

The United States Flag: Federal Law Relating to Display and Associated Questions

Background

Public concern and confusion regarding the proper respect shown to the United States flag has given rise to many questions on the law relating to the flag's handling, display, and use. Both the state governments and the federal government have enacted legislation on this subject.

On the national level the Federal Flag Code¹ provides uniform guidelines for the display of and respect shown to the flag. In addition to the Code, Congress has by statute designated the national anthem and set out the proper conduct during its presentation.² The Code is designed "for the use of such civilian groups or organizations as may not be required to conform with regulations promulgated by one or more executive departments" of the federal government.³ Thus, the Flag Code does not prescribe any penalties for non-compliance nor does it include enforcement provisions; rather the Code functions simply as a guide to be voluntarily followed by civilians and civilian groups.

The Federal Flag Code does not purport to cover all possible situations. Although the Code empowers the President of the United States to alter, modify, repeal, or prescribe additional rules regarding the flag,⁴ no federal agency has the authority to issue "official" rulings legally binding on civilians or civilian groups. Consequently, different interpretations of various provisions of the Code may continue to be made. The Flag Code itself, however, suggests a general rule by which practices involving the flag may be fairly tested: "No disrespect should be shown to the flag of the United States of America."⁵ Therefore, actions not specifically included in the Code may be deemed acceptable as long as proper respect is shown.

- * Again, the provisions of the Flag Code on flying the flag at half-staff are, like all the Code's provisions, a guide only. They do not apply, as a matter of law, to the display of the flag at half-staff by private individuals and organizations. No federal restrictions or court decisions are known that limit such an individual's lowering his own flag or that make such display alone a form of desecration.

§ 5. Display and Use of Flag by Civilians; Codification of Rules and Customs; Definition.

The following codification of existing rules and customs pertaining to the display and use of the flag of the United States of America is established for the use of such civilians or civilian groups or organizations as may not be required to conform with regulations promulgated by one or more executive departments of the Government of the United States. The flag of the United States for the purpose of this chapter shall be defined according to Sections 1 and 2 of Title 4 and Executive

From: Buss, Michael D.
Date: 10/21/2014 11:59:37 AM
To: 'mass@cableone.net'
Cc: Dept. of Idaho
Subject: FW: Web site: flag at half mast

George -

Your email to National Headquarters has been forwarded to my office for reply. Thanks for writing.

It is certainly your post's prerogative if you desire to seek out a gubernatorial proclamation for the United States flag to be displayed at half-staff on a constant basis.

Thank you for your membership and patriotic concern.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Buss
Deputy Director, Americanism Division
Phone 317.630.1207 :: Fax 317.630.1369



THE AMERICAN LEGION
America's Veterans Service Organization

Sign up to receive half-staff flag notifications @ <http://www.legion.org/flag>.

-----Original Message-----

From: Customer Service
Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2014 12:16 PM
To: Buss, Michael D.
Subject: FW: Web site: flag at half mast

-----Original Message-----

From: no-reply@legionnews.org [mailto:no-reply@legionnews.org]
Sent: Monday, October 20, 2014 3:49 PM
To: Customer Service
Subject: Web site: flag at half mast

Message sent from george maas at mass@cableone.net

sir, im with post 144 in declo idaho, we put in a idaho roll call memorial monument it meets and exceeds protocol to have our governor to issue a proclamation to fly flag at half mast year round. its a sacred memorial for our fallen comrades and is supported by all veteran groups in our area,we want to have our governor issue a proclamation to do so, is thier any problem to do so, there is some memorials that do fly at half mast like treue der union in comfort texas, thank you, looking forward to your reply

george maas
(208) 650-0104
221 oleta
rupert, id 83350

October 17, 2014

Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter
State Capital
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720

Dear Governor Otter:

As your voter, I am writing this letter to urge you and your appropriate state agencies to act swiftly to reinstate the May 2014 Proclamation. The Proclamation states that the American Flag can be flown at half-mast at the Idaho Roll Call Memorial Monument in Rupert, Idaho. The Monument pays tribute to the fallen soldiers of Idaho.

It appears that some one took exception to the Flag being flown at half-mast. The unknown person called a Boise American Legion and complained. Soon after, the May 2014 Proclamation was rescinded. Simply put, the Flag can no longer be flown at half-mast, nor can our fallen comrades be honored or remembered.

As Veteran and Commander of the Paul Post 77, I do not agree with the cancellation of the May 2014 Proclamation. The Flag is why our comrades died. Only those who have not seen battle or have been in the military service would not understand the significance or meaning of the Flag flown at half-mast. Please reinstate the May 2014 Proclamation.

As Governor of Idaho, you have the authority to approve and authorize the Flag to be flown at half-mast. Thank you for your attention to this urgent request.

Sincerely,

//SIGNED//
Damian D. Rodriguez
Commander
Paul Post 77
P.O. Box 254
Paul, Idaho 83347
208-679-2550

From: Vicki Fike
Date: 10/19/2014 5:45:29 PM
To: mass@cablone.net
Subject: Monument

10/19/2014

To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Vicki Fike and I am writing this on behalf of myself and my husband, Jerry. We are not members of the Rupert POW/MIA Organization, but we have been and will continue to be supportive of this organization. The POW/MIA Organization spent considerable time, money, and labor to construct a monument to honor all of the fallen military. In a time of honor and remembrance we fly the United States Flag at half mast. The monument in question was built and dedicated to that exact purpose. As such, we feel that it is fit and proper to fly our Flag at Half Mast at all times. The current political atmosphere may trend towards disregard of the HONOR these men and women deserve, but it is our prayer that our state government is above following trends.

Vicki J. Fike Msgt USAF Ret.
Commander VFW Post 3043
Jerry Fike Navy Veteran
VFW Adjutant



Post 10
P.O. Box 74
Rupert, ID 83350

To Whom It May Concern,

American Legion Post 10 does **not** oppose the flying of the American flag at half-staff over the Idaho Roll Call Monument on 6th and Scott Street in Rupert.

It is seen as a symbol of respect and mourning for our fallen military soldiers, and those who are still Missing in Action and Prisoners of War.

We have our military to thank for keeping this great country of our safe and allowing us the freedom of speech however unless someone has not served in the military and in a combat situation it may not be known just how much was given for the citizens of the United States of America.

The committee that set this monument for all to see worked very hard and did all that was necessary to get it erected. As a military person I am forever grateful to have such a display here in our town.

Sincerely,
Commander, Gene R. Haux
American Legion Post 10
Rupert, ID 83350
(208) 436-6687

RUPERT POW/MIA

P.O.BOX 596

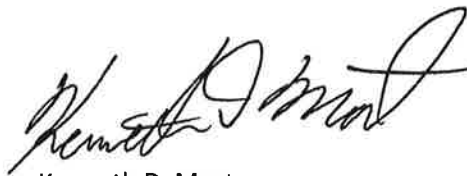
Paul, Idaho 83347

DATE: 20 October 2014

TO: Governor C. L. "Butch" Otter

SUBJECT: Flying of Federal Flag at Rupert POW/MIA Memorial

1. This letter is in reference to the flying of the Federal Flag at the Rupert POW/MIA Memorial Park located at the corner of Seventh and Scott in Rupert, Idaho.
2. Back in May of 2014, a Proclamation was signed by you authorizing the flying of the Federal Flag at half-staff at the Rupert POW/MIA Memorial as a constant reminder of the patriotism, courage and sacrifice of Idaho's fallen veterans.
3. It has been brought to our attention that this proclamation has since been rescinded. It is my intention as the commander along with all five members of the Rupert POW/MIA group to inform you that we are in support of the Federal Flag being flown over the Memorial be flown at half-staff. We feel, that if it is true that the proclamation that was signed by you has been rescinded, is a slap in the face to all veterans who have paid the ultimate sacrifice or have been a POW/MIA. This Memorial honor's those individuals from past, present, and future.
4. Any questions concerning this letter can be addressed to the undersigned @ 208-431-7623.



