

G. V. Sonny Montgomery Weekly Radio Show

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Audio begins at 00:21

Interviewer: This is Congressman Sonny Montgomery's weekly radio report from Washington. You're one of the sponsors of the newly introduced Constitutional Amendment in the House to prevent the physical desecration of the American Flag. What are the details on this?

Montgomery: This is a simple amendment. It does not interfere with the people's rights of the First Amendment to this would just say you cannot desecrate the flag, in effective you you can't burn it, you can't stomp on it, you can't tear it, you can't hurt it. And and we think it's it's really necessary that that we do this. This Supreme Court knocked down a law passed by Congress signed by President Bush that you could not hurt the American Flag by 5 to 4 vote of the Supreme Court they they struck this down and say Congress couldn't do that. So only way now we can protect the flag and it is our symbol as Senator Strom Thurman said yesterday and I'm one of the key sponsors of the flag amendment was that wherever we go into combat the flag is out in front. It's just stupid not to protect this great American flag that many many lives have been lost many many American soldiers have been seriously wounded trying to protect this flag. So, all we're trying to do is get a Constitutional amendment resolution out of the out of the Congress out of the House and the Senate. It doesn't have to go to the President of the United States, it goes to the the 50 states and 38 of those states have to ratify it. And already 46 state legislatures have said they support the flag amendment, so the problem is gone be to get it out of the House of Representatives and and maybe even the Senate. We need 290, 2/3 of the House voting and that's pretty hard to go. We had 1990 we had about 291 or 2 people signed on they were gone vote for Constitutional Amendment Resolution and then they backed off and it didn't pass so we're gone have to work hard and I believe we've got a chance.

Interviewer: There seems to be a different attitude about the amendment this time around. Is there more support in the Congress and out in the country?

Montgomery: I think so. I think that there's there's more support now and a gallop poll done recently shows that 75% of the American people support the flag and I was listening to someone singing the National Anthem the Star Spangled Banner last night and it it certainly upholds the flag and it doesn't make any sense why we have to beg and plead to get this amendment to the constitution and Constitutional lawyers are saying you outta amend the Constitution. There's several years apart it needs to be looked at and this is not gone hurt the Constitution. And not gone hurt the First Amendment Rights.

Interviewer: The day has been set for a visit to Meridian's Naval Air Station by one of the Base Closure Commissioners. What's the story on this and how important is the visit to the future of the base?

Montgomery: Major General Joe Robles, who's a retired Major General out of out of the Army one of the Base Closure Commissions and there are 8 commissions will come to Meridian Naval Air station on April the 3rd he's living in San Antonio, Texas we're not sure whether he'll come in by military aircraft or come in by commercial aircraft but that's very very important. This will be probably the only visit we'll have from a Base Closure Commissioner will come to our base all these commissioners are trying to go to all the bases that are on the closure list and they're only 8 of 'em and they just gone be hard for them to make all the bases. So it's very important that and I hope we'll have a number of people will come out to the Naval Air Station will welcome General Robles, he's a nice fellow, I've met him and show what the base means to to Meridian Naval Air Station and to the people of that area. Thank goodness Columbus didn't make the list and Meridian was the only one that did make the Base Closure List. But it shouldn't be on there and we're doing all we can to get it off and the team the Meridian team under Bill Crawford is doing a good job coming up with the numbers that shows it was a mistake to ever put the Meridian Naval Air Station on the Base Closure List, having said that I don't know whether we're gone be able to get it off the list or not but by General Robles coming on April the 3rd to Meridian, it's very very important and then on April the 4th in Birmingham they wil have all the all the bases on realignment all the bases for closure including Meridian will testify in Birmingham, it'll be about 4 commissioners there.

Interview: Thank you Congressman. This has been Congressman Sonny Montgomery's weekly radio report from Washington.

Audio ends at 05:17