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CONTACT: Brad Dayspring  
(202) 225-3484

## **RSC Condemns Decision to Censor ‘God’ from U.S. Capitol Flag Certificates**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Republican Study Committee (RSC) today questioned the wisdom of a decision made by the Architect of the Capitol to censor requests made by American citizens that include the word “God” on official certificates that accompany flags flown over the United States Capitol.

In August, a 17-year-old Eagle Scout from Ohio was denied a request to have a flag certificate inscribed, “This flag was flown in honor of Marcel Larochelle, my grandfather, for his dedication and love of God, country and family.”

A memo from the then Architect of the Capitol, Alan Hantman, notes that “religious expressions are not permitted on flag certificates.” The acting Architect, Stephen T. Ayers, has apparently determined that any use of the term “God” constitutes religious expression and should be banned from flag certificates.

RSC Chairman Jeb Hensarling (R-TX) issued the following statement:

**“This is an example of government at its very worst. Here you have an Eagle Scout doing the exact right thing being censored by his own government – it defies common sense. This is an unbridled assault on religious liberty.**

**“Whether the attack has come from liberal judge, liberal activist group, or liberal legislator, God the Creator – who has endowed us with unalienable rights – faces a constant barrage from secularists.**

**“Secularists will not rest until God is completely barred from public view. Make no mistake about it, this is an attack on personal liberty and the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment. There is simply no reading of American history, our Declaration of Independence or Constitution that would permit, condone or sanction the assault of God that we are seeing today.**

**“I demand that the Architect of the Capitol immediately reverse his decision to censor God from these requests. I also call upon Speaker Pelosi to take immediate action to condemn the censorship.”**

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