Kenneth D. Mort

Commander

Rupert POW/MIA

From: cassi

Date: 10/19/2014 6:18:44 PM

To: mass@cableone.net

Subject: Half-staff of Rupert Roll Call Memorial

To whom it may concern:

Both the Mini-Cassia Veterans Organization - Larry Cottom Commander and the Burley American Legion Post 17 - Alex Martinez - Commander strongly support the continuous 1/2 staffing of the American Flag located at the Rupert, Idaho Roll Call Memorial.

James Jensen

Adjutant, Burley Post 17

Treasurer, Mini-Cassia Veterans

10/19/2014

From: clark dickson
Date: 10/22/2014 11:27:13 AM
To: mass@cableone.net
Subject: DAV Support Half Mast Flag

Governor Otter

We the members of the Mini-Cassia Disabled American Veteran, Post 10 strongly urge and support the initiative to reinstate the proclamation to fly the American Flag at the Rupert Roll Call Memorial at half mast year round. It is a small but significant symbol of their sacrifice made for our freedoms all Americans enjoy today.

Sincerely

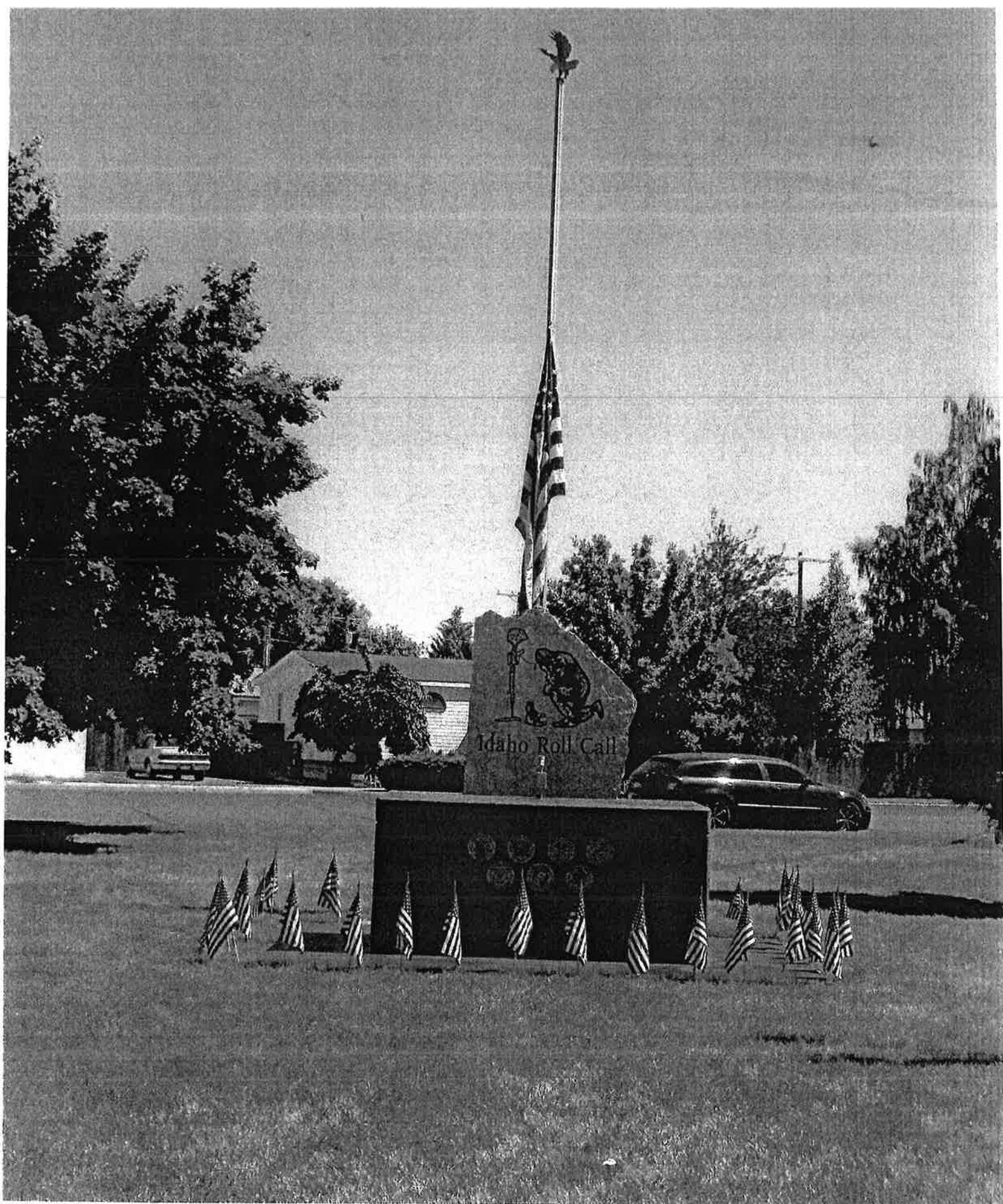
____Harley Goodwin, Commander

Mini-Cassia Disabled Veterans, Post 10.

From: Jimmy Hartwell
Date: 10/19/2014 5:44:35 PM
To: George & Dona
Subject: flag at half staff

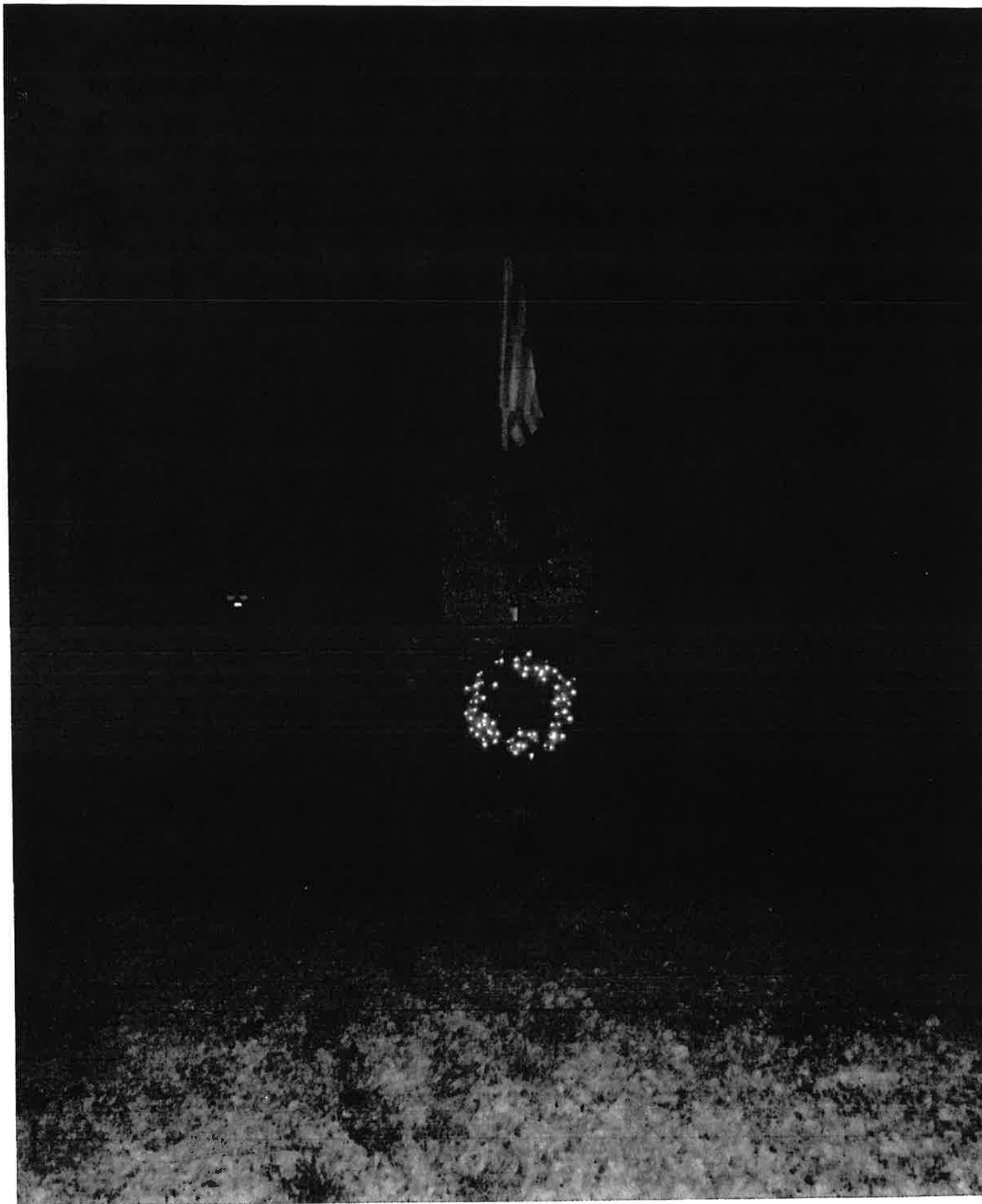
We of the Declo American Legion support flying the flag at half staff in honor of those who gave their lives for our freedom.

