



**Orange County Chapter
Americans United for Separation of Church and State**

3337 S. Bristol, #251, Santa Ana, CA 92704 714-299-4551

On the web at www.au-oc.org Email us at orangecountyau@yahoo.com

**Dr. Craig Nelson: Science and Religion
Can There Be More Than One Way
Of Knowing?**

**Saturday, October 17th at 2:00 pm
Irvine Ranch Water District
15600 Sand Canyon Ave, Irvine**



Dr. Craig Nelson will be presenting an abbreviated version of his seminar on evolution and creation and will

also cover issues of bioethics as one practical interface of “religious believing” and medical science.

He has a long-standing interest in theology and the interaction of religion and science and is a renowned speaker on “Religion in a High Tech World” and continues focusing on his commitment to the emerging enquiry of religion and science.

Dr. Nelson is currently the Medical Bioethics Director at the South Bay Kaiser Permanente Medical Center. Before taking on this new position Dr. Nelson was a Clinical Lab Scientist at Kaiser Permanente in Fontana and also is on

the faculty at California State University in the Department of Comparative Religion and the Department of Liberal Studies. He is also adjunct faculty in Clinical Sciences at Dominguez Hills.

Dr. Craig M. Nelson received his B.S. degree in Microbiology from Cal Poly, Pomona. He has an M.A. degree in Religious Education from Loyola Marymount University and a graduate certificate of advanced studies in Bioethics. He received his Ph.D. in Religion from The Claremont Graduate University. His dissertation was entitled “Becoming Architects of a Morally Sensitive Postmodern Bioethics.”

He has taught a variety of classes including “Religion, and the Quest for Meaning” and a senior seminar entitled “Evolution and Creation.” He was a recipient of the 2001 Science and Religion Course Award from the John Templeton Foundation and Center for Theology and Natural Science.

Please join us for what should be an interesting and informative afternoon. Admission is free and refreshments will

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Don't forget to check us out on the web at www.au-oc.org.

Starting in September we began providing a PDF version of the flyer for each meeting. Please download and print copies for your friends and take to other meetings you may be attending.

Copies of speeches given by chapter members to other organization on church/state separation issues can also be found there.

Let us know what you think of the web site and any recommendations you may have!

Remember: We will be dark in December—our last meeting of the year is our annual meeting on November 21st—see Page 2 for details of this social event!

Americans United for Separation of Church & State Annual Meeting & Potluck

Saturday, November 21st at 2:00 pm
Irvine Ranch Water District
15600 Sand Canyon Ave, Irvine

Please join us on November 21st for our annual meeting and appetizer/dessert potluck—please bring your favorite potluck snack and join us for a social afternoon and the annual meeting.

At our annual meeting we will have the election of officers for 2010-2011. We will be taking nominations from the floor and encourage your participation as an officer or Steering Committee member and become more active with the chapter. New blood is always needed!

Steph Campbell will present a report from the National Advisory Council covering the great work done on our behalf by National—both litigation and their work on legislation and lobbying. Steph is also going to lobby Congress this year and will report on her activities with our California delegation!

We will present a year in review and be announcing some of the events already scheduled for next year. 2010 is already shaping up to be a very exciting year for us with some very special speakers and activities.

And of course we will be announcing our very special “volunteer of the year!”

Our officer slate for 2010 is:

- President—Steph Campbell
- Vice President—Alison Young
- Secretary—Karla Westphal
- Treasurer—Carl Weibel

Continuing in their current roles will be Shirley Lorenz guiding us through the maze of fundraising and Rich Gillock will continue his work as the web master. ###

Message From the President

During Justice Sotomayor’s confirmation hearings there was much discussion about how we could expect her to rule on cases relating to the separation of church and state. In the hearings, she was asked to share her philosophy on religious freedom and the First Amendment. Her response was, to say the least, bland. She said: “It is a very important and central part of our democratic society that we do give freedom of religion, the practice of religion, that the Constitution restricts the — the state from establishing a religion, and that we have freedom of expression in speech, as well. Those freedoms are central to our Constitution.”

But we should soon have a better understanding of her position. On October 7th the Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in Salazar v. Buono which is the case relating to the Mojave Desert cross. (A decision is expected in 2010.)

The Supreme Court has agreed to hear two issues. First, the Court will consider whether Buono, the National Park Service employee who brought the original suit, has standing to sue over the cross display. Sec-

ond, the Court will consider whether the one-acre land transfer to the VFW mandated by a 2003 law was a permissible and effective means of curing the Establishment Clause violation.

Americans United has filed a friend-of-the-court brief on behalf of Buono. Joining AU on the brief are the Anti-Defamation League, the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, the Military Religious Freedom Foundation, the North American South Asian Bar Association, People For the American Way Foundation and the Union for Reform Judaism.

Daniel Mach, director of litigation for the ACLU said: “... as the preeminent symbol of only one faith, this national memorial in the Mojave National Preserve sends a message that the sacrifices of non-Christians are not honored or valued.”

