

Statement on Senate Passage of a Proposed Constitutional Amendment To Prohibit Desecration of the American Flag

June 27, 2006

Today a bipartisan majority of United States Senators voted to protect our Nation's most important symbol through a constitutional amendment to authorize Congress to prohibit the desecration of the American flag. Unfortunately, the final count fell short of the votes needed to send this important proposed amendment to the States for ratification.

By showing respect for our flag, we show reverence for the ideals that guide our Nation and we show appreciation for the men

and women who have served in defense of those ideals.

I commend the Senators from both parties who voted to allow the amendment ratification process to protect our flag to go forward and continue to believe that the American people deserve the opportunity to express their views on this important issue.

NOTE: The statement referred to S.J. Res. 12.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Transmitting Budget Amendments for International Assistance Programs

June 27, 2006

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed FY 2007 Budget amendments for International Assistance Programs. The total discretionary budget authority in my FY 2007 Budget would not be increased by these requests.

The details of this proposal are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH

Remarks Following a Meeting With Military Personnel in St. Louis, Missouri

June 28, 2006

I want to thank you all for coming. I just had a discussion with fellow citizens in the Guard, Reserve, and active duty who have been in both Iraq and Afghanistan. I want to thank you for sharing your insights with me. Thank you for your service to the country.

I told these men and women that their service is necessary for the security of the

United States of America and that they're serving in historic times. And one day, their children will be able to look back and say, "My dad or my mom went to Iraq and Afghanistan and helped a young country become a democracy, and therefore, the world is more peaceful for it."

One of the things I am going to do is I'm going to meet with the family members