Glen Wilkinson
Commander

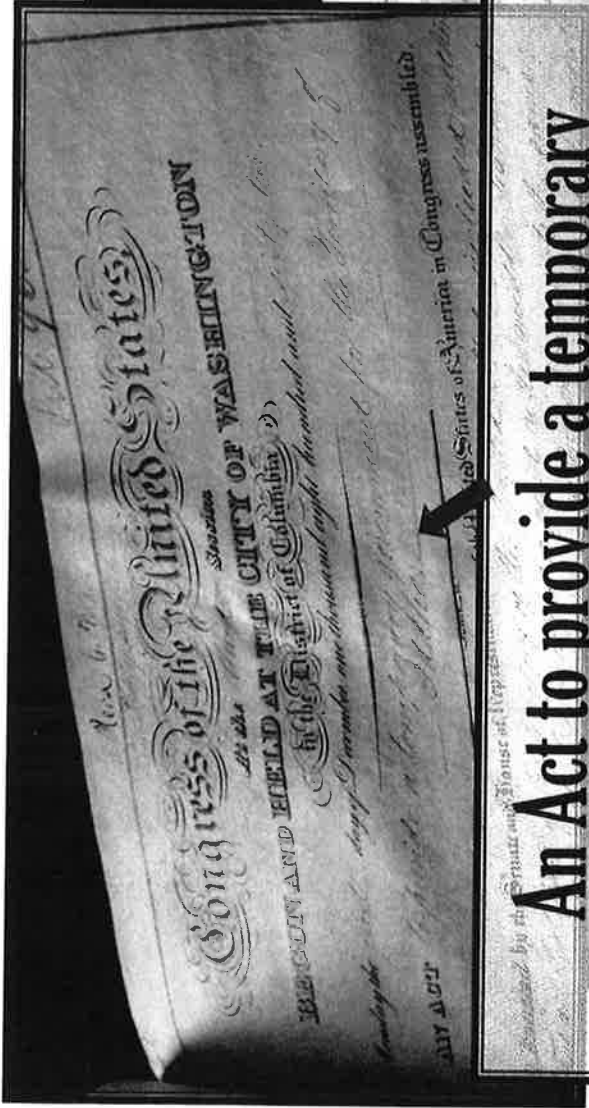




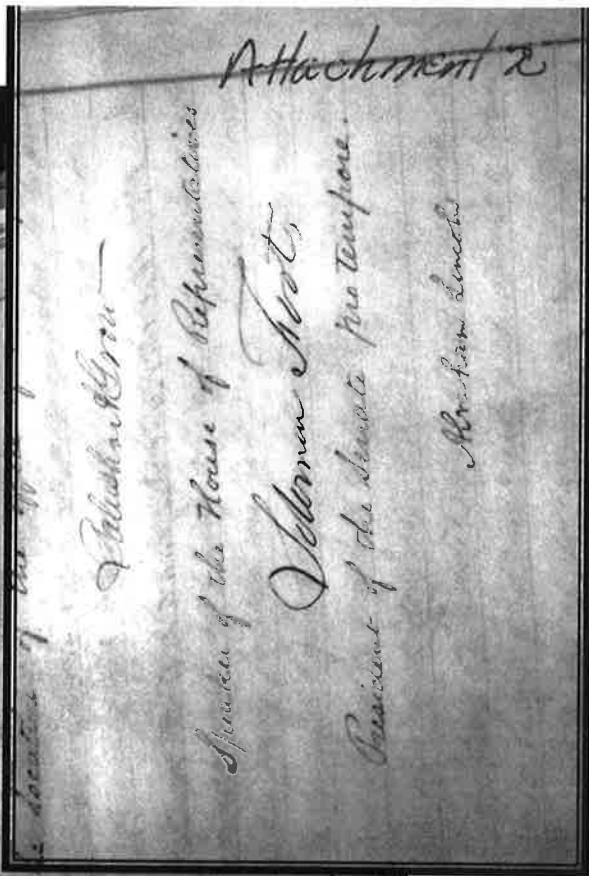
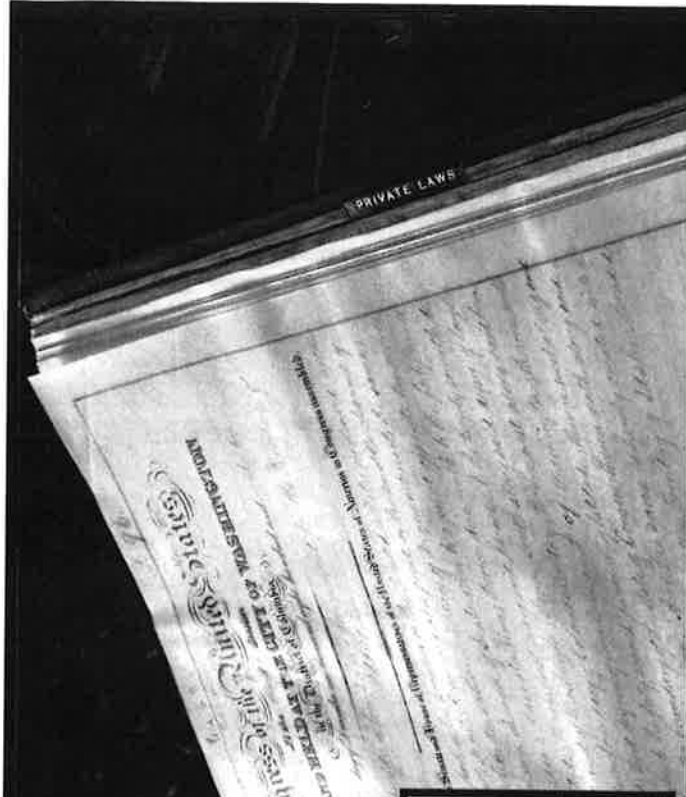








**An Act to provide a temporary
government for the Territory of IDAHO**



The Idaho Act

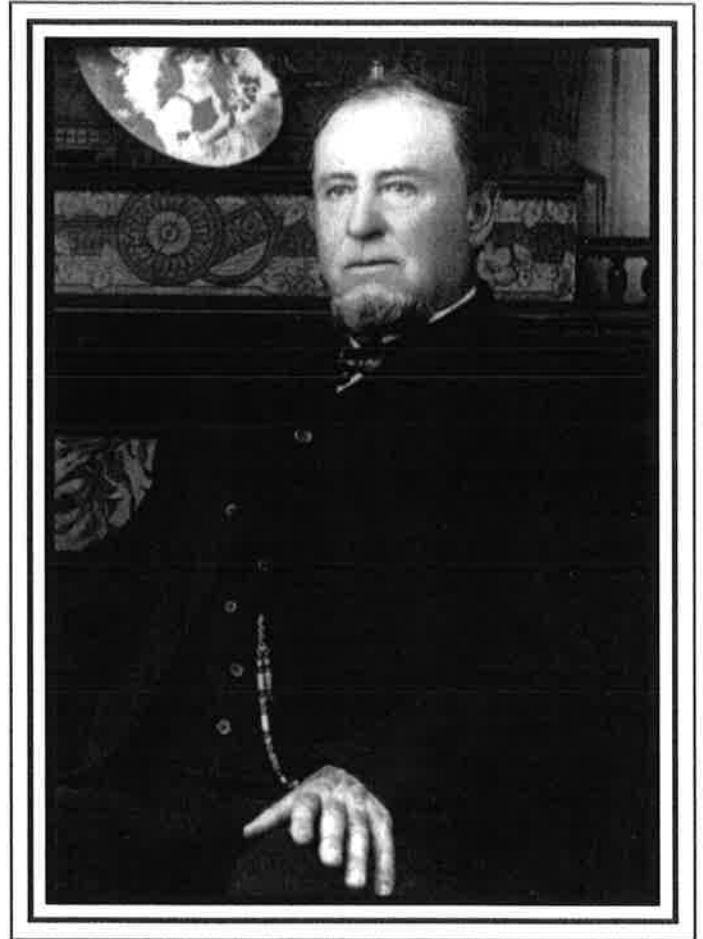
President Abraham Lincoln signed Idaho into a territory March 4, 1863

