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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0605

October 30, 2007

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

Dear Mr. President,

Our nation owes a permanent debt of gratitude to the brave servicemen and women who serve in our armed forces. Through their countless sacrifices, we are able to enjoy the freedom that has defined America since our founding. A centerpiece of that freedom is our freedom of religion.

It has recently come to my attention that the National Cemetery Administration has banned employees and cemetery volunteers from referencing God during the traditional 13-fold recitation and presentation of the United States flag to veterans' families.

I strongly reject the notion that a reference to God represents an affront to a military family who requests that honor at the burial of their family member. Ceremony details of this nature should be left to individual families and veterans, not a government agency. If they choose to invoke the name of God, Jesus Christ, or any reference to the Almighty, government should not interfere.

This recent news follows a disturbing pattern. It is part of a trend by some in this great nation to sanitize our rich religious heritage and the name of the Lord from the public square.

Mr. President, the First Amendment in the Bill of Rights affirms every American's right to free speech and religion.

I vigorously urge you to take immediate action to reverse the decision of the National Cemetery Administration's directive to remove any references to God during any portion of the burial proceedings, including the folding and presentation of the American flag to surviving family members.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Doug Lamborn".

Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress