



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

October 10, 2007

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
H-232, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

In recent days it has been brought to our attention that employees of the Office of the Architect of the Capitol (AoC) are removing references to God from the official certificates that accompany United States flags that are flown over the Capitol and sent by Members of Congress to their constituents.

This practice, which overturns a longstanding and long cherished congressional tradition, has rightly drawn outrage from the American people, who have grown weary of endless attempts by politicians and bureaucrats to bar the word God and even the most tacit references to faith from our public institutions. I am grateful for the actions of Rep. Michael Turner (R-OH), who had the courage to speak out about this situation after the word God was erased from a certificate that accompanied a flag requested by a young Eagle Scout who wanted to honor his grandfather.

The Acting Architect of the Capitol believes he is required to enforce a written policy, put in place by his predecessor in 2003, until directed otherwise. But this policy does not reflect the will of the American people. It was not applied in this manner under previous House majorities. And those of us who serve in the current Congress should not allow it to stand. Rep. Vern Ehlers (R-MI), the senior Republican on the House Administration Committee, has sent a letter to the Acting Architect urging that the policy be rescinded immediately.

There is an easy solution: as Speaker, you have the authority to instruct the Acting Architect to disregard the written policy and restore the longstanding practices that have been the tradition of the House for generations. This would be the right thing to do. As Speaker, you have the authority – and the opportunity – to do the right thing.

I am writing to request that you immediately use your authority as Speaker to instruct the AoC to resume its longstanding practice, and allow the word God to once again appear on the certificates that accompany American flags. We are One Nation Under God, and the rules and procedures of our national legislature should continue to reflect it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John".

John Boehner (R-OH)  
House Republican Leader