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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8008

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State of Washington                      52nd Legislature                      1991 Regular Session

By Senators Owen, Thorsness, Johnson, Oke, Nelson, Erwin, Rasmussen, Vognild, Stratton, Matson, McCaslin, Conner, Craswell, Saling, Madsen and Bauer.

Read first time February 1, 1991. Referred to Committee on Law & Justice.

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

1 to our greatest leaders, which are the property of every American and  
2 are therefore worthy of protection from desecration and dishonor; and

3 WHEREAS, The American Flag to this day is a most honorable and  
4 worthy banner of a nation that is thankful for its strengths and  
5 committed to curing its faults, and remains the destination of millions  
6 of immigrants attracted by the universal power of the American ideal;  
7 and

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

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

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

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