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Remarks on Flag-Desecration Amendment 6/12/90 [OA 8313]

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
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photos - of

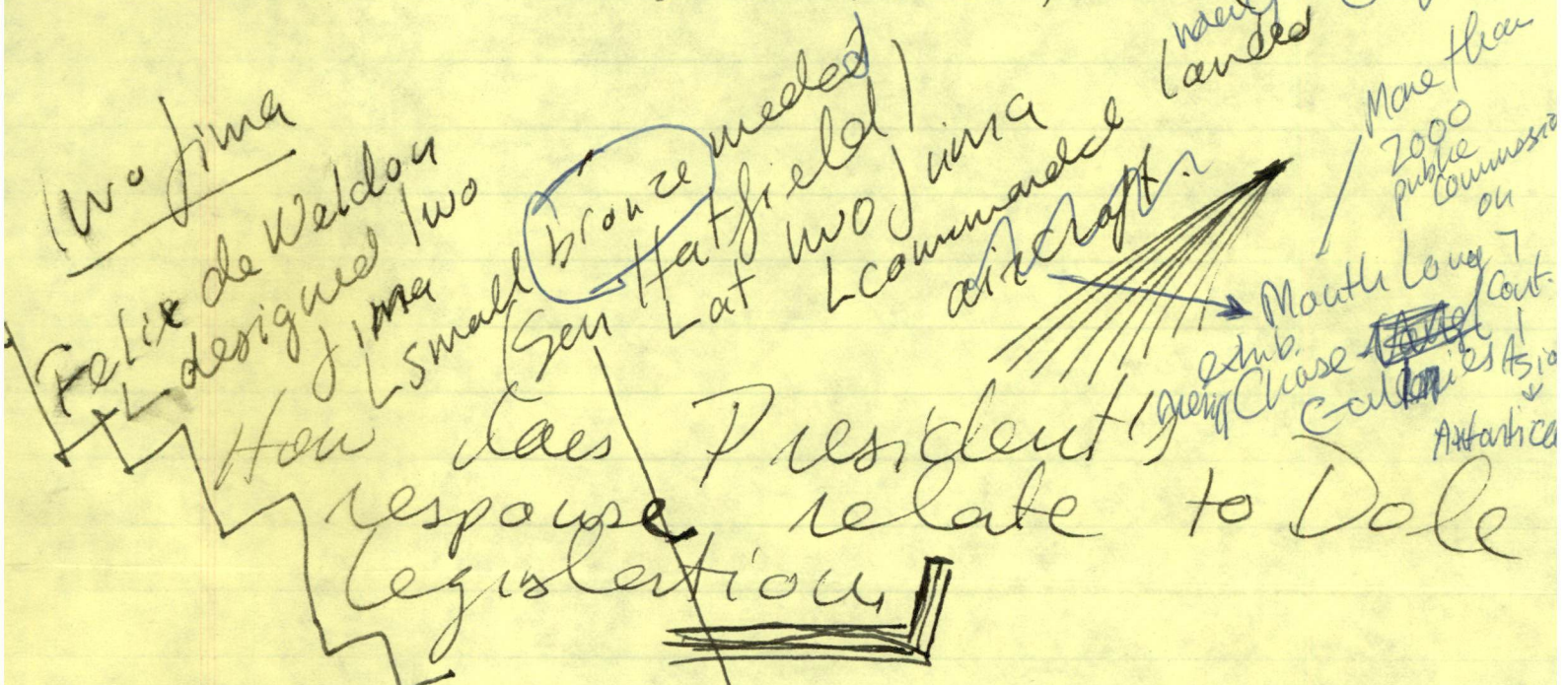
McClure
Gray

Dennis
224 Shea
3135

Flag-Burniny
June 11, 1990.

who will be there

1945
U.S.G.
craft



Sunny
Montgomery
+
Bob Michael
169
350
S Res 332

39 co-sponsors
incl. 17 Democrats
didn't

Rob Partman
2230

The Congress and the States
shall have power to prohibit
the physical desecration of the
flag of the U. States

Thurs

Dole / Hefflin Resolution
end of May.

Flag running

Bole Laffer - 514-4582

- Texas v. Johnson (5-4)
Brennan

v. United States. ^{J. Shaw & P. Eichman et al.}
Lambert for years -
changed the wording.
(Title 18, section 200.)

Solicitor
General

Virginia
Bolling.
514-22107

U.S. v. M.J. Haggerty.

Michael
Lazernitz
Atty

**FLAG AMENDMENT / ROSE GARDEN
TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 1990 / 3:55 P.M.**

THANK YOU, MR. [FELIX] DE WELDON. IT'S A GREAT PLEASURE TO BE WITH YOU AND SENATOR HATFIELD THIS AFTERNOON.

MR. DE WELDON HAS JUST PRESENTED ME WITH A BEAUTIFUL REPLICA OF THE MEMORIAL WHICH HE DESIGNED. IT IS OF A BATTLE IN WHICH YOU SERVED, SENATOR: THE BATTLE OF IWO JIMA.

