



Dear Chief

By Jeff “Chief” Urbaniak
COLUMNIST

DEAR CHIEF: I am an administrator who works in a singular office cubicle. I like to display patriotic items in my work station because I have a lot of pride in America. My boss told me I have to remove my items because of a company policy that does not allow such display of items. I get it. If I don't remove them, I'm fired. What's wrong with the attitude of corporate America and why do CEOs wilt under the pressure of the few who are offended by the display of patriotic items?

FRUSTRATED PATRIOT



DEAR FRUSTRATED PATRIOT: I understand how you feel; it is frustrating when patriotic items like the American flag offend people. Unfortunately, due to pressure from certain political factions, among other things, CEOs will create policies for or against the display of patriotic items and they usually go in the direction that creates the least amount

Displaying patriotic items at work

of tension or stress in the company or organization.

There are several CEOs out there who will direct that patriotic items not be displayed at work stations if some employees find such displays offensive. Yet, there are other CEOs who will place small patriotic items in work stations and hallways, etc., regardless of employees' opinions. Organizational values can play a big part of a CEO's policy decision. For some, aligning policies with values is often the main objective regardless what political pressures exist. Also, it is important to note that when policies are communicated in writing and made available to all employees, it can be very difficult for ex-employees (ones fired for not adhering to policies) to obtain favorable results after a legal proceeding. This is good to know before “falling on your sword” over this.

My suggestion to you is to determine how important this policy is to you personally. Can you control your mindset and behavior by complying with your company's policy on this matter?

If you can, then press on and not let it impact your attitude and morale. If you can't, then maybe you and your company are not a good match--it may be in your best interest to look for employment opportunities elsewhere--at a place that has similar values as you.

At the end of the day, does any of this really matter when you go home? Does this company policy affect your personal life? If it does, it shouldn't. If it doesn't, then don't let it boil your skin at work either. Focus your energy on other things and ignore the frustrations associated with this policy.

Personally, I think it's sad that these anti-patriotic policies have to exist. If I was a CEO, I'd be proud to see patriotic items displayed throughout my company or organization.



For an opportunity to have your question, issue or concern addressed in the Dear Chief column, go to www.DearChiefAdvice.com and submit your comments or email them to Jeff@DearChiefAdvice.com.