

**A Proposal Supporting A Presidential Medal of Freedom  
For Wayne Lyman Morse 1900-1974 <sup>1</sup>  
United States Senator – Educator – Arbitrator  
*“Every American has three Senators. His own and Wayne Morse.”***

(Excerpted by Alison Voss, with permission from the WMHPC for the  
Wayne Morse Federal Courthouse re-dedication April 21, 2008.)

Morse's refusal to practice partisan politics and his public service as a federal labor arbitrator and a four-term U.S. Senator remain inspirational.

He provided vigorous leadership to the effort to strengthen public education in the Kennedy and Johnson Administrations, and managed passage of the landmark education bills of the 1960s.

He advanced and protected the rights of organized labor and the free collective bargaining process.

He worked resolutely for the general welfare of people and helped secure passage of the historic Civil Rights bill of 1964. (He joined the Executive Board of the NAACP during his first Senate appointment.)

He worked for passage of legislative proposals which set up programs in the War on Poverty: Head Start, Upward Bound, the community action programs and the Job Corps.

He championed the public interest and an individual's constitutional rights.

In 1964 Wayne Morse was one of only two Senators who voted against the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution.  
*“The formulation of American foreign policy under our Constitution belongs to the people of the United States, not exclusively to the President and State Department.”*

He led the movement for home rule in the Nation's capital and establishment of the District of Columbia's higher education system.

He argued for the pre-eminence of the rule of law in the conduct of national and international affairs.

He was the first Senator to introduce a Medicare bill.

He was an early advocate for protecting our environment and natural resources.

He was co-sponsor of the equal rights amendment and offered bills in Congress to establish the principle of equal pay for equal work for women.

Years before the first nuclear test ban treaty, he began urging the U.S. and other world powers to stop testing nuclear weapons in the earth's atmosphere. As one friend put it – *“Wayne Morse didn't come early or late to the peace movement. There was a time when he WAS the peace movement.”*

He believed the only hope for world peace was to substitute international law for military might, and fought relentlessly for an International Court, which he believed necessary to world peace.

So it is truly fitting that we are here today to re-dedicate this beautiful, futuristic, award-winning federal  
Courthouse to an extraordinary, visionary Man.

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<sup>1</sup> A Proposal Supporting A Presidential Medal of Freedom for Wayne Lyman Morse 1900-1974. The Wayne Morse Historical Park Corporation.