



William J. Murray

The Chairman's Action Report

Religious
Freedom
Coalition

November 23, 2005

“UNDER GOD” AND THE PLEDGE

Our "Save the Pledge" petition is working!

Just a few weeks ago I sent you a congressional petition to protect the words "under God" from being removed from the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag by the courts. Many thousands of people have responded. Every day we are picking up entire trays of mail from the Post Office in Washington, DC. Almost every letter we are receiving contains a signed petition to a congressman asking them to support the Pledge Protection Act of 2005. The response is tremendous!

I have met three times with Congressman Todd Akin (R-MO) who wrote the Pledge Protection Act. The bill he has authored would prohibit federal courts from finding the use of the phrase "under God" unconstitutional as a District Court in California has already done. Children under Judge Lawrence Karlton's jurisdiction are not allowed to properly recite the Pledge to our flag because of his outrageous ruling..

Soon the case will reach the 9th Circuit Court. The 9th Circuit recently ruled that parents have no rights over what their children learn. In that case the court ruled that it was perfectly OK for first graders to be asked how many times they touched their private parts and if they wanted to touch the private parts of others. When the parents objected and filed a lawsuit the 9th Circuit ruled against them saying they had no rights in the matter of their children's education at all.

When this new lawsuit filed by atheist Michael Newdow reaches the 9th Circuit they will agree with him and in several states including California, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington children will not be allowed to recite the Pledge using the words "under God."

The last time Newdow filed this lawsuit the Supreme Court eventually ruled against him because he did not have "standing" since he did not have custody of the child he filed the lawsuit over. This time he has filed the lawsuit with other atheist parents who have children in the schools ... We do not know how the Supreme Court will rule. BUT, this needs to end now. If we pass the Pledge Protection Act of 2005 neither the 9th Circuit nor the Supreme Court will be allowed to review the case.

WE MUST ACT SOON TO SAVE THE PLEDGE!

So far we have managed to obtain over 180 co-sponsors to the Pledge Protection Act, but we need forty more Congressmen to be able to take the bill directly to the floor of the House and by-pass all the committees that will only hold it up. We must also encourage those who have already co-sponsored to act to get the bill to the floor of the House for a vote.

So far we have distributed 50,000 petitions for signatures. Next week we will mail yet another 25,000 and in January we are praying to distribute yet another 50,000.

It is my personal goal to be able to deliver more than 100,000 petitions to Congress sometime in February. Each petition has a congressman's name on it. I will go from door to door and hand deliver these petitions to congressman starting February 1st! We do not want petitions with dozens of names signed on each sheet of paper. It is important that there is only one signature on each petition and it is directed to a particular congressman. This has far greater effect because the congressman knows for sure that the person signing the petition is a voter in his district that has taken the time to sign a petition to him asking him to protect the Pledge of Allegiance from the liberal courts.

RFC HOSTS MAYOR RON NACHMAN OF ARIEL, SAMARIA



As I have mentioned many times our legislative office in Washington, DC is just seven blocks from the dome of the Capitol Building. This gives the Religious Freedom Coalition the unique ability to be involved in activities that other organizations of our type cannot. I am on a first name basis with many congressmen and Senators. Many of the photographs that appear of myself or of Peggy Birchfield with congressmen and Senators are not posed; they are working photographs. Take a look at the photo of myself with Senator Sam Brownback (R-KS) and Mayor Ron Nachman of Israel and note the Coca Cola can sitting on the table while the three of us discuss a map of Samaria and Judea. This was a work session, not a "photo op."

The Religious Freedom Coalition arranged numerous meetings with congressmen, Senators and various NGO's for Mayor Ron Nachman of Ariel, Samaria. During those meetings Mayor Nachman pled the case for the Biblical right of the Jews to their homeland. He also argued that Judea and Samaria are vital to the security of Israel because they provide a buffer for the tiny nation against hostile neighbors. The 1947 border placed upon Israel before it was attacked by its Arab neighbors was at its narrowest just 9 miles. The mayor pointed out that the United States is the only country that refuses to have an embassy in Jerusalem (actually the Congress made a law to move it to Jerusalem but neither President Clinton nor President George W. Bush has complied).

According to much historical evidence, including the writings of 19th Century visitors like President Theodore Roosevelt and novelist Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain), much of Israel was uninhabited wasteland before the early 20th Century. Jews like Mayor Nachman's forebears began to return and settle the land, buying it for cash. Certainly there was nothing even thirty years ago on the barren hillside where the thriving city of Ariel now stands. Mayor Nachman was the driving force behind the building of the city, aided by his wife Dorith, whose parents were both Holocaust survivors.

Among the many briefings we arranged for Mayor Nachman to give was one at the Israeli Embassy where he spoke to more than 40 Christian groups. The Mayor was welcomed at the offices of several congressmen including Trent Franks (R-AZ), Jo Ann Davis (R-VA) and Todd Akin (R-MO). We even had the opportunity to stop by the offices of a true friend of Israel and the city of Ariel, Congressman Tom DeLay (R-TX). Meetings were also arranged with several Senators including Senator Sam Brownback (R-KS) and Norm Coleman (R-MN). In virtually every meeting the congressmen and Senators were surprised by information that was given to them about State Department conduct in the region.

There were several more formal events including a breakfast in the Capitol Building on Thursday morning sponsored by the Capitol Exchange Club. On Thursday evening the Religious Freedom Coalition was the host of a reception at the Capitol Hill Club at which many supporters of Israel, included congressmen, came to hear Mayor Nachman speak. Not only the individual events, but the overall three days were extremely successful in making many on Capitol Hill more aware of the existence of Ariel and its precarious position in Samaria surrounded by Islamic hostility and State Department arrogance.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

I have limited this edition of the Chairman's Report to two pages to allow for our Christmas catalog to be inserted in the envelope with it. I hope you will find some of the items useful as gifts for family and friends.

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William J. Murray, Chairman

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