

(LIMITED RUN SHOWING ALL ADDITIONAL SPONSORSHIPS)

**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 30**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

**BY REPRESENTATIVES KOTT, Coghill, Foster, James**

**SENATORS Halford, Taylor, Leman, Wilken, Ward, Cowdery, Donley, Phillips, Austerman, Stevens**

**Introduced: 1/14/02**

**Referred: State Affairs, Judiciary**

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Relating to an amendment to the Constitution of the United States prohibiting**  
2 **desecration of the Flag of the United States.**

3 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 **WHEREAS** certain actions, although arguably related to one person's free expression,  
5 nevertheless raise issues concerning public decency, public peace, and the rights of expression  
6 and sacred values of others; and

7 **WHEREAS** there are symbols of our national soul, such as the Washington  
8 Monument, the United States Capitol Building, and memorials to our greatest leaders, that are  
9 the property of every American and are therefore worthy of protection from desecration and  
10 dishonor; and

11 **WHEREAS** the American Flag was most nobly born in the struggle for independence  
12 that began with "The Shot Heard Round the World" on a bridge in Concord, Massachusetts;  
13 and

14 **WHEREAS**, in the War of 1812, the American Flag stood boldly against foreign  
15 invasion, symbolized the stand of a young and brave nation against the mighty world power  
16 of that day and, in its courageous resilience, inspired our national anthem; and

1           **WHEREAS**, in the Second World War, the American Flag was the banner that led the  
2 American battle against fascist imperialism from the depths of Pearl Harbor to the  
3 mountaintop on Iwo Jima, and from defeat in North Africa's Kasserine Pass to victory in the  
4 streets of Hitler's Germany; and

5           **WHEREAS** Alaska's star was woven into the fabric of the Flag in 1959, and that 49th  
6 star has become an integral part of the Union; and

7           **WHEREAS** the American Flag symbolizes the ideals that good and decent people  
8 fought for in Vietnam, often at the expense of their lives or at the cost of cruel condemnation  
9 upon their return home; and

10          **WHEREAS** the American Flag symbolizes the sacred values for which loyal  
11 Americans risked and often lost their lives in securing civil rights for all Americans,  
12 regardless of race, sex, or creed; and

13          **WHEREAS** the American Flag was carried to the moon as a banner of goodwill,  
14 vision, and triumph on behalf of all mankind; and

15          **WHEREAS** the American Flag was raised by New York City fire fighters atop the  
16 rubble of the World Trade Center and became the symbol of a nation challenged as it had  
17 never been before; and

18          **WHEREAS** the American Flag to this day is a most honorable and worthy banner of a  
19 nation that is thankful for its strengths and committed to curing its faults and remains the  
20 destination of millions of immigrants attracted by the universal power of the American ideal;  
21 and

22          **WHEREAS** the law as interpreted by the United States Supreme Court no longer  
23 accords to the Stars and Stripes that reverence, respect, and dignity befitting the banner of that  
24 most noble experiment of a nation-state; and

25          **WHEREAS** House Joint Resolution 36, which passed the United States House of  
26 Representatives and has been referred to the United States Senate, proposes an amendment to  
27 the United States Constitution stating, "The Congress shall have power to prohibit the  
28 physical desecration of the flag of the United States"; and

29          **WHEREAS** Senate Joint Resolution 7, introduced in the United States Senate,  
30 proposes an amendment to the United States Constitution stating, "The Congress shall have  
31 power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States"; and

1           **WHEREAS** it is only fitting that people everywhere should lend their voices to a  
2 forceful call for restoration to the Stars and Stripes of a proper station under law and decency;

3           **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Alaska State Legislature that the Congress of the United  
4 States is requested to pass House Joint Resolution 36 or Senate Joint Resolution 7, or  
5 comparable legislation, and present to the legislatures of the several states an amendment to  
6 the Constitution of the United States that would specifically provide the Congress power to  
7 prohibit the physical desecration of the Flag of the United States; this request does not  
8 constitute a call for a constitutional convention; and be it

9           **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the legislatures of the several states are invited to join  
10 with Alaska to secure ratification of the proposed amendment.

11           **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Richard B. Cheney, Vice-  
12 President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Thomas  
13 Daschle, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the  
14 U.S. House of Representatives; the governors of each of the several states; the presiding  
15 officers of each house of the legislatures of the several states; and to the Honorable Ted  
16 Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, United States Senators, and the Honorable Don  
17 Young, United States Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.