



PRESS RELEASE - sent 5.20.10

## Memorial Day is next week!

### Which States Will Step Up to Support Our Troops & Their Families in Their Time of Need?

Al Snyder is pleading for a unified American voice by asking all 50 states to join the amicus brief in support of his legal position in the upcoming U.S. Supreme Court case *Snyder v. Phelps*. The defendants in this case, the Westboro Baptist Church, protested Lance Cpl. Matthew Snyder's funeral and over 200 other military funerals. This case is a test of whether we as a nation, with full legal justification, have the decency to provide the men and women of our military with the support they deserve.

To date, 12 out of 50 states have agreed to join - Arizona, Connecticut, Kansas, Kentucky, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Utah, West Virginia and Wisconsin; and the following states are currently considering it: California, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Oklahoma, Massachusetts, Michigan and Rhode Island. **States have until Friday, May 28 to join the amicus brief.** It was drafted by Attorney General Steve Six of Kansas and was distributed Monday through the National Association of Attorneys General. Please visit [www.matthewsnyder.org](http://www.matthewsnyder.org), click "Contact Our Government" to see interactive map that shows which states are "on board", which states are now actively considering and which we have not heard from/are still on the fence.

If the Supreme Court affirms the Fourth Circuit decision, the Federal law called the *Respect for America's Fallen Heroes Act* and over 40 similar state laws will be in jeopardy and families could be denied the right to mourn with dignity. This case will likely be heard for oral argument in October, and this case will certainly be one of the first 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment cases Solicitor General Kagan (if confirmed as a Supreme Court Justice) will hear and may signal the thinking of the new Supreme Court if Kagan becomes its newest member.

Over 2 million supporters agree that the conduct by the Westboro Baptist Church is egregious and goes well beyond the bounds of basic human decency in a civilized nation. See Facebook groups and pages.

**With Memorial Day fast approaching, which states will join in this unprecedented opportunity to support our troops?**