

---

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4009

---

State of Washington                      52nd Legislature                      1991 Regular Session

By Representatives D. Sommers, Basich, Chandler, Orr, Neher, Brumsickle, Morton, Broback, Nealey, Tate, Moyer, Hochstatter, Betrozoff, P. Johnson, Casada, Padden, Zellinsky, Dorn, Paris, Bowman and Ballard.

Read first time February 13, 1991. Referred to Committee on State Government.

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

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

8            WHEREAS, Although the right of free speech is part of the  
9 foundation of the United States Constitution, no right is absolute and  
10 certain limits on expression have long been recognized as lawful and  
11 legitimate means of maintaining public safety and decency, as well as  
12 the orderliness and productive value of public debate; and

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

1       WHEREAS, There are symbols of our national soul such as the  
2 Washington Monument, the United States Capitol Building, the White  
3 House, and memorials to our greatest leaders, such as Thomas Jefferson  
4 and Abraham Lincoln, which are the property of every American and are  
5 therefore worthy of protection from desecration and dishonor; and

6       WHEREAS, The Flag of the United States was most nobly born in the  
7 struggle for independence that began on a bridge in Concord,  
8 Massachusetts and came to symbolize the stands of a young and brave  
9 nation against the mighty world powers of that day, and its courageous  
10 resilience inspired our national anthem; and

11       WHEREAS, In the Second World War the Flag of the United States was  
12 the banner that led the American battle against fascist imperialism  
13 from the depth of Pearl Harbor to the mountaintop on Iwo Jima, and to  
14 victory against Hitler's Nazi war machine; and

15       WHEREAS, The Flag of the United States symbolizes the principles,  
16 values, and ideals for which good and decent people have fought for,  
17 often at the expense of their lives or at the cost of cruel  
18 condemnation upon their return home; and

19       WHEREAS, The Flag of the United States was carried to the moon by  
20 our astronauts as a banner of goodwill, vision, and triumph on behalf  
21 of all mankind; and

22       WHEREAS, The Flag of the United States to this day is a most  
23 honorable and worthy banner of a nation which is thankful for its  
24 strengths and committed to curing its faults, and remains the hope of  
25 millions of immigrants attracted by the universal power of the American  
26 ideal; and

27       WHEREAS, The law as interpreted by the United States Supreme Court  
28 can no longer accord to the "Stars and Stripes" that reverence,  
29 respect, and dignity befitting the banner of that most noble experiment  
30 of a nation-state; and

1       WHEREAS, It is only fitting that people everywhere should lend  
2 their voices to a forceful call for restoration of the "Stars and  
3 Stripes" to a proper station under law and decency.

4       NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectively petition the  
5 Congress of the United States to propose an amendment of the United  
6 States Constitution, for ratification by the states, specifying that  
7 Congress and the states shall have the power to prohibit the physical  
8 desecration of the Flag of the United States.

9       BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
10 transmitted to the Honorable George Bush, President of the United  
11 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the  
12 House of Representatives, and to each member of Congress from the State  
13 of Washington.