CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AUTHORIZING CONGRESS TO PROHIBIT THE PHYSICAL DESECRATION OF THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF
HON. DENNIS MOORE OF KANSAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2001

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.J. Res. 36, which proposes an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.

For over two hundred years, the Bill of Rights of our Constitution has been the cornerstone of our great nation and the source of our basic freedoms and rights. Our democracy has withstood many tests of our freedoms, and has been strengthened as a result. The occasional, random, despicable acts of public desecration of our flag present another such test.

The American flag is a symbol for liberty and justice, for freedom of speech and expression and all of the other rights we cherish. But as important as the symbol may be, more important are the ideals and principles which the symbol represents. That our nation can tolerate dissension and even disrespect for our flag is proof of the strength of our nation. If we amend our Bill of Rights to protect the flag we will forsake the very freedoms that the flag symbolizes.

On May 18, 1999, General Colin Powell, who has dedicated his life to serving our country, sent a letter to Senator Patrick Leahy sharing his reasons for opposing this constitutional amendment. Senator Leahy entered that letter in to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on March 29, 2000. The text of this poignant and thought-provoking letter is attached.

I love our country. I love our flag—and the principles for which it stands. By voting against this proposed amendment, we vote for the rights and freedoms that make our country great and distinguish our country from virtually every other country in the world.

GEN. COLIN L. POWELL, USA (Ret.),

Hon. Patrick Leahy,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Dear Senator Leahy: Thank you for your recent letter asking my views on the proposed flag protection amendment.

I love our flag, our Constitution and our country with a love that has no bounds.

In my country we are not afraid of freedom, it is the best weapon we have. Don’t be afraid of freedom, it is the best weapon we have.

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TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF MANILA

HON. MARION BERRY
OF ARKANSAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, July 18, 2001

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great Arkansas city that celebrated its centennial on July 3rd. I am proud to recognize the City of Manila in the Congress for its outstanding community spirit and its contributions to Arkansas and the nation.

Manila was incorporated in 1901 after a population and industry boom in the area. According to one account, a Chinese community settled in the area in the 1850s. The city was incorporated in 1901 and quickly became a center for the cotton industry. Today Manila is still growing. In fact, it is the fastest growing town in Mississippi County. Manila was incorporated in 1901 after a population and industry boom in the area. According to one account, a Chinese community settled in the area in the 1850s. The city was incorporated in 1901 and quickly became a center for the cotton industry. Today Manila is still growing. In fact, it is the fastest growing town in Mississippi County.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, July 18, 2001

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise together with my distinguished colleague from Arizona, JEFF FLAKE, to introduce the Export Administration Act of 2001.

My colleagues, it is high time for the Congress to responsibly legislate export controls. We have not done so properly since the end of the Cold War, when the raison d’etre for the Export Administration Act of 1979, of preventing the proliferation of sensitive dual-use technologies to the Soviet Union, ceased to exist.

Court Kennedy (1980) noted that, ‘As went the Soviet Union, so went the very multilateral non-proliferation system that effectively helped keep a lid on Soviet threat to the United States. So, also, went the very multilateral non-proliferation system, CoCom, that effectively helped keep a lid on that Soviet threat.

Tentative at the time of the Cold War, the United States has a long history of proliferation concerns and building a better multilateral system. Today, the United States is no different.

As went the Soviet Union, so went the very multilateral non-proliferation system, CoCom, that effectively helped keep a lid on that Soviet threat.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House International Relations Committee, I am keenly aware of the national security issues and threats that face our country. As former Ranking Member in the last Congress of the