

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

6-14-2026

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Flag Day protest attracts 100 to City Hall

PORT ORCHARD – In spite of mid-80-degree heat, South Kitsap Indivisible (SKI) hosted two Flag Day events Sunday afternoon and evening.

United We Stand attracted 100 marchers-sign wavers to downtown Port Orchard City Hall sidewalks.

Opening remarks paid tribute to the USA Flag, including a rousing National Anthem sung by Andy Garrett, Spinal Nap musical group founder, and an original poem, “Flag of Our Fathers,” by local Veteran Steve Dickson.

“If our flag is entwined with false religion and lies, then this nation will fall and our liberty dies,” Dickson’s poem states. “So, stand with your neighbors, for we are all kin, who know that hatred and fear will never win.”

Dickson served in the US Army in the Vietnam War and 30 years as a Merchant Mariner at sea. In June 2025, he started solo sign waves in Port Orchard that led to SKI’s weekly Wednesday Honk and Waves on the City Hall sidewalks.

A group of 75 marched on the sidewalk through the downtown business district, singing and chanting, then re-joined the musicians and crowd at City Hall for more music, chants, and sign waving.

“Again, our first aid and safety team did a terrific job circulating among the crowd with water, offering shade umbrellas, a sunscreen and cooling station at the first aid tent, collapsable chairs,” said SKI leader Terry Loving. “We issued a pre-protest heat warning and reminded those who struggle in hot weather to stay home, and not to bring pets.”

Two hours later, SKI was one of 5,000 groups nationwide that took part in watch parties for Rise Up, Sing Out: Concert for the First Amendment from New York City. The Committee for the First Amendment sponsored the live-streamed concert.

Forty-five people attended SKI’s watch party and potluck.

“It was a quick turnaround for some of the same SKI protest planners and volunteers who completed that Flag Day tear down about 3 p.m., then went to grab food and set up across town for the concert,” Loving said.

“It was a big day for SKI in hot weather,” Loving added. “Our group responded admirably.”

This was Ski's sixth protest hosted in 2026. It keeps with the non-partisan values of peaceful, lawful, non-violent action.

Many of us choose to hold flags that are purposely upside down.

Sunday, June 14, a passerby challenged this pointing at one of the flags with the question "Isn't this disrespecting the flag?"

We take the stand of – No, our country is in distress – we are taking back our country and our flag.

Some Notes about the history and meaning of Flying the flag upside down

What is the Meaning of the Upside-Down American Flag?

"The meaning of the upside-down flag is different for everyone. For some, it could signify their life is in danger, while for others, it's a sign of protest. While it's an act of free expression, it's important to remember how it could affect those who've served in the Armed Forces and how it can seem disrespectful to those who've sacrificed for our country's freedoms. When considering whether to fly the flag upside down, consider all aspects including whether it's legal or not."

<https://www.freedomandglory.com/blog/the-meaning-of-an-upside-down-american-flag>

The U.S. flag code, which is not legally enforceable, specifically says that the flag is not to be inverted "except as a signal of dire distress in instance of extreme danger to life or property."

<https://firstamendment.mtsu.edu/article/flying-flag-upside-down/>

<https://www.npr.org/2024/06/03/nx-s1-4987590/upside-down-american-flag-protest-symbol-history>

<https://www.freedomandglory.com/blog/the-meaning-of-an-upside-down-american-flag>



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