Pictures provided from the office of Senator James E. Risch - The original document resides at the Library of Congress in Washington D.C.

Distributed by Representative Linden Bateman



**President
Grover Cleveland**

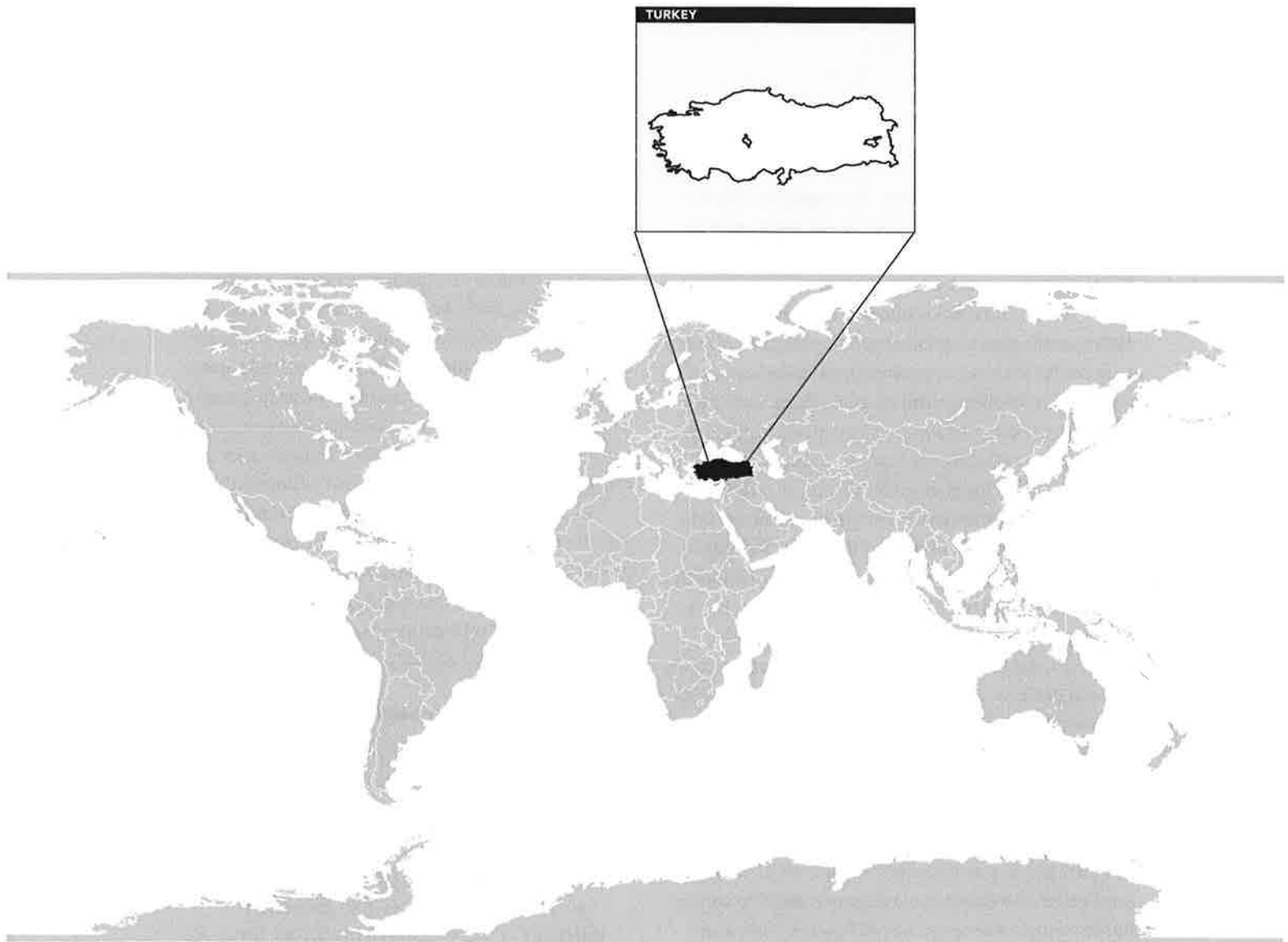


**Idaho Governor
Edward A. Stevenson**



These Men Saved Idaho

Distributed by Representative Linden Bateman



TURKEY

Key Findings

While the Turkish government has implemented some reforms in recent years to improve religious freedom, including regarding minority communities' property rights, religious dress, and education, significant concerns remain. Turkish secularism, as codified in the 1982 constitution, requires absolute state control over religion, which leads to governmental interference and restrictions that hinder full religious freedom in the country. As a constitutional secular state no religious community, including the Sunni Muslim majority, has full legal status. The government limits all religious groups' rights to own and maintain places of worship, train clergy, and offer religious education. This has been particularly detrimental to the smallest minority communities and their ability to transmit their faith to future generations. Other concerns include the listing of religious affiliation on national identity cards, societal discrimination, anti-Semitism, and persistent religious freedom violations in the Turkish-occupied northern part of Cyprus. Finally, it should be noted that the overall landscape for democracy and human rights has deteriorated significantly during the past year, including serious new restrictions on internet freedom, privacy, and media freedom, with troubling implications for freedom of religion or belief in Turkey. Based on these concerns, USCIRF places Turkey on Tier 2 in 2014.²¹

Background

In February 2014 USCIRF travelled to Turkey and met with religious leaders and community representatives, government officials, and NGOs. In these meetings, USCIRF received reports that over the last year, the Turkish government has continued to take positive steps with regard to religious minorities concerning

property and education, as well as dress for Muslim women. Nevertheless, USCIRF also heard views from some religious minority communities that conditions had worsened and that the steps taken were negligible, as well as concerns that the improvements, which are not codified in law, could be easily revoked, especially in the current political climate. Additionally, some communities were extremely disheartened by persistent rumors that the Hagia Sophia in Istanbul would be reopened as a mosque; the former church, which has been a museum since 1935, is a symbol of Christian history, legacy and acceptance to Turkey's small Christian communities.

Turkey's legal climate centers on its 1982 constitution. It provides for freedom of belief, worship, and the private dissemination of religious ideas and prohibits discrimination on religious grounds, but no religious community has full legal status and all are subject to state control. Following his 2011 re-election, Prime

Despite the significant constitutional impediments to full religious freedom protections, the Turkish government has shown that some improvements, such as relating to property rights and religious dress, are possible without a new constitution as long as there is sufficient political will.

Minister Erdoğan pledged to replace the 1982 constitution with one "focused on the individual, and committed to freedom." A parliamentary drafting commission was established, which collected information and recommendations from civil society and religious minority representatives. After more than 16 months, the commission disbanded over disagreements unrelated to religious freedom.

²¹ Commissioner William J. Shaw dissented from the decision to place Turkey on Tier 2. See his statement in appendix.

