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Neal McCoy partners with Allied Flag leading up to his 10th Anniversary of reciting live the “Pledge of Allegiance” on Facebook/Meta

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Neal McCoy, country music hitmaker and American patriot, has partnered with Allied Flag, America’s premium manufacturer of 100% American-made flags as part of the lead-up to the 10th anniversary of his live daily reciting of the “Pledge of Allegiance” on Facebook/Meta.

“I started saying the Pledge of Allegiance on Facebook over nine years ago and I have not missed a day,” says Neal McCoy. “I have some great memories of saying the Pledge daily at school and always wanting to help raise or lower the Flag each day, so having this opportunity to work with Allied Flag is exciting for me because our partnership gives us the opportunity to now share with a lot of other folks around our wonderful country Allied Flag, an all-American Flag company, that will help bring back some of those great memories.”

“The first version of the Pledge was written in 1885, 140 years ago. In 1954, the words ‘Under God’ were added and a year later it was sung for the first time, in 1955 (70 years ago), by the Air Force choral group the ‘Singing Sergeants’ on the floor of the House of Representatives on Flag Day,” adds McCoy.

McCoy, a two-time Entertainer of the Year and multi-gold and platinum selling country music artist, combined with Allied Flag, the company that has supplied American-made textiles to federal agencies serving America’s veterans, Department of War (DOW) and GSA is a natural fit as both brands support American



values.

“Neal’s voice has carried the Pledge into millions of homes, reminding us that faith, family, and country still matter in America. At Allied Flag, those same values guide every stitch we sew. Standing together with Neal is more than a partnership; it’s a celebration of the American spirit we both cherish,” says Tyler

Young, President, Allied Brands. Allied Flag will launch a special American Flag that will be boxed in a special custom designed package including McCoy’s name and likeness. These limited-edition packaged American flags will be available at Allied-Flag.com or NealMcCoy.com for pre-order on December 22nd and will ship on January 7th, to coincide with the 10th anniversary.

About Allied Flag: Celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2026, Allied Flag is America’s premium manufacturer of 100% American-made flags, proudly crafting every star, stripe, hem, and stitch in the United States to the highest government specifications. For decades, Allied Flag

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has stood for unmatched craftsmanship, authenticity, and patriotism—ensuring that the symbol that represents our nation is made in the heartland of the very country it stands for. As America approaches its 250th anniversary, Allied Flag continues its mission to unite Americans under one enduring emblem of freedom, sacrifice, and national pride. From homes and farms to schools, businesses, and government institutions, Allied Flag is honored to help Americans everywhere raise the flag with pride.

More information is available at AlliedFlag.com

DOW Sec. Hegseth announces Pres. Trump’s nomination for Flag Officer

DECEMBER 22, 2025 - Secretary of War Pete Hegseth announced that the President has made the following nomination:

Navy Rear Adm. Richard E. Seif, Jr., for appointment to the grade of vice admiral, with assignment as commander, Naval Submarine Forces/commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, and commander, Allied Submarine Command, Norfolk, Virginia. Seif is currently serving as program manager, Australia-United Kingdom-U.S. Integration and Acquisition, Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D.C.

Cong. Van Drew applauds pause on offshore wind projects over national security concerns



Cong. Jeff Van Drew

Washington, DC -Today, Congressman Van Drew expressed support for the administration's decision to pause offshore wind project construction across the country. The Department of the Interior paused several offshore wind projects following warnings from the Department of Defense that large offshore wind turbines could interfere with military radar systems and other critical national security operations.

"I have been warning about this for years," said Congressman Van Drew. "When our military raises concerns that these projects could interfere with radar and national defense, we need to stop and take a hard look. Protecting our national security has to come first. Beyond that, offshore wind threatens our commercial fishing industry, harms marine ecosystems, and drives up costs for ratepayers who are already struggling with high utility bills. New Jersey families should not be asked to accept these harmful impacts for projects that compromise our national security."

Tennesseans urged to plant native trees during 12th Annual Statewide event ... from sports page 1

the weekend of March 20th for planting. Participants will choose their pick-up location, and dates and times when they reserve their trees. A small donation is requested for every tree reserved. There are 11 native trees available, including redbud, elderberry, river birch, pecan, oak, and more. Trees are available on a first-come, first-served basis, while supplies last.

“We have purchased over 100,000 native trees from the Tennessee State Nursery and other regional nurseries for the people of Tennessee to plant on their properties and in their communities,” says Jeffrey Barrie, CEO of Tennessee Environmental Council (TEC). “We organize this event every year because of the overwhelming demand we have discovered from people



who want to make a positive difference by planting trees,” says Barrie.

Every year, this event involves thousands of participants who plant trees at their own homes, farms, businesses, neighborhoods, and other locations of their choosing. Since 2007, more than 100,000 volunteers have planted over one million native trees across Tennessee, fulfilling Tennessee Environmental Council’s mission to help people and communities improve our environment for all.

“Planting native trees is one of the best ways we can improve our environment,” says Cynthia Hernandez, Tree Program Manager at Tennessee Environmental Council (TEC). “Trees purify our air and filter our stormwater, they provide much-needed shade for our communities, slashing energy costs and boosting property value as they grow. Not only do they beautify our landscapes, but they also provide food and habitat for birds and wildlife,” says Hernandez.

Tennessee Tree Day is organized each year by Tennessee Environmental Council (TEC), a non-profit organization. The statewide tree-planting event is made possible by support from numerous partners and sponsors, including Atmos Energy, National Wildlife Federation (NWF), UT Extension, Tractor Supply Company Foundation, TVA, LKQ Foundation, Nissan, Sharing Change, Ancient Nutrition, Memorial Foundation, and many others.

“We have purchased over 100,000 native trees from the Tennessee State Nursery and other regional nurseries for the people of Tennessee to plant on their properties and in their communities,” says Jeffrey Barrie, CEO of Tennessee Environmental Council (TEC).

Visit the event website for more information and to reserve trees: tecten.org/TennesseeTreeDay.

TDOT halts highway construction for holiday travel... from sports-military page 3

1, with 2.6 million of them driving.

“Safety is our top priority, and with so many people expected to travel Tennessee roadways during the holidays, we want to keep traffic moving and get everyone to their destinations,”

said TDOT Commissioner Will Reid, P.E. “As always, please wear your seatbelt, reduce your speed, avoid distractions, and move over for emergency vehicles as our HELP Truck drivers will be on patrol.”

Except for a few long-term closures that must remain for safety, all construction-related closures will be suspended during the holiday period. Workers may still be on-site in some construction zones. Drivers should obey all posted speed limits, particularly in construction areas. Slower

speeds are necessary in work zones due to the temporary layout of the roadway and will be enforced. Drivers convicted of speeding through work zones where workers are present face a fine of \$250 to \$500, plus court fees and possibly increased insurance premiums.

Get the latest construction activity and live streaming SmartWay traffic cameras from your desktop or mobile device at www.TNSmartWay.com/Traffic. Travelers can also dial 511 for statewide travel information.

Coach Doerr inks McCallan and King for 2026 men’s tennis season

MEMPHIS, Tenn. , December 22, 2025– University of Memphis men’s tennis coach Chris Doerr has announced the signing of Puig McCallan and Alfie King for the upcoming 2026 season.

McCalla, a native of Javea, Spain, will join the Tigers this coming spring after collecting a No. 7 ranking in the Junior Spanish rankings and a 12.6 UTR. “We are extremely excited to

sign Keoni to the team. He is a phenomenal player with so much talent, and we know that he will do great here at Memphis,” said Doerr.

King, who comes to Memphis in route of Bolton, Great Britain, will join the team in the fall semester. King has multiple ITF titles under his belt as well as numerous wins over top 100 ranked players in the World Juniors.

“I’ve watched Alfie play a long time where he beat a bunch of top 100 players in the world,” said Doerr. “He showed a lot of grit and fight to win on the grass and has a fantastic backhand and serve. Since then, we have got to know him and his family and are so excited for his future. British players and Memphis have always worked out and I am excited to grab another guy who will do great things.”

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