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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8040

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State of Washington                      59th Legislature                      2006 Regular Session

By Senator Thibaudeau

Read first time . Referred to .

1            TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE W. BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,  
2            AND 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, Our nation possesses a military capacity that is  
9            unprecedented in the world's history and without parallel among the  
10           sovereign states of the world today; and

11           WHEREAS, War, in and of itself, is not an answer, and should only  
12           be engaged in as a last resort when all other possibilities have been  
13           exhausted; and

14           WHEREAS, Peace is among the highest ideals articulated by American  
15           presidents from Thomas Jefferson to Ronald Reagan; and

16           WHEREAS, Thomas Jefferson said in 1801 "That peace, safety, and  
17           concord may be the portion of our native land, and be long enjoyed by  
18           our fellow citizens, is the most ardent wish of my heart"; and

19           WHEREAS, Dwight Eisenhower said "I think people want peace so badly

1 that one of these days government had better get out of the way and let  
2 them have it"; and

3 WHEREAS, In 1984, President Ronald Reagan signed into law  
4 legislation creating the United States Institute of Peace; and

5 WHEREAS, Our experience in Iraq demonstrates that war can have  
6 unintended consequences, such as undermining our nation's standing as  
7 a beacon of democratic ideals; and

8 WHEREAS, Remaining a light among nations will require that we  
9 become better known and more respected for our ability to make peace  
10 than war; and

11 WHEREAS, Peace, if it is to be lasting, must be advanced and  
12 expanded and strengthened continually and cannot be achieved without a  
13 concerted commitment from our nation's leaders;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the  
15 Congress and the President of the United States create a national  
16 Department of Peace and Nonviolence that is provided with sufficient  
17 resources to take a strategic approach to the development of policies  
18 that promote national and international peace through the use of  
19 mediation and nonviolent action to resolve conflict and advance peace.

20 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
21 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United  
22 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the  
23 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of  
24 Washington.

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