



News from Blue Star Moms

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Contact:

Nancy Totman (925) 838-9156
nancy@bluestarmoms.org

PROPOSED BILL PROHIBITS DISRUPTION OF FUNERALS

San Ramon, California, April 2, 2006. The Blue Star Moms applaud Assemblyman Rick Keene (Third District) for his introduction of legislation sponsored by the Blue Star Moms in California that addresses the disruption of funerals of soldiers who have died while serving in the United States Armed Forces.

This legislation, Amended AB 2707 prohibits picketing within 300 feet for one hour before, during, and one hour after a funeral or memorial service.

Our California military lost in battle have paid the ultimate price for our freedom. Their families deserve the right to privately mourn in dignity and peace the deaths of their sons and daughters. The Blue Star Moms endorse this prohibition of a most egregious debasement of our sons' and daughters' funeral or memorial services.

This legislation directly responds to the actions of members of the Westboro Baptist Church of Topeka, Kansas, headed by Rev. Fred Phelps, who tour the United States protesting at military and other funerals. They carry signs that read, for example, "Thank God for Dead Soldiers" and "Thank God for IEDs" referring to the improvised explosive devices used by terrorists in Iraq. Phelps and his followers contend that U.S. troops are killed in Iraq as God's vengeance for protecting a country that tolerates homosexuality. Phelps's church is not affiliated with a larger Baptist denomination and mainly consists of Phelps' family members.

Similar legislation has been introduced in 15 other states and the U.S. Congress. We trust this legislation will inhibit any future debasement of the memory of those who defend American's freedom or any individual's right to rest in peace.

Blue Star Moms, a chapter of Blue Star Mothers of America, is a support and service group in the San Francisco East Bay Area. We are proud parents of sons and daughters serving in the United States military. Blue Star Moms is a non-partisan, non-sectarian and non-profit group. The mission of our group is to:

- Support fellow Blue Star members and their sons and daughters who are serving or have served in the Armed Forces of the United States of America
- Share educational information to benefit the members and their families
- Support our military personnel through various service activities
- Support Veteran's organizations, activities and events
- Promote causes that will benefit military personnel through a Military Advocacy Program

Nancy J. Totman
Military & Legislative Advocate
Blue Star Moms
East Bay Chapter, #101
www.bluestarmoms.org

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