

Military, Law, and more ...

Thank you to the Memphis Safe Task Force and National Guard!

Neal McCoy celebrates 10th Anniversary of reciting the ‘Pledge of Allegiance’ at White House; “Patriotism is not political,” he says

WASHINGTON, D.C. – A brisk Washington, D.C. morning, in the 7am (EST) hour, on the lawn of The White House is where country music award-winning hitmaker Neal McCoy stood to recite and celebrate the 10th anniversary of his daily ‘Pledge of Allegiance’ live on Facebook/Meta. January 7, 2016 was the beginning of something that McCoy never thought would become what it is today. Now, with legions of followers and 10 years later, McCoy faced one of the newly erected US flags on the north lawn of The White House to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

“Patriotism is not political,” says McCoy. “Today is a big milestone for me and for all the followers that tune in each day to recite the Pledge of Allegiance with me. I am honored to be in the nation’s capital and especially the White House. It is such a historical building and one of the most worldly known buildings, so to be welcomed inside the gates and to honor our flag and America here is really something.”

The US Flag Code of Reciting the Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance to the



On January 7, 2026, Neal McCoy recites Pledge of Allegiance on The White House lawn. (Photo by Austin Smith)

Flag: "I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all," should be rendered by standing at attention

facing the flag with the right hand over the heart. When not in uniform, men should remove any non-religious headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Persons in uniform

should remain silent, face the flag, and render the military salute. Members of the Armed Forces not in uniform and veterans may render the military salute in the manner provided for persons in uniform.

Neal McCoy is a Texas-born country music star whose energy, charisma, and patriotism have made him one of the most beloved entertainers in America. With hit songs like “Wink,” “No Doubt About It,” and “The

Shake,” McCoy has built a career rooted in authenticity and heart. He has earned multiple Entertainer of the Year awards and is known for his unwavering support of the U.S. military, per-

Please see sports-military 3

Grok from xAI to advance goals in DoW ... from sports page 1

simply bureaucratic inconveniences; we are blowing up these barriers." The secretary said he's established a "barrier removal SWAT team" within the Office of the Undersecretary of War for Research and Engineering to make that happen. The team, he said, has the authority to waive non-statutory requirements and escalate to the deputy secretary of war things that slow down the acceleration of AI capabilities. AI systems require advanced

hardware to run — computer power — and Hegseth said that's another pursuit of the new CDAO team. The War Department will pursue its own computing power on its own military installations. "We will invest heavily in expanding our access to AI [computing power] from data centers to the tactical edge, and [we] will tap into hundreds of billions of dollars in private capital flowing into American AI," he said. "President Trump's executive

order has directed us to build data centers on military land and to work with the Department of Energy to ensure that we dramatically increase the number and breadth of resources needed to power this computing infrastructure." The secretary named a variety of private sector companies that may serve as partners to help the department get AI computer capabilities onto installations. Modifications to hiring authorities, Hegseth said, will en-

sure the department has access to the best talent to advance its AI goals. "We're going to heavily leverage President Trump's 'Tech Force' initiative to bring in the best and brightest from industry and academia," he said. "We have shown that we can and that we must enlist the world's leading talent in this cause." Across government and the private sector, responsible AI is a driving force in the development of AI tools. And Hegseth said

within the War Department, responsible AI means AI that understands the department's mission is warfighting, not the advancement of social or political ideology.

"I want to clarify what responsible AI means at the Department of War," he said. "Gone are the days of equitable AI, and other DEI and social justice infusions that constrain and confuse our employment of this technology. Effective immediately, responsible AI at the War Department means objectively truthful AI capabilities, employed securely and within the laws governing the activities of the department. We will not employ AI models that won't allow you to fight wars." Finally, the secretary said, the department's pursuit of AI must include access to good data. The War Department and military services, he said, all have their own data assets, which, in many cases, are siloed. Hegseth said those silos will need to be opened.

"The U.S. military has an asymmetric data advantage from two decades of military and intelligence operations that no other military in the world can replicate," he said. "But right now, we are underutilizing this advantage. Too much of our data is stranded. It's stuck in bespoke

programs, databases, locked behind [legal] stove pipes, invisible to operators, engineers and industry [partners] who can help us exploit it with winning speed and scale."

Now, he said, all that data will be unlocked for AI exploitation, with each service secretary and component head required to submit catalogs of current data assets to the CDAO within 30 days. Hegseth said this also includes data from the department's intelligence assets.

"Data hoarding is now a national security risk, and we will treat it that way," he said.

Last month, Hegseth announced GenAI.mil, a website that makes a specialized version of the Google AI tool Gemini — Gemini for Government — available to War Department personnel. Now, he said, GenAI will expand its AI offering.

"We're excited to announce the next frontier AI model company to join GenAI.mil, and that is Grok, from xAI, which will go live later this month," Hegseth said. "I want to thank you, Elon [Musk], and your incredible team, for leaning forward with us on this as well. Very soon, we will have the world's leading AI models on every unclassified and classified network throughout our department — long overdue."

A Memphis Safe Task Force Report: Memphis Safe Task Force recovers missing children

MEMPHIS, Tennessee., January 12, 2026 -- The Memphis Safe Task Force (MSTF) recovered two siblings and a toddler who were brought to safety on January 11, 2026 in a joint effort by the members of the MSTF. At approximately 10:30am on January 11, 2026, the MSTF recovered two missing children in Shelby County, Tennessee who were reported missing by a family member to the Memphis

Police Department (MPD) on January 1, 2026. One of the siblings had a toddler in her care. Memphis Safe Task Force members developed information through various leads. The children were found at different locations and ultimately turned over to the Tennessee Department of Children’s Services. Since the creation of the Memphis Safe Task Force on October 1, 2025, there have now been 142

children safely found by the MSTF.

“Behind every child that is not in a safe environment, there are family, friends, and concerned people waiting for their safe return,” said Tyreece Miller, United States Marshal, District of Western Tennessee. “Every missing child matters. And our commitment to bring them home will not end.”

The Memphis Safe Task Force is committed to using every resource available to locate and recover missing and endangered children.

The Task Force is an interagency coalition of federal, state, and local law enforcement partners and continues to demonstrate the power of collaboration in advancing public safety.

The ‘E’ in DEI is for Equity, a Marxist Term. Research before you believe.

-A commentary from The Mid-South Tribune-

Watch for The Mid-South Tribune’s 31st Annual Black History Month Special Edition 250 in Celebration of America’s Freedom.

Coming in February 2026.

Create Ripples of Kindness

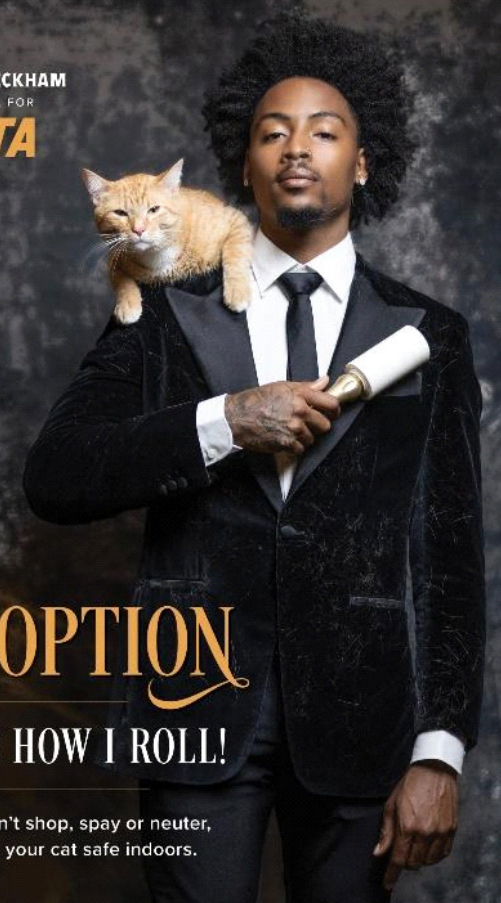


Adopt-A-Manatee® For Someone You Love

1-800-432-JOIN (5646)
savethemanatee.org
Photo © David Schrichte



KORDELL BECKHAM
AND MILO, FOR
PETA



ADOPTION

THAT'S HOW I ROLL!

Adopt—don't shop, spay or neuter, and keep your cat safe indoors.