Despite the significant constitutional impediments to full religious freedom protections, the Turkish government has shown that some improvements, such as relating to property rights and religious dress, are possible without a new constitution as long as there is sufficient political will. Recognition of this dynamic in Turkey makes the government's continued failure to follow through on the long promised reopening of the Halki Seminary, a disturbing indication of a lack of genuine will to resolve this longstanding religious freedom violation.

Religious Freedom Conditions 2013–2014

Interference in Internal Religious Affairs

The Turkish government continues to require that only Turkish citizens can be members of the Greek Orthodox Church's Holy Synod. Although the Prime Minister in 2010 approved dual citizenship for 25 Metropolitans, others were denied. The government's role in deciding which individuals may be part of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate represents interference into their internal affairs. The government also has inter-

according to the government, at more than 2.5 billion Turkish Lira – have been returned or compensated for. However, 1,000 applications were denied, 800 for lack of information and 200 for other reasons. Some communities allege bias, consider the process very slow, and claim that compensation has been insufficient.

Since 2008, there has been an ongoing dispute over the Turkish government's attempted seizure of some territory of the 1,600-year-old Mor Gabriel Monastery, the Syriac Patriarch's residence from 1160 to 1932. In September 2013, the government announced that it would return Mor Gabriel to the appropriate Syriac Foundation and it has handed over the deed for 244,000 square meters (over 60 acres) of land. A case concerning an additional 320,000 square meters (nearly 80 acres) claimed by the community is pending before the European Court of Human Rights.

Education

The constitution makes religious and moral instruction compulsory in public primary and secondary schools, with a curriculum established by the Ministry of

The Greek Orthodox Theological School of Halki remains closed, as it has been since 1971, despite promises and public statements of support for its reopening by Prime Minister Erdoğan and President Gül.

ferred in the selection process of the Armenian Patriarchate's leadership, and denies religious minority communities the ability to train clergy in Turkey. The Greek Orthodox Theological School of Halki remains closed, as it has been since 1971, despite promises and public statements of support for its reopening by Prime Minister Erdoğan and President Gül. The Armenian Orthodox community also lacks a seminary.

Religious Minority Properties

The Turkish government throughout its history has expropriated religious minority properties. Beginning in 2003 and especially since the issuance of a 2011 decree, the government established a process to return some properties or pay compensation when return is not possible. Since 2011, 340 properties – valued,

National Education. In recent years the course, which had primarily focused on Islam, has been expanded to include all religions and atheism. [Note: The USCIRF delegation was unable to verify representations about the content of these courses.] Non-Muslim children can be exempted, although there are reports of societal and teacher discrimination against children who opt out. Additionally, after complaints by religious minority communities, the Ministry of Education states that it has made an effort to revise textbooks so as not to portray minorities in a derogatory manner.

Religious Dress

Pursuant to Turkish secularism, the government has long banned religious dress, including the wearing of headscarves, in state buildings, including public

and private universities, the parliament, courts, and schools. In the past, women who wore headscarves, and their advocates, have been expelled from universities and have lost public sector jobs, such as nursing and teaching. In September 2013, the Turkish government lifted the headscarf ban for women in public institutions and at schools. However, the ban still exists in areas that require a uniform, such as military and police offices, and in some courts. In addition, under Turkish law, only the titular head of any religious group may wear religious garb in public facilities, although there were no reports that the government or local police uphold this law in practice.

Alevis

Alevis comprise 15 to 25 percent of Turkey's total population. Although the Turkish government and many Alevis view them as heterodox Muslims, many Sunni Muslims do not accept that definition and consider them non-Muslims. Some Alevis identify as Shi'a Muslim, while others reject Islam and view themselves as a unique culture. Alevis worship in *cemevi* (gathering places), which the Turkish government does not consider legal houses of worship and thus cannot receive the legal and financial benefits associated with such status.

Anti-Semitism

Representatives of the Jewish community told USCIRF that their situation in Turkey is better than that of Jews in other majority Muslim countries and in parts of Western Europe. Jews in Turkey are able to worship freely, and their synagogues generally receive government protection when needed. However, concerns exist over rising anti-Semitism in society and in the media. Additionally, references to the "interest rate lobby" by some government officials, including the Prime Minister, are viewed by some interlocutors as coded language for members of the Jewish communities.

Northern part of the Republic of Cyprus

Turkey has occupied nearly 1/3 of northern Cyprus since 1974. In the last year minority communities were denied access to their religious places of worship and cemeteries that are within the boundaries of Turkish military zones or bases.

Recommendations for U.S. Policy

As it engages Turkey as an important strategic partner, the U.S. government, at the highest levels, should continue to raise religious freedom issues with Turkish government counterparts. Specifically, USCIRF recommends that the U.S. government should urge the Turkish government to:

- Revive the multi-party constitutional drafting commission with the goal of drafting a new constitution consistent with international human rights standards on religious freedom;
- Fully implement the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and interpret the 1923 Lausanne Treaty so as to provide equal rights to all religious minority communities;
- Fulfill private and publicly stated promises that the Greek Orthodox Halki Seminary would be reopened, and permit other religious communities to open and operate their seminaries as well;
- Permit religious communities to select and appoint their leadership in accordance with their internal guidelines and beliefs;
- Publicly rebuke government officials that make anti-Semitic or derogatory statements about religious communities in Turkey;
- Remove the space listing religious affiliation on official identification cards to comply with the 2010 European Court of Human Rights ruling that it violates freedom of religion or belief under the European Convention; and
- Ensure that, with respect to the northern part of the Republic of Cyprus, Turkish military authorities and Turkish-controlled local authorities end all restrictions on the access, use, and restoration of places of worship and cemeteries for religious minorities.

JOHN MCCAIN
ARIZONA

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE,
SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION
COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

United States Senate

August 27, 2008

241 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0303
(202) 724-2235

5253 NORTH 16TH STREET
SUITE 105
PHOENIX, AZ 85016
(602) 952-2410

4703 SOUTH LAKESHORE DRIVE
SUITE 1
TEMPE, AZ 85282
(480) 892-6289

407 WEST CONGRESS STREET
SUITE 103
TUCSON, AZ 85701
(520) 676-6334

TELEPHONE FOR HEARING IMPAIRED
(602) 952-0170

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

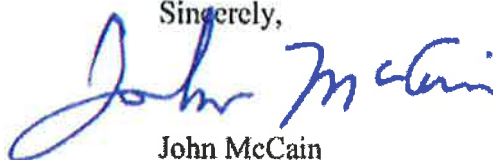
I am writing to express concern regarding the current situation of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, located in Istanbul, Turkey. The Ecumenical Patriarchate, the spiritual home to more than 250 million Orthodox Christians living and worshipping throughout the world, stands as a stirring testament to the power of faith in the global community.

Many have spoken out in recent years over actions of the government of Turkey against the Ecumenical Patriarchate, including its decision not to recognize the ecumenical status of the Greek Orthodox Patriarch and its refusal to reopen the Halki Seminary. I too share many of these concerns and believe that the United States must stand in favor of basic religious rights and freedoms.

The United States and Turkey share an important strategic partnership based on many shared interests and principles. It is important that allies speak candidly not only on issues of agreement, but also on areas of concern. In discussions with the Turkish government, the United States must voice our strong support for the Ecumenical Patriarchate and continue our unequivocal advocacy for the preservation and protection of fundamental human rights, religious liberty, and social justice.

As Americans, I know we share a deep respect for the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and for the Greek Orthodox community worldwide. It is in our interest to work collectively with the Turkish government and our European allies to pursue a course of action that will protect the rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and prevent a religious tragedy.

Sincerely,



John McCain
United States Senator

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 21, 2011

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The religious freedom of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the spiritual head of the world's second largest Christian Church, Orthodox Christianity, is a very high priority for us. You will recall that in 2006, you and an overwhelming majority of your Senate colleagues signed a letter to President George W. Bush expressing concern about this matter.

