



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

October 4, 2007

The Honorable Speaker Nancy Pelosi
Office of the Speaker
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi,

Recently, we have learned of several congressional offices whose constituents have had their requests for flag certificates censored by the acting Architect of the Capitol, Mr. Stephen T. Ayers. He has informed several congressional offices that the use of the word "God" violates the Architect's rules prohibiting religious references on flag certificates.

For example, flag dedication requests that read, "for the love of God, family, and Country" have been denied. These certificates have been returned with the word "God" censored, and read only "for the love of family and Country."

When the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco ruled in 2002 that reciting the Pledge of Allegiance in public schools was an unconstitutional endorsement of religion, our Nation was correctly outraged. The public outcry against this court decision prompted a Senate resolution, spearheaded by then Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, condemning the decision, which passed 99-0. Additionally, over 100 House lawmakers gathered outside the Capitol steps to recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. The next day, the House passed with your support, by a vote of 416-3, H.Res.458 – a resolution calling for the reversal of this "constitutionally infirm and historically incorrect ruling".

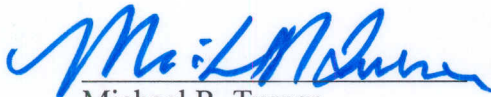
It is unfortunate and ironic, that while our nation is engaged in a legal battle to preserve those words in the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag; the Architect of the Capitol has unilaterally censored the word "God" from citizens' dedications of flags flown over the US Capitol.

The Architect is the custodian of the Capitol. Our Nation's Capitol contains many religious references including "In God we Trust" inscribed in both the House and Senate

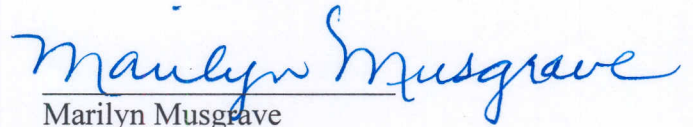
Chambers. The Architect's policy prohibiting "God" from appearing on certificates for flags flown over the US Capitol puts at risk our religious freedoms and heritage. The Architect's policy is in direct conflict with his charge as well as the scope of his office and brings into question his ability to preserve a building containing many national religious symbols.

We the undersigned request an immediate review of the authority under which the Architect is making these rules, as well as the reversal of this policy which censors our citizens' right to expressions of their faith.

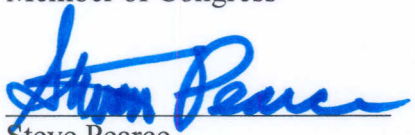
Sincerely,



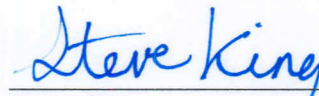
Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress



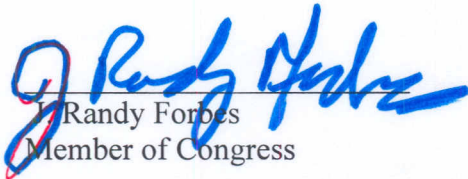
Marilyn Musgrave
Member of Congress



Steve Pearce
Member of Congress



Steve King
Member of Congress



Randy Forbes
Member of Congress

Ken Calvert

K. D. Ly TX 11

Cliff Seay

Tom Wilson

John T. Little

Pat J. Tiberi

John C. Costes TX 13

Mac Thornberry

Lynn Westcott GA 3

David L. Bonior

Jeff Miller IL 19

Tim Murphy PA 18

Y. F. Brown

Bob Latta

Chapman

Ronny S. Marston TX 19

John Klein MN 2

Tom DeLay N.J. 11 12

Tim Walberg MI 07

Fred R. Platts

Ben

John T. Treadwell

Lucretia

Steve Soyars

Jim Jordan

Jerry Lewis

Alma M. Marshall

Bice Shuster

Edna Duncanson!

Samuel

Jane Lang

Samuel

John H. Hester

Steve Chobot

Joseph Damm
KY-4

Hester L. Hester

Sam Campbell

Dana Rohrbacher

Jim Miller

Jo Borno MI-1

Jean Schmitt OK-2

Dan Burton

Dick Davis TN-01

John Mansling TX-5

Mark Sander

Phil Smith

Henry E Brown

Phil English

Henry

Frank G. ... MI

Sam Johnson

Bob ...

Scott James NY-05

Mary Faltin OK-05

Spencer ...

Richard Bachmann

Ken McConth

W. ...

Ray ...

XXXXXXXXXX
TX-2

Charles Lettinen
Charles M. W. G.
John A. Hill

Ken Young ^{AK}

Nathan Deal
Bill Gessing TX-32

Jerry Moran

Mary Dow
Allen Smith

Gregory Gail

Tom Dams

Walter B. Jones
Christopher Sharp

D. Bunker

Condie S. Miller

Frank R. Wolf

Corinne Mack

Long Pitts

E. C. Fournier

Pete Hochstetler

James Henderson

~~Jeff Johnson~~

Bill Sali

James P. ...
GA 06

Carroll ...
WA-050

John ...

Doug Lamborn
CO-5

Shelma ... VA 2

Virginia Foxe NC-05

Buck ...

Pig ...

Pat ...
MO-6

Jerry Everett
AL 02

Ralph M. Hall

Zygmund

Sue ...

Paul C. Brown

John ...

Jack Kinghor - GA-1

Greg Walden
John Boozman

Tom Feeney
Ray LaHood

Miko Rogers (AL)

Pete King

Mike Ferguson

Al Green

Johnston

Judy Biggs

T. Mc Cotton
Dewey Johnson
Mike McIntyre

Vincent Brown

Barbara Cubin

Tom Torrado CO-6

Omara Fuentetaja

Wally Ferguson

George Padanovich

John A. Sobush

David E. Long

Harshu Blackburn

Ging Snow White

Louis Lehman

Rgi Paul

Joseph

Sam Lee

John E. Peterson

W. D. Roger

Robert Frank

Howard Gable

Thomas Gould

Michael T. McCall
