

Senate Resolution 673

By: Senators Shafer of the 48th, Ligon, Jr. of the 3rd, Harbin of the 16th, Thompson of the 14th, Kirk of the 13th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Denouncing the National Football League for its rejection of the AMVETS advertisement
2 urging Americans to stand for the National Anthem; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the sport of American football has been beloved by generations of patriotic
4 Americans and represents the very best of American meritocracy; and

5 WHEREAS, the National Football League requires in its operating procedures that members
6 of its teams stand respectfully when the Flag of the United States of America is saluted by
7 the playing of our National Anthem; and

8 WHEREAS, the National Football League has disregarded its own operating procedures by
9 allowing, and in some cases condoning, shows of disrespect and contempt for the unifying
10 national symbol of the United States of America; and

11 WHEREAS, the leadership of the National Football League has attempted to justify its
12 behavior by wrapping itself in the American ideals of free speech and dissent; and

13 WHEREAS, the respected veterans' organization AMVETS National Service Foundation
14 attempted to purchase advertising in the official program of the Super Bowl calling on all
15 Americans to stand when the National Anthem is played; and

16 WHEREAS, in contradiction of its own pious and self-serving declarations about free speech
17 and dissent, the National Football League rejected the AMVETS advertisement, denying this
18 veterans' organization the opportunity to express its views on the subject; and

19 WHEREAS, the National Football League has abandoned even the pretense of supporting
20 free speech and dissent, silencing a major veterans' organization while condoning organized
21 disrespect and contempt for the Flag of the United States and the National Anthem.

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
23 denounce the National Football League for its hypocritical actions to silence the AMVETS
24 National Service Foundation and suppress its message that Americans should respectfully
25 stand for the Flag and National Anthem of the United States of America.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
27 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the National
28 Football League.