We believe that Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew's religious freedom is important for many reasons including:

- He is the spiritual leader of millions of American citizens and over 300 million communicants worldwide;
- His nearly 2,000-year-old Sacred See is the location where the early Christian Church developed and where, among other things, the Nicene Creed was written;
- He is one of the world's preeminent leaders for peace and the environment, and was awarded our nation's Gold Medal by the U.S. Congress, and was recognized by the United Nations, *Time Magazine* and many others;
- He is the 269th direct successor of the Apostle Andrew, the brother of Saint Peter; and
- His religious freedom rights are an important gauge of progress made on one of the greatest challenges facing America and the world – achieving mutual understanding and tolerance among the major faiths.

As you know, Turkey has made some relative progress on this issue in recent months. The government has, in some quarters, lessened its objection to anyone referring to His All Holiness as "Ecumenical," although the government of Turkey still refuses to do so officially. It also has improved some aspects of Patriarchal succession. In addition, it adhered to the judgment ordering the return of the Ecumenical Patriarchate's orphanage made by the European Court of Human Rights of the Council of Europe, of which Turkey is the current Chairman.

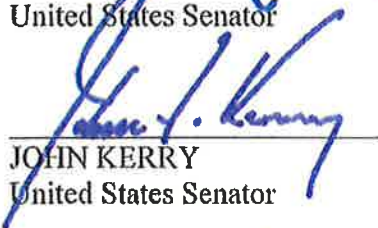
However, much more needs to be done. Turkey must be encouraged to understand the inappropriateness of successive Prime Ministers forcefully involving themselves in the Christian Orthodox Church's selection of succeeding Ecumenical Patriarchs. Turkey must also return to the Ecumenical Patriarchate the confiscated property that the Ecumenical Patriarch has petitioned for and allow the reopening of its only seminary, Halki Theological School, which has been forcibly and unjustly closed for 40 years.

The restoration of such religious freedom and human rights for Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew will benefit people of all faiths, America's vital interests and the best interests of Turkey as well.

Sincerely,



ROBERT MENENDEZ
United States Senator



JOHN KERRY
United States Senator



JEANNE SHAHEEN
United States Senator



BENJAMIN CARDIN
United States Senator



RICHARD DURBIN
United States Senator



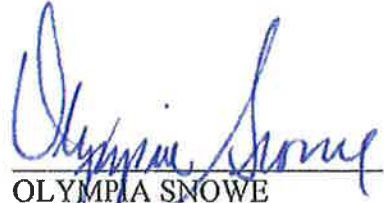
CARL LEVIN
United States Senator



BARBARA BOXER
United States Senator



ROBERT P. CASEY JR.
United States Senator



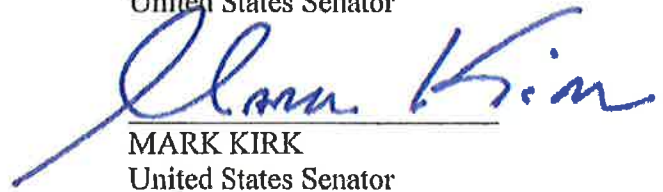
OLYMPIA SNOWE
United States Senator



RICHARD LUGAR
United States Senator



JERRY MORAN
United States Senator



MARK KIRK
United States Senator



MIKE JOHANNNS
United States Senator



JEFF SESSIONS
United States Senator



RICHARD BURR
United States Senator



SUSAN COLLINS
United States Senator

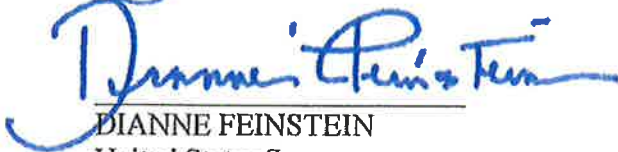
Religious freedom of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew



SHELDON WHITEHOUSE
United States Senator



JACK REED
United States Senator



DIANNE FEINSTEIN
United States Senator



SHERROD BROWN
United States Senator



DEBBIE STABENOW
United States Senator



BARBARA MIKULSKI
United States Senator



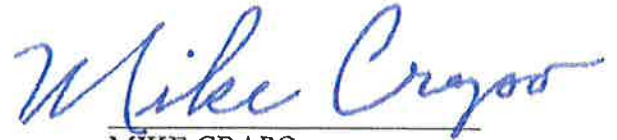
JOE MANCHIN III
United States Senator



RON WYDEN
United States Senator



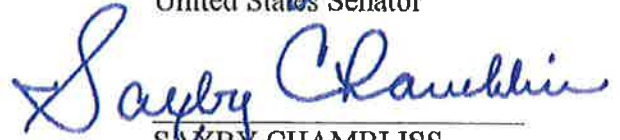
RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
United States Senator



MIKE CRAPO
United States Senator



KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON
United States Senator



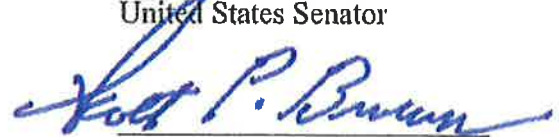
SAXBY CHAMBLISS
United States Senator



JOHN BOOZMAN
United States Senator



MARCO RUBIO
United States Senator



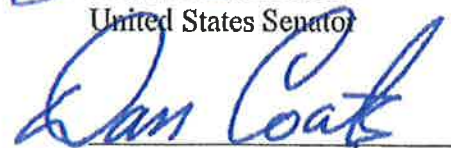
SCOTT BROWN
United States Senator



DAVID VITTER
United States Senator



JOHNNY ISAKSON
United States Senator



DANIEL COATS
United States Senator



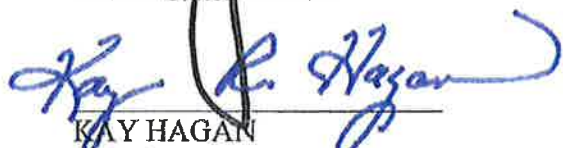
MARY LANDRIEU
United States Senator



BILL NELSON
United States Senator



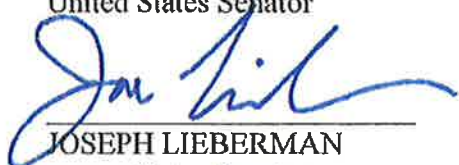
DANIEL INOUE
United States Senator



KAY HAGAN
United States Senator



KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND
United States Senator



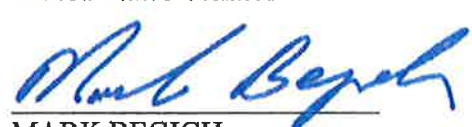
JOSEPH LIEBERMAN
United States Senator



FRANK R. LAUTENBERG
United States Senator



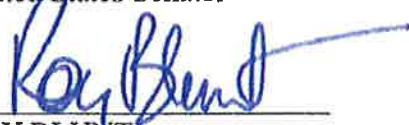
TIM JOHNSON
United States Senator



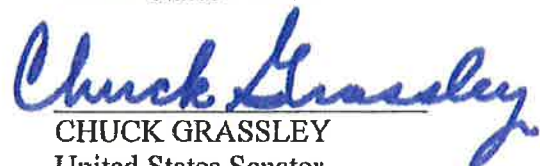
MARK BEGICH
United States Senator



JON KYL
United States Senator



ROY BLUNT
United States Senator



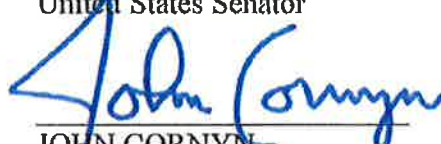
CHUCK GRASSLEY
United States Senator



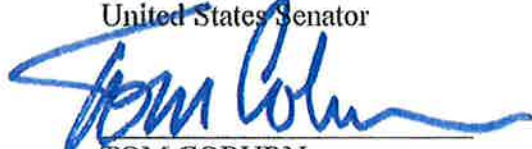
JAMES INHOFE
United States Senator



ROB PORTMAN
United States Senator



JOHN CORNYN
United States Senator



TOM COBURN
United States Senator

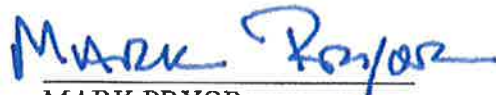


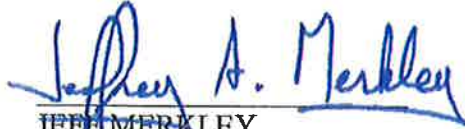
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BEN NELSON
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JEFF MERKLEY
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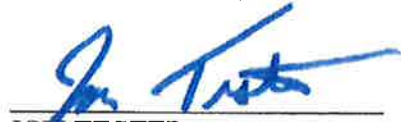

