



**The Washington Flyer**  
**April 10, 2009**

*\*Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:*

*\*Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.*

*\*For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.*

*\*Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 6: 8-11)*

**Defending Marriage One State at a Time:**

This past week gay rights activists aggressively moved their agenda as Justices of the Iowa Supreme Court legalized same-sex marriage; legislatures in the state of Vermont overrode the Governor's veto, allowing same-sex marriage; and our nation's very own Capitol unanimously voted to recognize legal "marriages" between members of the same sex. At a time when our domestic stability is faltering and our foreign policy weakening, Justices and Legislatures have become dangerously ignorant and apathetic to the moral foundations for which our country began.

Iowa's Supreme Court ruled last week, April 3, 2009, that a 1998 law that defined marriage between one woman and one man is unconstitutional. The ["outrageously wrong" ruling](#), as Newt Gingrich described, arises from a suit filed in 2005 by six same-sex couples who were denied marriage licenses. The geography of the ruling is of huge concern to those who view marriage as a sacred union between one man and one woman. Iowa, the "heartland state," would most likely be considered a "conservative" state, and many are concerned what implications may come from this decision. Richard Socarides, former senior advisor of Gay/Lesbian issues to former President Bill Clinton and a key supporter of gay rights movement noted, "I think it's significant because Iowa is considered a Midwest state in the mainstream of American thought. Unlike states on the coasts, there's nothing more American than Iowa. As they say during the presidential caucuses, '[As Iowa goes, so goes the nation](#)'."

Pro-marriage and pro-family groups, though discouraged by the court's decision, know that the fight is just beginning. Thousands are standing up to protest the recent decision and show support for a constitutional amendment known as HJR 6. The amendment currently is sitting in a House committee and must be voted out of committee on a procedural vote. Republicans are ready to initiate the procedure but are unsure of how the amendment will be voted on the floor. Many groups across the nation are rallying together [to lobby the state representatives in Iowa in support of HJR 6](#). Bishop Richard Pates of Iowa urged "the voice of the Iowa people to rise in support of a constitutional amendment which clearly upholds the definition of marriage. We will then join the deafening chorus of citizens in every state, 30 to date, who have voted to preserve civil marriage as it has been recognized and defined since the beginning of recorded history for the benefit of marriage, families, children and the common good."

Four days following the decision in Iowa, the Vermont Senate and House overrode the Governor's veto and became the first state to legalize same-sex marriage by legislature mandate. The same day, the District of Columbia's City Council voted unanimously to recognize these "marriages," opening the door to possible legalization of same-sex marriage altogether. Both occurrences happened rather hastily. According to Vermont Renewal, a pro-marriage organization, "In the legislature's haste to enact same-sex marriage, there are [many aspects to this legislation which have not been properly evaluated](#). Of particular concern is the issue of parental

rights as they pertain to school activities which will promote same-sex marriage as completely equal to man/woman marriage.”

While the attack on marriage is being held on the forefront in Iowa, Vermont, and D.C., the awareness of the destruction of marriage is being resounded to all states. Never has it been clearer that Constitutional amendments, whether on the state or federal level, are essential to securing the history and dignity of traditional marriage and preserving this sacred union.

For more information on the state of marriage laws across the states in the country, [Click here](#).

### **Red Envelope Day:**

What began as a simple protest against the heinous act of abortion became a nationwide campaign to address the new Administration on the unconstitutional, evil reality of this issue that we face today. Well over [2 million red envelopes have been received](#) by the White House. As one mail worker described it, “I’ve been here 35 years, so I’ve seen presidents come and go. This campaign ranks up there with the big ones.” The Red Envelope Project was organized by Chris Otto of Massachusetts, who envisioned thousands of red envelopes arriving at the White House, each envelope representing a life deliberately ended by abortion. “It has made a difference, regardless of what happened in Washington,” Otto stated. “Just the numbers of children that have been involved are huge. It’s gotten a lot of people talking about the value of life. To me, that’s priceless.”

**ACTION:** It’s not too late to send an envelope or get involved! For more information please visit: [Red Envelope Project](#).

### **DC Scholarship Act Proven Successful:**

The Results are in! Last week the U.S. Department of Education released the successful results of their study on the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program (OSP). The program, an addition to the D.C. School Choice Incentive Act of 2004, was the first federally funded private school choice program started in the United States. The D.C. Opportunity Scholarship program operates by a lottery system and each child chosen receives \$7,500 toward the public or private school of their choice.

While the evidence of the success of this program in helping underprivileged D.C. children is indisputable, the [U.S. Senate voted](#) last week through an omnibus spending bill to end the program by the 2009-10 school year. Though the D.C. Program has been abruptly halted without any substantial indication or accurate indictment, the fight for school choice and tax-credit programs continues. The recent report released by the Department of Education will prove to be a great tool when defending these programs. An optimistic U.S. Rep. Howard P. “Buck” McKeon (R-CA) stated, “The U.S. Department of Education has confirmed what we’ve been saying all along – when parents are given a choice, and children are able to attend safer, higher performing schools, achievement and satisfaction will rise.”

According to a [news release](#) from Rep. McKeon, the U.S. Department of Education’s study conducted on the OSP “found measurable achievement gains among students who participated in the program, as well as continued high levels of parental satisfaction, a hallmark of the OSP since its creation in 2004.” The update also found that “students who received scholarships had higher reading achievement than those who did not receive scholarships. Specifically, participation in the program was equal to three additional months of learning. Moreover, parents of children receiving scholarships had higher overall satisfaction with the school environment and school safety.”

With a [documented study evidencing](#) the successful results that transpire when parents are given free choice of their children’s education and the ability to use the funds as they choose, the argument for school choice and tax-credit programs in helping the education of children continues to be strong.

### **Here Comes the “Bride” and “Groom”:**

It turns out that gay couples in California are not the only ones disappointed with the current marriage licensing methods. In fact, many California couples are fighting the Courts about a different element of their marriage license. A couple from Roseville, California, has just won a law suit and has been recognized by the State of

California as “Bride” and “Groom,” Husband and Wife. In May of 2008, when the Supreme Court of California declared same-sex marriages legal, they also mandated state agencies to use “gender-neutral” language on the forms, replacing “Bride” and “Groom” with “Party A” and “Party B.”

According to Gideon and Rachel Coddling, “Our personal objective is to be honored and recognized by the state of California as bride and groom.” When they filed suit and argued that the State did not have the right to change the terms “Bride” and “Groom,” the story surfaced prompting residents from all over California to file suit as well. As in the fight to overturn the CA Supreme Court’s decision of legalizing same-sex marriage, so the battle of gender-neutrality has also ended in a victory. A couple now wishing to be married in the state of California may be pronounced legally as “Bride” and “Groom.”

Perhaps it should be noted that once again the people of California are not willing to sit back and allow their Supreme Court Justices to make law that does not comply with majority opinion.

For more on this story, please visit [Couple wins Marriage Suit](#).

### **In Case You Missed It:**

[When Wrongs become Rights](#)

[Tax Day Tea Party](#)

[Gay Marriage Laws in the U.S.](#)

[Vatican Rejects Obama's U.S. Ambassador Candidates Who Support Abortion](#)

[Notre Dame Students Hold Prayer Rally to Protest Obama at Notre Dame Commencement](#)

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