

Senator Acknowledges Reason Rally on National Mall

Washington, DC - Nonreligious Americans will be receiving video greetings from two federally elected officials at the Reason Rally on Saturday, March 24. California Representative Pete Stark and Iowa Senator Tom Harkin both accepted invitations to welcome a crowd expected to be in the thousands at the National Mall for a day to exercise free speech and freedom from religion.

Harkin's motivation for the video came from his belief in free exercise of constitutional rights. Said a Harkin spokesperson, "Just like the rest of his colleagues in Congress, Senator Harkin, a lifelong Catholic, strongly endorses the Constitutional guarantee of freedom of speech. It was out of this conviction that he agreed to the invitation to send a video welcome to those exercising their Constitutional right on the national mall."

Senator Harkin has served in the United States Senate for 27 years, serving an additional 10 years in the House of Representatives before that. The Secular Coalition for America, a sponsor of the Reason Rally, gave Harkin an "A" on their 2009 Senate Scorecard, a mark of how well his legislative votes defended secular values.

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The Reason Rally is sponsored by American Atheists, American Humanist Association, Atheist Alliance of America, The Brights, Camp Quest, Center for Inquiry, Freethought Society, The James Randi Educational Foundation, Military Atheists and Freethinkers, The Richard Dawkins Foundation for Reason and Science, Secular Student Alliance, Secular Coalition for America, Society for Humanistic Judaism, Stiefel Freethought Foundation, United COR and Washington Area Secular Humanists.