

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO PROHIBIT PHYSICAL DESECRATION OF THE FLAG

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 1995

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I am a proud co-sponsor of House Joint Resolution 79, the resolution to protect the U.S. flag from physical desecration.

This year, we continue to commemorate anniversaries of the passage of 50 years since notable events of World War II. One of those celebrations marked the anniversary of the U.S. capture of the Japanese island Iwo Jima. Many of us can picture the famous photograph and bronze monument near Washington, D.C., and adjacent to Arlington National Cemetery. Of the many monuments, memorials, and truly powerful sights, the Iwo Jima Memorial, illustrating U.S. Marines raising the U.S. flag above a battleground covered with American casualties, has prominence in our appreciation of the flag. It was the wish of President John F. Kennedy to fly a fabric U.S. flag atop the mast being raised by the dramatic figures.

Our flag is the embodiment of our national pride. It is what we use to identify our Nation at everything from community picnics to international events such as the Olympic games. It is used to cover the caskets of those who served in our military when they are interred. We witnessed the positive expressions and use of the flag when our pilot returned safely from Bosnia. One might ask, Why should not all Americans share the same reverence and regard for the flag as those six Marines did in 1945? Not all share the same feelings. But that is exactly what the flag represents—varying opinions. And that is why I believe strongly we must protect it from desecration.

Many men and women fought to defend and protect the flag and the great Nation it represents. During our Nation's history, few objects have evoked such emotion, loyalty, and bravery. The U.S. flag is more than a fabric which flies over courthouses and post offices. It represents our beliefs, our dreams, our sense of responsibility and community. We should remember what it means to each of us today and pledge our allegiance to the principles it represents.

TRIBUTE TO THE EAST ROWAN MUSTANGS

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 30, 1995

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that a team from the Sixth District, the East Rowan High School Mustangs, recently won the North Carolina 3A baseball championship. On Saturday, June 10, 1995, the East Rowan Mustangs defeated the Asheboro Comets, another Sixth District high school, in a best-of-three series to take the crown.

East Rowan capped a magnificent year with a 16-game winning streak to finish the season at 29-1. The Mustangs have been the mark of

stability over the last three seasons, with 73 victories and only 8 defeats. Last season the Mustangs made it to the State semifinals before being bounced from the tournament. This year was to be different, as the team produced the first State baseball championship for East Rowan High School in 18 years.

In game one, Shawn Kellii hit a two-run single to highlight a four-run first inning, and pitchers Mike Morris and Greg Beaver combined for a five-hit shutout, as the Mustangs cruised to a 7-0 victory.

In game two, series MVP and catcher Brad Rye knocked in two runs with a single and a triple as East Rowan won by a margin of 4-0. Pitcher Russell Holshouser was instrumental as he held the Comets to just two hits for the game.

Known throughout the State as an offensive juggernaut, the East Rowan Mustangs scored more than 10 runs in 15 games this season, but clearly defense and superb pitching were instrumental in helping the team to win the championship.

On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we offer congratulations to head coach Jeff Safrut, as well as assistant coaches Chris Cauble, Craig Hicks and Jeff Owen. Congratulations to the members of the squad: Chris McGinnis, Chad Stoner, Brian Cross, Skip Livengood, Damon Brinkley, Andy Cornelison, Jaret Doty, Russell Holshouser, David Trexler, Jason Foster, Garrett Barger, Brian Goodman, Chad Yates, Travis Goins, Greg Beaver, Brad Rye, Mike Morris, Shawn Kellii, Jeff Gobble, Kevin Barger, Andy Cauble, C.J. Moody, as well as the team managers, Amy Holshouser, and Samantha Burnette.

You are all truly deserving of your championship, and we are all proud of you. The Sixth District is proud to have the East Rowan Mustangs as North Carolina's State 3A baseball champions.

THE LAST AMERICAN FLAG OF THE SS "JOHN LYKES"

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 30, 1995

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, when an American flag flies on the stern of a Merchant Marine ship for several years, that flag becomes a symbol of the values and ideals for which the Merchant Marine has fought to preserve and protect in both war and peace. But just as important, that same flag becomes a symbol for the pride, dedication, and sentiments of the seaman who served on that ship's crew for so many years. To scrap the ship, and thus to never let that flag fly again, would be a tragic dishonor to the American colors and to the patriotism of those servicemen who worked under them.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, this is exactly what is happening to the SS *John Lykes*. William Steadman, a constituent from my district, recently sent me a copy of a letter to President Clinton from the captain, officers, and crew of this Merchant Marine ship which was scrapped along with 14 others in 1994. Mr. Speaker, that ship represents the culmination of 35 years of service from 87 seamen a year in the Merchant Marines. And it is only one of many in the Merchant Marine fleet that is suf-

fering this fate. This letter from the captain and crew of the SS *John Lykes* makes a passionate plea to save the Merchant Marines. Our servicemen are pleading to us for help, and they cannot be ignored. As a member of the former Merchant Marine Committee and of the current Merchant Marine panel, I fully understand the implications of this terrible process by which the Merchant Marine, which has so faithfully served our country in war and peace, is becoming extinct. Our Federal Government is making a big mistake, and it must be stopped.