HERB KOHL
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AL FRANKEN
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CLAIRE McCASKILL
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THOMAS CARPER
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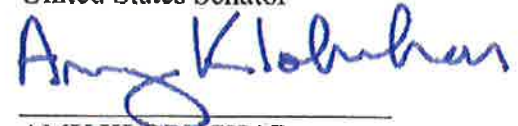

MICHAEL BENNET
United States Senator

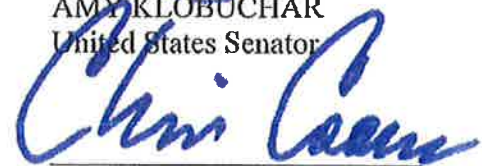

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CHARLES SCHUMER
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JOHN MCCAIN
United States Senator



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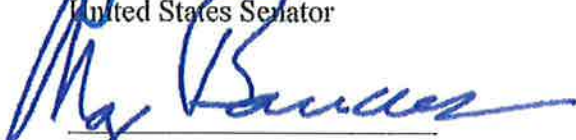
JEFF BINGAMAN
United States Senator



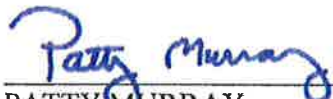
JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER IV
United States Senator



JOHN BARRASSO
United States Senator



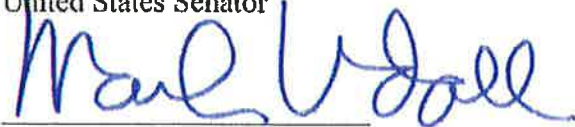
MAX BAUCUS
United States Senator



PATTY MURRAY
United States Senator



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May 11, 2007

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MARK G. GAGE
REPUBLICAN SENIOR POLICY ADVISOR

KIRSTI T. GARLOCK
REPUBLICAN CHIEF COUNSEL

His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdogan
Prime Minister
Ankara
REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

Millions of Orthodox Christians in the United States, and 250 million around the world, are facing the likely elimination of their nearly 2,000-year-old spiritual beacon, the Ecumenical Patriarchate. In our view, this lamentable situation is the result of certain inappropriate practices of the Turkish Government, particularly as they are implemented in an era when the population of Turkish citizens who are Greek Orthodox has shrunk to near-negligible numbers.

We are especially concerned about three aspects of Turkish Government policy toward its citizens who are Greek Orthodox – practices which threaten the viability of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in a direct and urgent manner. The first of these is your longstanding unwillingness to recognize the Ecumenical Patriarchate as ecumenical – that is, trans-national. As you surely know, the entire world outside of Turkey, Orthodox and non-Orthodox, recognizes the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate in Istanbul as the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Its Ecumenical nature derives from its history and spiritual stature as well as the faith and perceptions of people around the globe. We would hope that you would view the Ecumenical Patriarchate as part of the rich cultural tapestry of your magnificent, vibrant city.

Second, we are deeply concerned by your continued involvement in the process of selecting the Ecumenical Patriarch and by your continued insistence that he be a Turkish citizen. These practices clearly reflect your policy of viewing the Ecumenical Patriarchate as a strictly Turkish institution, when, in fact, it provides spiritual and moral guidance for millions of believers worldwide. Today there are less than 2,500 Greek

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Page Two

Orthodox citizens of Turkey, most of whom are elderly. Accordingly, under present policies, there soon will be virtually no Greek Orthodox citizens of Turkey left to qualify as Ecumenical Patriarch.

Third, your expropriations of lands belonging to the Ecumenical Patriarchate, as a result of a policy in which the state takes possession of lands not being directly used by the Ecumenical Patriarchate and of lands of those who emigrated or died without heirs, is very worrisome to us. This policy deprives the Ecumenical Patriarchate of both badly needed funds and cultural patrimony.

All Americans and all seekers of peace highly value Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew's accomplishments. As you surely know, the U.S. Congress has bestowed on His All Holiness America's highest honor, the Congressional Gold Medal, and it did so with the largest number of cosponsors on record at that time.

The Ecumenical Patriarchate – the Sacred See, which has survived since its establishment by the Apostle Andrew nearly two thousand years ago – will disappear in the foreseeable future, unless Turkey changes its policies. We urge you, in friendship and respect, to do everything possible to preserve the Ecumenical Patriarchate and to end all restrictions on its religious freedom.

Sincerely,



TOM LANTOS
Chairman



ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN
Ranking Republican Member



HOWARD L. BERMAN



CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH



GARY L. ACKERMAN



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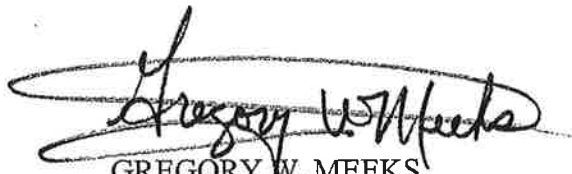

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His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdogan
May 11, 2007
Page Four



ADAM SMITH



MIKE PENCE



RUSS CARNAHAN



JOE WILSON



LYNN C. WOOLSEY



J. GRESHAM BARRETT



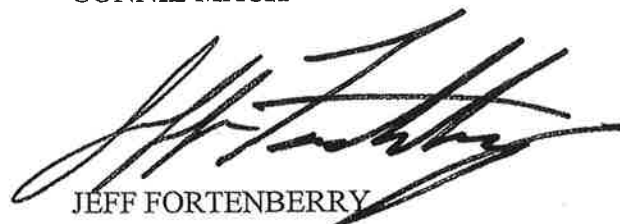
SHEILA JACKSON LEE



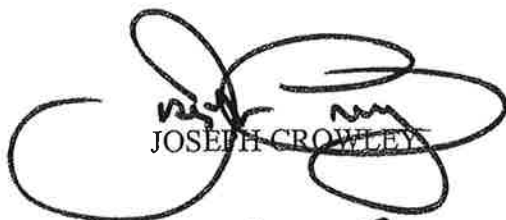
CONNIE MACK




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MICHAEL T. MC CAUL



BRAD MILLER



BOB INGLIS

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May 11, 2007
Page Five


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52 Resolutions / 42 U.S. States

