

## News from Senator

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### \*\*\*FLAG\*\*\*

WITH YESTERDAY'S FLAG AMENDMENT VOTE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HAS TURNED ITS BACK ON THE CONSTITUTION, ON THE FLAG, AND WORST OF ALL, ON THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

THE HOUSE HAS SAID "NO" TO THE AMERICAN LEGION. IT HAS SAID "NO" TO THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS. IT HAS SAID "NO" TO THE PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA. IT HAS SAID "NO" TO A YOUNG MAN NAMED GARY FREEMAN, WHO COLLECTED MORE THAN 3,000 PETITION SIGNATURES IN SUPPORT OF AN AMENDMENT -- ALL IN DOWNTOWN HUTCHINSON, KANSAS.

AND THE HOUSE -- THE SO-CALLED PEOPLE'S BODY -- HAS SAID "NO" TO THE MILLIONS OF CONCERNED AMERICANS WHO BELIEVE THAT OLD GLORY DESERVES ONE TYPE OF PROTECTION ONLY -- AND THAT'S CONSTITUTIONAL PROTECTION.

SO YES, THE FLAG AMENDMENT DID FAIL IN THE HOUSE YESTERDAY, BUT -- DESPITE ITSELF -- THE HOUSE HAS SUCCEEDED IN AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION.

THE FIRST THREE WORDS IN THE CONSTITUTION'S PREAMBLE ARE NO LONGER "WE THE PEOPLE." THEY ARE NOW, SADLY, "WE THE CONGRESS."

WITH A RE-ELECTION RATE OF MORE THAN 98%, WITH MANY INCUMBENTS RUNNING UNOPPOSED, IT'S NO SURPRISE THAT HOUSE MEMBERS THINK THEY CAN GET AWAY WITH SNUBBING THE VOTERS OF THIS COUNTRY.

LET'S FACE IT: IN TODAY'S WASHINGTON, PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY IS "OUT." BELTWAY ARROGANCE IS "IN."

DURING THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS, WE HAVE HEARD A LOT OF FANCY LEGAL WORDS WHICH CONFUSE MOST PEOPLE, BUT WHICH PUT BIG DOLLARS IN THE POCKETS OF THE LEGAL ESTABLISHMENT.

WE HAVE HEARD WORDS LIKE "CONTENT-NEUTRALITY," "SYMBOLIC SPEECH," "COMMUNICATIVE IMPACT."

THESE WORDS MAY DEFINE THE DEBATE FOR THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION, OR THE AMERICAN TRIAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION, OR ALL THE IVORY-TOWER LAW PROFESSORS WHO SOMEHOW FIND THE MEANING OF LIFE IN THE FOOTNOTES OF LEGAL BRIEFS.

BUT THESE WORDS DO NOT SQUARE WITH THE WISDOM OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WHO SEE NO CONTRADICTION WHATSOEVER BETWEEN OUR CHERISHED FIRST AMENDMENT FREEDOMS AND A LAW PROHIBITING THE DESECRATION OF OUR NATION'S MOST REVERED SYMBOL, OUR FLAG.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE KNOW THAT FLAG DESECRATION IS WRONG. THEY KNOW THAT OLD GLORY DESERVES PROTECTION. AND THEY KNOW THAT PASSING A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT IS THE ONLY RIGHT THING TO DO.

THE SENATE WILL HAVE A VOTE ON THE FLAG AMENDMENT NEXT WEEK. ACCORDING TO MY TALLY, THE VOTE WILL BE A CLOSE ONE.

BUT, AS I SEE IT, THE CHOICE FOR US IN THE SENATE IS CRYSTAL-CLEAR: WE CAN EITHER FOLLOW THE HOUSE'S LEAD AND EMBRACE THE BELTWAY "KNOW-IT-ALLS."

OR WE CAN EMBRACE THE WILL OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE -- THE HARD-WORKING TAXPAYERS AND VOTERS OF THIS COUNTRY --WHO WANT TO GIVE OLD GLORY THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROTECTION SHE SO MUCH DESERVES.

NEXT WEEK, THE CHOICE WILL BE OURS.

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