- 2 -

YOU ALL KNOW THE STORY. EARLY 1945 -- EIGHT SQUARE MILES OF BLACK SAND AND VOLCANIC RUBBLE. GALLANT MARINES FOUGHT HAND-TO-HAND, YARD-BY-YARD. FINALLY, MOUNT SURIBACHI.

WHEN THE MARINES REACHED THE TOP, SIX MEN RAISED A PIECE OF PIPE UPRIGHT, AND FROM ONE END FLUTTERED A FLAG. AND IN THE MOST FAMOUS IMAGE OF WORLD WAR II, A PHOTOGRAPH WAS TAKEN. FROM IT CAME, ULTIMATELY, THE IWO JIMA MEMORIAL.

THIS MEMORIAL EMBODIES SELF-EXPRESSION AND OPPORTUNITY, AND DEMOCRACY FOR ALL. WELL, SO DOES ANOTHER SYMBOL I'D LIKE TO TALK ABOUT. CONCERN FOR THE AMERICAN FLAG AND WHAT IT REPRESENTS IS NOT NEW. FOR INSTANCE, 75 YEARS AGO PRESIDENT WOODROW WILSON SAID, "A PATRIOTIC AMERICAN IS NEVER SO PROUD OF HIS FLAG AS WHEN IT COMES TO MEAN TO OTHERS AS TO HIMSELF A SYMBOL OF LIBERTY."

HE KNEW THAT THE FLAG WAS MORE THAN MERE FABRIC. RATHER, IT IS A MOSAIC OF VALUES, AND OF LIBERTY. WHAT THAT FLAG ENCAPSULES IS TOO SACRED TO BE ABUSED. //

YOU ALL KNOW YESTERDAY'S SUPREME COURT DECISION. IT WAS NOT SURPRISING. ONE YEAR AGO THIS MONTH, MANY OF US -- DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT PROTECTING THE AMERICAN FLAG FROM WILLFUL DESECREATION -- PREDICTED ANY CONGRESSIONAL LEGISLATION WOULD BE DECLARED UNCONSTITUTIONAL. WE TAKE NO JOY THAT THIS PREDICTION HAS BEEN UPHELD. //

ACCORDINGLY, I WANT TO TAKE THE CHANCE TODAY TO RENEW MY COMMITMENT TO THE SUREST, SAFEST WAY TO GUARANTEE THAT, WHILE SPEECH REMAINS FREE, FLAG-DESECRATION IS UNACCEPTABLE AND MUST CARRY A PRICE. YES, A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO PROTECT THE TRULY UNIQUE SYMBOL OF ALL THAT WE ARE -- AND THAT WE BELIEVE.

OUR CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT WILL PRESERVE THE WIDEST CONCEIVABLE RANGE OF OPTIONS FOR FREE EXPRESSION. IT APPLIES ONLY TO THE FLAG. ITS LANGUAGE IS SIMPLE, BUT ELOQUENT: "THE CONGRESS AND THE STATES SHALL HAVE POWER TO PROHIBIT THE PHYSICAL DESECRATION OF THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES."

OUR FOREFATHERS -- WITH REMARKABLE FORESIGHT -- PROVIDED A MECHANISM FOR AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION. THEY WISHED IT TO BE USED SPARINGLY, AND WISELY.

IT HAS BEEN, AND MUST TODAY. JUST AS THE CONSTITUTION IS A UNIQUE SYMBOL OF AMERICA, SO IS THE FLAG.

AS JUSTICE STEVENS SAID SO ELOQUENTLY LAST YEAR WHEN HE SPOKE OF THE IDEAS OF LIBERTY, "IF THOSE IDEAS ARE WORTH FIGHTING FOR -- AND OUR HISTORY DEMONSTRATES THAT THEY ARE -- IT CANNOT BE TRUE THAT THE FLAG THAT UNIQUELY SYMBOLIZES THEIR POWER IS NOT ITSELF WORTHY OF PROTECTION FROM UNNECESSARY DESECREATION."

AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION TO PROTECT THE FLAG IS NOT A MATTER OF PARTISAN POLITICS. IT IS NOT A DEMOCRAT NOR REPUBLICAN ISSUE. IT IS NEITHER LIBERAL NOR CONSERVATIVE. IT IS AN AMERICAN ISSUE. SO I CALL ON THE CONGRESS TO ACT BY JULY 4, THIS NATION'S BIRTHDAY. I KNOW HONEST AND PATRIOTIC AMERICANS MAY DIFFER ON THIS ISSUE, BUT I AM ABSOLUTELY CONVINCED THIS IS THE PROPER COURSE FOR OUR COUNTRY.

I FEEL THIS IN MY HEART -- BECAUSE THE FLAG AND WHAT IT MEANS IS CARRIED IN THE HEARTS OF ALL AMERICANS.

HENRY WARD BEECHER ONCE SAID, "A THOUGHTFUL MIND, WHEN IT SEES A NATION'S FLAG, SEES NOT THE FLAG ONLY BUT THE NATION ITSELF." THROUGH A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT, LET US HONOR THE GREATEST SYMBOL OF THIS GREAT COUNTRY.

MR. DE WELDON, SENATOR, THANKS FOR COMING.

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