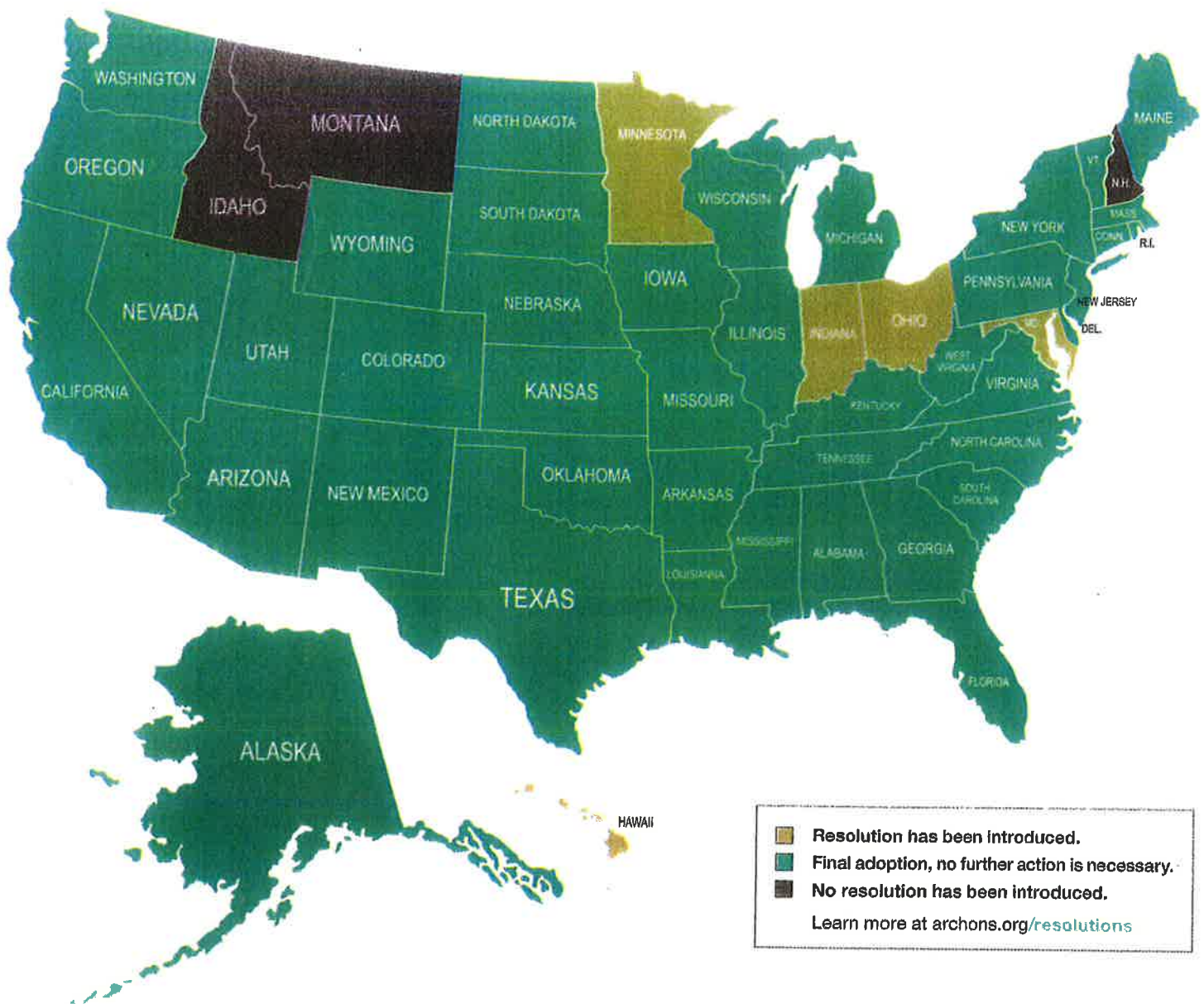
Representing

90%

of the
American
population

In 2006, the National Council of the Order of Saint Andrew initiated the Religious Freedom Resolutions project, coordinated by Archon Stephen Georgeson of Atlanta. The goal of this project, which represents one component of the overall, multi-faceted Religious Freedom Initiative, is the adoption of religious freedom resolutions in support of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in every state legislature. This project is an ongoing effort of the Order of Saint Andrew and represents an important part of the governmental and public affairs strategy of the Religious Freedom Initiative. Below is the most recent update as of October 15, 2014:

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|---|
| Alabama SJR 73 Adopted by House and Senate on 5/2007 | Alaska SJR 28 - Introduced on 2/18/2010 Adopted by Senate 4/5/2010 Adopted by House 4/11/2010 | Arizona HCM 2009 Introduced on 1/17/2008 Adopted by House 3/18/2008 Adopted by Senate 5/22/2008 | Arkansas SCR 3 Introduced on 1/22/2009 Adopted by Senate on 2/18/09 Adopted by House 3/12/2009 | California SJR 17 Introduced on 9/10/2007 Adopted by Senate 2/28/2008 Adopted by Assembly 8/30/2008 |
| Colorado HJR 1014 Adopted by House and Senate on 4/7/2011 | Connecticut Adopted on 4/30/2010 | Delaware HR 9 Introduced on 3/10/2009 Adopted on 3/19/2009 | Florida HM 191 Introduced on 3/2/2010 Adopted on 4/23/2010 SM 314 Introduced on 3/1/2010 Adopted on 4/28/2010 | Georgia HR 415 Adopted by House 4/2007 SR 1038 Introduced on 2/27/2008 Adopted by Senate 3/6/2008 |
| Hawaii SCR 57 and SR 31 Introduced on 3/4/2011 <i>Adopted by House</i> | Idaho No resolution has been introduced at this time. | Illinois HR 666 Introduced on 8/10/2007 Adopted on 10/4/2007 SR 70 Introduced on 2/25/2009 Adopted on 5/31/2013 | Indiana SR 4 Introduced on 1/5/2011 <i>Adopted by House</i> | Iowa HR 27 Introduced on 3/12/2009 Adopted on 3/23/2009 |
| Kansas SR 1807 Introduced on 1/6/2011 Adopted by Senate 2/3/2011 | Kentucky HR 244 Adopted on 3/26/2008 | Louisiana SR 109 Adopted by Senate 6/2007 | Maine HP 924 Introduced on 3/25/2009 Adopted by House 3/31/2009 Adopted by Senate 4/2/2009 | Maryland HJR 5 Introduced on 3/14/2008 <i>Adopted by House</i> |
| Massachusetts Adopted on 4/16/2008 | Michigan SCR 6 Introduced on 3/19/2009 Adopted by House 3/19/2009 Adopted by Senate 3/25/2009 | Minnesota SR 178 Introduced on 4/2/2008 <i>Adopted by House</i> | Mississippi HCR 67 Introduced on 3/19/2008 Adopted by House 3/31/2008 Adopted by Senate 4/16/2008 | Missouri HR 1365 Introduced on 3/19/2008 Adopted by House 5/7/2012 SR 1762 Adopted by Senate 5/7/2012 |
| Montana No resolution has been introduced at this time. | Nebraska LR 273 Introduced 1/6/2010 Adopted on 4/13/2010 | Nevada ACR 31 Adopted by Assembly and Senate on 5/6/2009 | New Hampshire No resolution has been introduced at this time. | New Jersey SJR 11 Adopted by Senate and House 6/2008 |
| New Mexico HM 39 Introduced on 2/2/2010 Adopted by House 2/13/2010 | New York Adopted by Senate and House 4/1/2011 | North Carolina Adopted on 6/28/2010 | North Dakota SCR 4014 Introduced 1/26/2010 Adopted on 3/24/2011 | Ohio SCR 3 Introduced on 2/1/2011 <i>Adopted by House</i> |



| | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|---|
| Oklahoma SR 64 Introduced on 2/19/2008 Adopted on 3/24/2008 | Oregon SJR 16 Introduced on 5/4/2009 Adopted by Senate on 5/6/2009 Adopted by House on 6/1/2009 | Pennsylvania HR 876 Adopted by House 11/2006 SR 188 Introduced on 10/24/2007 Adopted by Senate 3/10/2008 | Rhode Island SR 896 Adopted by Senate 3/2007 | South Carolina HR 4727 Introduced on 2/20/2008 Adopted by House on 4/9/2008 SR 735 Adopted by Senate 5/2007 |
| South Dakota SCR 6 Adopted by Senate 2/21/2012 Adopted by House on 2/23/2012 | Tennessee SJR 535 Adopted by Senate 6/2007 Adopted by House on 4/17/2008 | Texas HCR 1670 Introduced on 5/1/2011 Adopted on 5/5/2011 SR 1006 Adopted on 5/16/2011 | Utah SR 1 Introduced on 1/23/2009 Adopted on 2/5/2009 HR 2 Introduced on 2/3/2009 Adopted on 2/19/2009 | Vermont JRS 47 Introduced on 2/9/2010 Adopted on 5/12/2010 |
| Virginia HR 35 Adopted on 3/1/2012 | Washington HR 35 Adopted by the Senate and House 2/26/2012 | West Virginia HCR 37 Introduced on 2/11/2008 Adopted by House 3/3/2008 Adopted by Senate 3/6/2008 | Wisconsin SR 10 Introduced on 3/4/2010 Adopted on 4/22/2010 | Wyoming Adopted on 6/20/2012 |