This one is in our own back yard and we will be watching it closely.

—Steph Campbell

Remembering Ted Kennedy—Steph Campbell



Senator Kennedy has been lauded in the weeks since his death about his commitment to health care reform, civil

rights and education. But in remembering him we should also remember his tireless support for the separation of church and state.

Americans United's Executive Director, Barry Lynn, had this to say: "Senator Ted Kennedy was a great champion of church-state separation. It's not just that he consistently voted to support that principle – he really got it. He deeply understood that only a high and firm wall of separation between church and state could protect our liberties. He knew the reasons why our Founders established church-state separation and why we need to preserve it. He got how church-state separation protects the rights of both religious and non-religious people."

Sen. Kennedy was a consistent supporter of the free exercise of religion and deplored any effort to chisel away at this cherished right of the American people.

And Kennedy wasn't afraid to go to the heart of the religious right to speak his message. In 1983 he addressed Jerry Falwell's Liberty Baptist College, and made an eloquent case for the separation of church and state, and for tolerance of people of all faiths and no faith.

Here are some excerpts from that speech:

"The separation of church and state can sometimes be frustrating for women and men of religious faith. They may be tempted to misuse government in order to impose a value which they cannot persuade others to accept. But once we succumb to that temptation, we step onto a slippery slope where everyone's freedom is at risk. Those who favor censorship should recall that one of the first books ever burned was the first English translation of the Bible. As President Eisenhower warned in 1953, "Don't join the book burners...the right to say ideas, the right to record them, and the right to have them accessible to others

is unquestioned -- or this isn't America." And if that right is denied, at some future day the torch can be turned against any other book or any other belief. Let us never forget: Today's Moral Majority could become tomorrow's persecuted minority."

[...]

People of conscience should be careful how they deal in the word of their Lord. In our own history, religion has been falsely invoked to sanction prejudice -- even slavery -- to condemn labor unions and public spending for the poor. I believe that the prophecy, "The poor you have always with you" is an indictment, not a commandment. And I respectfully suggest that God has taken no position on the Department of Education -- and that a balanced budget constitutional amendment is a matter of economic analysis, and not heavenly appeals.

[...]

Religious values cannot be excluded from every public issue; but not every public issue involves religious values. And how ironic it is when those very values are denied in the name of religion.

[...]

In short, I hope for an America where neither "fundamentalist" nor "humanist" will be a dirty word, but a fair description of the different ways in which people of goodwill look at life and into their own souls.

I hope for an America where no president, no public official, no individual will ever be deemed a greater or lesser American because of religious doubt -- or religious belief.

I hope for an America where the power of faith will always burn brightly, but where no modern Inquisition of any kind will ever light the fires of fear, coercion, or angry division.

I hope for an America where we can all contend freely and vigorously, but where we will treasure and guard those standards of civility which alone make this nation safe for both democracy and diversity."

There have been few who have stood up for the principles on which our organization has been built in the same way as Senator Kennedy. Since first joining the Senate he was steadfast in his commitment to the separation of church and state. It is sad indeed that we may never see the likes of him again. ###



We're on the web
at www.au-oc.org

Americans United-OC Chapter
3337 S. Bristol, #251
Santa Ana, CA 92704
Email: orangecountyau@yahoo.com

Our Mission: Americans United for Separation of Church and State is a nonpartisan organization dedicated to preserving the constitutional principle of church-state separation as the only way to ensure religious freedom for all Americans.



All AU-OC events are at The Irvine Ranch Water District, 15600 Sand Canyon Ave., Irvine. No charge for any of the events.

Oct 17— 2:00 pm Dr. Craig Nelson— Science and Religion: Can There Be More Than One Way of Knowing?

Don't Forget: We will be dark in December. We'll be back on January 16th!

Nov 21— 2:00 pm Annual Meeting and Pot Luck. Our meeting will include election of officers, the year in review, and a sneak preview of the year to come!

The Steering Committee meets at 12:30 before the general meeting. All are invited.

Keep Up To Date with Americans United-Orange County
Along with our newsletter, we keep people informed with what's going on in the fight to preserve separation of church and state as well as our events through the web site at www.au-oc.org and also through our Yahoo! Group. If you're not on the Yahoo! Group, send an email to us at: au-oc-subscribe@yahoo.com. We meet monthly at the Irvine Ranch Water District, 15600 Sand Canyon Ave., Irvine on the 3rd Saturday at 2:00 pm.
Irvine Ranch Water District neither supports nor endorses the cause nor activities of organizations which use the District's meeting rooms that are made available as a public service.

Membership Form

Basic membership is \$25 and includes an annual subscription to Church & State magazine. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and donations beyond the \$18.00 value of the subscription to Church & State magazine are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Email any questions to orangecountyau@yahoo.com.

3337 S. Bristol, #251, Santa Ana, California 92704

\$25 (new membership) **Donation \$ _____**

Name

Address

City _____ Zip _____ Home Phone _____

Email:
