

A. The First Amendment does not only protect the written and spoken word, but other forms of expression too.

G. The government cannot prohibit the expression of an idea just because a majority of the population finds the idea offensive.

I. The American flag stands for freedom; even the freedom to burn it.

C. Those that burn the flag are destroying their own property. These individuals deserve our pity; not prosecution.

D. Veterans and others are right to feel outrage at the desecration of the American Flag because the flag is a symbol of democracy. Keep in mind though; they are only destroying a piece of cloth and not what the flag stands for...freedom.

H. If a law is passed to punish those who desecrate the flag, what other laws will be next? What other speech will be censored? This is a concern.

B. We do not let people put graffiti on the Washington Monument. We should not let people desecrate the American flag, which is another important national symbol.

J. The American Flag is a symbol of freedom, tolerance, and equality for people both in the United States and around the world. The government should not allow people to mistreat the flag because it sends the wrong message to those who highly value it.

E. Those who are prosecuted for burning the flag are not in trouble for expressing their dissatisfaction with the government. They broke the law because of the method they used. If someone decided to show a movie on the side of the Lincoln Memorial to express their dissatisfaction with the government, there is no question that the government has a right to prohibit their “freedom of expression”. Likewise, it is right for the government to prohibit the desecration of another important national symbol, the flag.

K. To our veterans, the flag stands for democracy and freedom. To honor our soldiers, past and present, we as Americans should fight to protect the flag and all it stands for.

F. It is clear that most Americans want to protect the flag. Forty-eight of fifty states have had state laws that made it illegal to desecrate the flag. The Federal Government passed the Flag Protection Act which shows they support protecting the flag too.

L. Protecting the American flag from desecration will not limit people from expressing their point of view. It will simply protect something that many hold sacred throughout the country...the flag.