

HJR

59

Alaska State Legislature House of Representatives

Committees

Rules Committee, Chair
Legislative Council
International Trade & Tourism
Military & Veterans Affairs
World Trade & State/Federal Relations



Interim:
10928 Eagle River Rd. Suite 141
Eagle River, AK 99577

Session:
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 59

SPONSOR STATEMENT

This resolution urges the Congress of the United States to present a constitutional amendment to the states that would authorize Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the American flag.

The flag has long been enshrined as the symbol of what is right with America and is a most worthy emblem of our nation. The law, as interpreted by the United States Supreme Court no longer accords to the Stars and Stripes that reverence, respect and dignity befitting the banner of our noble experiment of a nation state, "the last, best hope of mankind." (A. Lincoln).

The Resolution supports Congressional House Resolution 54 or Senate Joint Resolution 40 providing Congress the authority to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag.

I urge your support for this Resolution.

Representative Pete Kott

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JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing the Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled*
3 *(two-thirds of each House concurring therein), That the fol-*
1 lowing article is proposed as an amendment to the Con-
2 stitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all
3 intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when
4 ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several
5 States within seven years after the date of its submission
6 for ratification:

7 "ARTICLE—

8 "The Congress shall have power to prohibit the phys-
9 ical desecration of the flag of the United States."

Passed the House of Representatives June 12, 1997.

Attest:

Clerk.

II

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION**S. J. RES. 40**

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 4, 1998

Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. CLELAND, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. FORD, Mr. LOTT, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. KEMPTHORNE, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. BOND, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BURNS, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. COATS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. D'AMATO, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. ENZI, Mr. FAIRCLOTH, Mr. FRIST, Mr. GRAMM, Mr. GRAMS, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. GREGG, Mr. HELMS, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mrs. HUTCHINSON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. KYL, Mr. LUGAB, Mr. MACK, Mr. McCAIN, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROTH, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. THOMPSON, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. WARNER, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BREAUX, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. REED, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, and Mr. JOHNSON) introduced the following joint resolution; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.

- 1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
- 2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
- 3 *That the following article is proposed as an amendment*
- 4 *to the Constitution of the United States, which shall be*

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1 valid to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitu-
2 tion when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of
3 the several States within 7 years after the date of its sub-
4 mission for ratification:

5 "ARTICLE ---

6 "The Congress shall have power to prohibit the phys-
7 ical desecration of the flag of the United States."

o

Ted Stevens

United States Senator For Alaska



February 4, 1998
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Press Office
(202) 224-5209

STEVENS JOINS IN SPONSORING RESOLUTION PROPOSING FLAG DESECRATION AMENDMENT

Senator Stevens today joined in sponsoring a Senate Resolution proposing a Constitutional Amendment that would give Congress the power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag.

Noting that Alaskans are strong in their belief that our flag should not be desecrated, Stevens said, "The power to amend the Constitution demands a cautious respect. It is a considerable power - one that has helped to chart the course of our history. We should not jump headlong into amendments. But we should not be afraid to act on our beliefs, either.

"The Supreme Court has given us a choice," the Senator said. "We can accept that the First Amendment allows the desecration of America's flag, or we can change the law to prevent it."

The Senator pointed out that 48 states had laws preventing flag desecration before those laws were struck down in a Supreme Court decision.

For those who serve overseas, in peacetime as well as conflict, the flag serves as a special reminder and symbol of the freedom Americans enjoy more than any other nation, Stevens said. The Senator, who was closely involved in the Statehood movement when he served as assistant to the Secretary of the Interior and Solicitor of the Department, recalled, "I remember the day the 49th star was pinned on our flag. It was one of the proudest moments of my life."

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