

Falls Church Kiwanis Little League

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS Virginia is the birthplace and home of George Mason, Thomas Jefferson and James Madison – three of Americas Founding Fathers, advocates of religious freedom and primary authors Virginia’s Declaration of Rights, the Declaration of Independence, the Virginia Act for Establishing Religious Freedom and the U.S. Constitution’s Bill of Rights; and

WHEREAS Little League baseball is a wholly secular sport; and

WHEREAS the Little League Pledge was written by Peter J. McGovern, the late president of Little League Baseball, in 1954 – the heyday of anti-Communism, anti-Atheism and McCarthism and the same year Congress improvidently added “under God” to the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag; and

WHEREAS Little League, Incorporated encourages, but does not require, local Little Leagues to recite the Little League Pledge which begins with “I trust in God” and include other religious activities in its ceremonies (such as, an invocation or prayers); and

WHEREAS such religious practices directly interfere with Little League players free exercise of religion and their parents’ rights to teach their children beliefs of their choosing – religious or nonreligious;

AFTER SERIOUS CONSIDERATION of these issues and the recognition that the City of Falls Church and the County of Fairfax are religiously diverse communities and,

IN RECOGNITION that religion is deeply personal and a matter for each Little Leaguer to self-determine,

NOW THEREFORE, the Falls Church Kiwanis Little League hereby adopts the following policy:

It is the policy of the Falls Church Kiwanis Little League that it shall remain religiously neutral in all aspects of its operations by refraining from including religious messages in its activities including, but not limited to, the Little League Pledge (until such time as the first line, which begins with “I trust in God”, is removed) and other pledges, invocations, prayers or songs which could be construed as acknowledgements, endorsements or promotions of religion..

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 2009.

Secretary, FCKLL