conservative and has gotten many Republicans to come on board, giving them false information about safeguards. Judi and Steve both believe that if such a convention is ever allowed by Congress to take place, it can result in a runaway convention where all safeguards can be changed and our Constitution could be scrapped and a new one adopted, such as the progressives’ Newstates Constitution, which is already written and ready to be adopted. Judi gave us some action items that we could to help in this battle to stop an AVC from happening.

**Two Constitution Essay Scholarship Winners Were Announced:** Professor Bolte, the American Government teacher at WJU, was introduced. He was pleased to announce that 31 students had submitted essays about the Constitution. Steve Jackson, Judi Caler, and Orlean Koehle served as the judges, choosing the winning two essays. It was very difficult to narrow it down to the top two, but they eventually chose Tyler Rehner and Greg Tsiros.

Tyler was able to read his essay in person. Greg had to work, so a good friend, Peter Constant, read his essay for him. Tyler mentioned the threat that the Constitution faces because of peoples' love for "safety" over freedom. He said, *"I want to emphasize that in today's age of the United States, the Constitution becomes less and less supreme every day that we sacrifice our freedoms for safety."*

Greg also mentioned how COVID has caused actions that are in *"violation of the beloved Constitution,"* such as: *"the mandates for vaccination...It completely violates the Constitutional powers and the freedom of the people which should never be obstructed."*

Orlean presented Tyler and Peter (standing in for Greg) with a Soaring Eagle Plaque and each a scholarship check of \$500.00.

**Afternoon:** After lunch, two music students at WJU honored us with a beautiful rendition of "I'm Proud to be an American, at Least I know I'm Free." They received a standing ovation. It was so well performed.

Five Panel members spoke giving us hope of what we can do to make a difference.

**Heidi Matzke**, a pastor's wife of Sun River Church, Rancho Cordova, mother of two daughters. She is the Executive Director for "Alternative Pregnancy Centers" to help young girls to not have abortions, All services are free. No government funding allowed. She spoke about how she received the inspiration to start her clinics and, somehow, the funding and support came for them. She showed a video clip of a girl giving her personal experience how she was able to stop the effect of a chemical abortion by going to the Alternative Pregnancy Clinic and receiving help. Her baby was born healthy and well. Heidi mentioned how we need to bring back morality and true abstinence in the schools and universities to stop the out of wedlock pregnancies.

**Orlean Koehle**, State President Eagle Forum of California since 2002, a former teacher, author of 14 books. She spoke about her personal experiences bringing the Golden Rule and morality back into her 7<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms, and getting a firm policy passed in the Santa Rosa Schools to stop outrageous sex assemblies and one-sided liberal programs. That is when she met Brad Dacus, whose law firm represented one of the Eagle Forum mothers in a lawsuit against the Santa Rosa City Schools, because her opt-out of her son was not honored and he had to watch the very inappropriate secret assembly.

**Greg Burt**, Director of Capitol Engagement for the California Family Council (CFC), a former journalist, marketing and public relations expert. He told of how his group that is composed of pro-life, conservative organizations across the state (such as Eagle Forum), is able to mobilize many groups and keep us informed about the legislation that is a threat to pro-life families and churches. He shared some of that legislation with us.

**Debbie Bacigalupi**, program director for Northern California Eagle Forum, expert and speaker on UN Agenda 21, a rancher's daughter, former candidate for Congress. Debbie shared videos of her experience attending UN conferences and seeing how they are propagandizing little children to speak out against "Climate Change" and other liberal policies, all part of Agenda 21 and 2030. She told of her experiences teaching youth at Camp Constitution, encouraging them, raising money for them, and trying to stay connected throughout the year. She told us her motto – "educate, activate, do not hibernate."

**Calvin Clark**, a third generation building Contractor, real estate professional and a property rights advocate. He studied under Constitutional expert Cleon Skousen and has led many Constitutional Study Groups; he is the founder and leader of American Healing Angels, a member of the State Board for Eagle Forum of California on the Vaccine and Wellness Committee. He shared his and his wife's experience with a vaccine injured daughter, who used to have seizures every night after the vaccine. They never knew if she would be able to survive. But fortunately, they found a doctor who was able to help her by removing the mercury in her brain that had come from the vaccine. She is perfectly fine now and happily married with three children. Calvin has a great love for the Constitution and shared how we can impart that love to the next generation.

**Awards:** All of these speakers for Saturday received an eagle plaque with their names engraved on it, and the words "Soaring Eagle Award" Eagle Forum of CA, 9/18/2021.

At the end of the auction and raffle, Orlean thanked Brad Dacus for being such a wonderful MC, speaker and auctioneer with a beautiful large plaque with an eagle on it and the words engraved on it. Brad Dacus, "Eagle Warrior Award for 2021."

She also presented to Julie Parks, assistant to the VP, Phil Escamilla, an award for being such a great event coordinator from the university. She also received an eagle plaque with the words on it, "The Extra Mile Award," for all the extra effort she had gone to.

**Heidi Matzke** ended the day with a beautiful prayer expressing gratitude for the day, and blessings for Eagle Forum, for Orlean and her husband Kurt, who is very ill with leukemia.

Brad Dacus led us in singing "Happy Birthday to our U.S. Constitution," and we ended the wonderful day by sharing in a delicious rich chocolate birthday cake, made by the chef of the University Cafeteria. We heard great comments from those who were in attendance of how much they enjoyed the day, and how glad they were that they attended.

**Special Thanks** to our committee who worked so hard in preparing this event: Karen Klinger, Calvin Clark, Debbie Bacigalupi, Ken Payne and Julie Parks, the assistant to Phil Escamilla, the Vice President of William Jessup University. Karen and Calvin both distributed hundreds of flyers at rallies and churches all over the area. Karen called in on Phil Cowen's radio show to announce the event. She also brought the balloons and contributed so much in donations for the live auction including a huge flowering plant that sold for several hundreds of dollars thanks to Calvin and his wife Kellie who were the top bidders. They were even bidding against each other. Calvin and Ken Payne provided taxi service delivering our guest speakers to and from the airport and to and from the hotel to the university. Debbie donated a beautiful art piece that she had made, a wooden pallet from her ranch, painted in red, white and blue, with decorative metal on it that sold for \$234 (the birthday of the Constitution) to Heide Metzke, one of our speakers, who then in turn donated it to say thank you to Orlean. Julie Parks was wonderful to work with and did so much, including the technical details of the power point presentations for the speakers that she ran herself.

Special thanks to Susan Marquez and Dorothy Erickson from the Sonoma County Eagle Forum chapter. Dorothy had been with Orlean earlier at a "Walk for Life Rally in Sacramento, Aug. 25 and helped hand out flyers about the event, and Susan went with Orlean on Sept. 8 to a Medical Freedom Rally of 3,000 people and handed out flyers. Susan helped with decorations and was in charge of the registration table, and. Dorothy was in charge of the book table.

All in all, it was a very successful two days and a great way to honor our Constitution!