The following letter from the captain and crew of the SS *John Lykes* explains their sentiments very clearly and boldly. I urge President Clinton to listen to their message. Though it may be too late to save the SS *John Lykes*, it is our duty to our service members to keep its sister ships in the Merchant Marine faithfully serving our country, and along with them, the American flag flying proudly.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Enclosed is the last American flag flown from the stern of the SS *John Lykes*. One of the 15 Lykes ships scrapped since 1994. This American flag last flew on March 12, 1995, Port of New Orleans. It will never fly at a U.S. port again. This flag represents 35 years of U.S. citizen income taxes paid to the U.S. Government. For every tax dollar spent on cargo preference and subsidies the U.S. Government received back their investment plus 15 percent profit. For 35 years, 87 seamen a year were employed on this ship. Countless mortgages and children's tuition were paid by these seamen during those years, which would not have been possible without the flag you are now holding Mr. President. This flag has made possible the American dream for thousands of merchant seamen and their families. Now the U.S. Government and its agencies are in the process of destroying the U.S. flag fleet. Since 1776 the U.S. Government has treated American seamen with indifference in peacetime, and as a vital resource during war and conflict. Since 1776 countless abuses have been heaped on American seamen. But the American seaman has been there for his country for every conflict since then. Now the U.S. Government is on the verge of eliminating the American flag because of corporate greed, putting thousands of seamen out of work. Mr. President, we men of the U.S. merchant marine love our country and love our flag. We also know that patriotism and love of country are not emotions you are born with. They are instilled in you through the years with love from family and faith in God and Country. Mr. President, a flag that is not worth working under, is not worth fighting for, and a flag that is not worth fighting for, is not worth dying for. Mr. President, you have the bridge. You are not responsible for the incompetent policies of the past but you must fight for the American flag just as we do. The American flag will either sink or continue flying proudly on your watch. Signed, Master, Officers and Crew, SS *John Lykes*.

A GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY FOR A GOLDEN COUPLE

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 30, 1995

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, next Friday, July 7, the friends and family of Herb and Helen

Schmidt will gather to help this wonderful couple celebrate their 50th anniversary of their marriage. And it runs in the family. Both Herb and Helen witnessed their parents celebrate their 50th anniversaries, and Herb saw his grandparents celebrate their 50th anniversary. This family tradition is so wonderful that it deserves to be trumpeted to all who can hear.

Any marriage that lasts so long must be the result of good communications, and that should be no surprise in this family since Herb Schmidt was a major voice for Michigan farm radio shows for many years. He got his start in radio from Bob Driscoll in a 1964 interview, and then later became the Farm Show Director at WBCM radio in Bay City. He also during his radio career held the microphone at WXOX. For about three decades Michigan

farmers had the good fortune to have clear, concise, accurate farm news reports from award-winning broadcaster Herb Schmidt.

Herb also has been and continues to be involved with the Michigan Farm Bureau, where he has served as the Bay County Farm Bureau president. He still is heavily involved in a program that helps businessmen become familiar with farm operations so that there can be greater understanding and cooperation throughout the area. Helen was also chairperson of Bay County Farm Bureau Women, and cohosted various farm tours, including for international visitors, with Herb.

And even with all of these activities, Herb has maintained his interest in raising exotic birds, including peacocks and guinea hens.

Visitors to his farm have told me of how wonderful this project has been for so long.

Through this all, Herb has had the essential support of his wife Helen. It can be tough living with a popular figure like Herb, and it is even more challenging when there are also seven children in the house to add to the daily delights. Their children are their pride and joy, and only the 16 grandchildren that have been added could make the situation any better. Helen has also been involved in many community activities, most importantly her church, as a leader and Sunday school teacher.

Mr. Speaker, I am fortunate to know Herb and Helen Schmidt, as are their many other friends. I ask you and all of our colleagues to join me in wishing them the happiest 50th anniversary.