
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4004

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

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By Representatives Sehlin, Tate, Zellinsky, Padden, Brumsickle, Schmidt, Johanson, Franklin, Fuhrman, Stevens, Schoesler, Van Luven, Campbell, Casada, Foreman, Mielke, Edmondson, Morton, Dyer, Forner, Horn, Reams, Sheahan, Chandler, Basich, Jones, Hansen and Sheldon

Read first time 01/27/93. Referred to Committee on State Government.

1 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
2 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
3 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

4 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
5 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
6 represent and petition as follows:

7 WHEREAS, Although the right of free expression is part of the
8 foundation of the United States Constitution, very carefully drawn
9 limits on expression in specific instances have long been recognized as
10 legitimate means of maintaining public safety and decency, as well as
11 orderliness and productive value of public debate; and

12 WHEREAS, Certain actions, although arguably related to one person's
13 free expression, nevertheless raise issues concerning public decency,
14 public peace, and the rights of expression and sacred values of others;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, There are symbols of our national soul such as the
17 Washington Monument, the United States Capitol Building, and memorials
18 to our greatest leaders, which are the property of every American and
19 are therefore worthy of protection from desecration and dishonor; and

20 WHEREAS, The American Flag to this day is a most honorable and
21 worthy banner of a nation that is thankful for its strengths and

1 committed to curing its faults, and remains the destination of millions
2 of immigrants attracted by the universal power of the American ideal;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, The law as interpreted by the United States Supreme Court
5 no longer accords to the Stars and Stripes that reverence, respect, and
6 dignity befitting the banner of that most noble experiment of a nation-
7 state; and

8 WHEREAS, It is only fitting that people everywhere should lend
9 their voices to a forceful call for a restoration of the Stars and
10 Stripes to a proper station under law and decency;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
12 Congress of the United States propose an amendment of the United States
13 Constitution, for ratification by the states, specifying that Congress
14 and the states shall have the power to prohibit the physical
15 desecration of the flag of the United States;

16 BE IT RESOLVED, That certified copies of this Memorial be
17 immediately transmitted by the secretary of state to the president and
18 the secretary of the United States Senate, to the speaker and the clerk
19 of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of
20 this state's delegation to the Congress.

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