

# Proposal to change the Germania Crest



By Mark Pegram

The members of the Germania Society voluntarily and routinely come together to share, celebrate and perpetuate the traditions, customs and heritage of the German culture. In fact, those very words form the root of our "mission statement". Regardless of whether we are German born or American born it is these values that we as club members embrace and hold true...It is the very reason our society exists.

We identify ourselves as members of Germania through a symbol, our club Crest. Our Crest has represented us for the past 40 years at our own events and others. It is a symbol of pride steeped in tradition and rich in club history, it is a symbol that commands respect and it should not be taken lightly. It has been displayed on flags to beer mugs. It is presented to each new member of the club as they are welcomed to our Society...where they are asked to get involved and make this club their own.

Our Crest is divided into 4 distinct components: First, the globe and bridge representing the path of Germans and their families coming to the United States from Germany, second, the American Bald Eagle over the US national colors of red, white and blue, third, the German Golden Eagle over its national colors of black, red and yellow, and fourth, and most important, the two eagles looking in opposite directions... a symbol of trust between two nations and cultures.

The Germania Crest is a significant part of Germania history and like most Crests it is not without its meaning or relevance to those who are associated with it...therefore, its representation must be accurate.

With this background in mind, in 2007, with the utmost respect and consideration for our founding members, the clubs traditions and history and more significantly, the Crest designer, I approached the Germania board of Trustees and asked permission to address the club general membership so I could propose my idea to amend our Crest.

The change I propose is simple, to supplant the existing red, white and blue field under the American bald eagle with a more accurate representation of the United States flag. I propose this change for these reasons. First, on the original Crest, the flag under the German eagle is an accurate representation of the German flag. Second, when submitting the crest artwork to Rastal of Germany in 2004 to make our steins, I was asked if we were a Dutch/German club as the flag under the American eagle is an accurate representation of the Dutch flag. Third, the change does not alter the symbology of the Germania Crest and all history and tradition remains intact.

This proposal was presented during the 2 October membership meeting and a motion to consider was made and duly seconded. It is now open for debate. A time will be determined to hear both pros and cons as to whether to adopt the amended Crest at which time a vote will be taken.



TO ALL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF GERMANIA:

Response to the request to change the crest:

The request to change the United States colors on the crest from the basic red, white and blue and to realize them as those of another country, is as best described as disrespectful to our patriotic oath and to the constitution of the United States. It is also disrespectful to us as citizens and to the Germania Society incorporators and to the incorporation statement of the club dated in May of 1964 which was notarized by Robert Moore as the legal attorney.

To second guess our designer Marvin Haight, who researched the color arrangement carefully according to the U.S. Flag Code and which was reinforced by the American Legion in 1923, states clearly that the red, white and blue stripes considered in buntings is to be used where the Stars and Stripes are out of order or can be blemished by anything.

The United States Government has used the bunting stripes on all documents such as the Social Security Act, the U.S. Postal Service, etc.; many companies use the stripe design for their displays. The States also use this for displays.

As a matter of information our Society was incorporated on democratic principles which also include free speech.

All eleven (11) Incorporators of the Germania Society voted unanimously to accept the crest as it is today.

As President Emeritus and advisor to the Board, however, I will stay neutral to issues.

Ernst Schwab

Fellow Incorporator, Historian, Public Relations Representative, Venue Establisher, and President Emeritus.



The Germania Society  
Cordially invites you to our 28th Annual Fund Raising

# Venison Dinner

## HIRSCH-GULASCH ESSEN

Sunday, March 21st, 2009

Doors open at 3:00

Dinner served at 5:00

### MENU

Hirsch (Venison) or Hungarian Goulasch  
with

Spaetzle (Noodles), Rot Kohl (red cabbage), tossed salad, dessert

Admission – \$12.00

Children under 12 - \$6.00

Reservations

Bob and Cathy Southwick

1171 Cryer Ave.

Cincinnati, OH 45208

(513) 871-9040

Please leave your name and phone number and make checks out to “Germania Society”. Include self addressed, stamped envelope for return of your tickets.

Deadline for Dinner Reservations –March 10th, 2010.

Entertainment DJ Dave? Or Gary