

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 9
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS ZHAROFF, Taylor, Kelly, Phillips

Introduced: 1/11/93
Referred: JUD, FIN

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 Monument,
8 the United States Capitol Building, and memorials to our greatest leaders, that are the property
9 of every American and are therefore worthy of protection from desecration and dishonor; and

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

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

16 WHEREAS in the Second World War the American Flag was the banner that led the

1 American battle against fascist imperialism from the depths of Pearl Harbor to the
2 mountaintop on Iwo Jima, and from defeat in North Africa's Kasserine Pass to victory in the
3 streets of Hitler's Germany; and

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

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

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

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

14 **WHEREAS** the American Flag to this day is a most honorable and worthy banner of
15 a nation that is thankful for its strengths and committed to curing its faults, and remains the
16 destination of millions of immigrants attracted by the universal power of the American ideal;
17 and

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

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

23 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Alaska State Legislature that the Congress of the United
24 States is requested to prepare and present to the legislatures of the several states an
25 amendment to the Constitution of the United States that would specifically provide the
26 Congress and the legislatures of the several states the power to prohibit the physical
27 desecration of the Flag of the United States; this request does not constitute a call for a
28 constitutional convention; and be it

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

31 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Dan Quayle, Vice-President
32 of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable George J. Mitchell,

1 Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; to the Honorable Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the U.S.
2 House of Representatives; the governors of each of the several states; the presiding officers
3 of each house of the legislatures of the several states; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and
4 the Honorable Frank Murkowski, United States Senators, and the Honorable Don Young,
5 United States Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.