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24 March 2006

The Honorable Michael J. Rogers  
United States House of Representatives  
133 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Fax: 202-225-5820

Dear Representative Rogers:

On behalf of the Fleet Reserve Association (FRA), I am writing to express support for the "Respect for America's Fallen Heroes Act" that you plan to introduce to ensure grieving families have the right to bury family members who died defending our Nation with dignity, and without anti-war protest.

Nearly 2,300 service members have been buried across the country in the last three years as a result of their service in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Unfortunately, during the past nine months, more than 100 of those funerals have been interrupted by anti-war protestors. Everyone respects the rights of individuals to protest public policy; but the rights of the grieving family should surpass the rights of the protestors at the cemetery during the burial ceremony in recognition of these Service Members' ultimate sacrifice to ensure our security and protect our freedoms.

The FRA appreciates your leadership on this important issue and stands ready to help ensure passage of the legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. L. Barnes", written over a circular stamp or watermark.

JOSEPH L. BARNES  
National Executive Secretary

JLB:jrd:aal

Fleet Reserve Association

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