



STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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Annie Laurie Gaylor
Freedom From Religion Foundation
PO Box 750
Madison, WI 53701

Dear Ms. Gaylor:

Attorney General Van Hollen has asked that I respond to your recent letter to him wherein you expressed concerns about the agenda for the first National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims commemoration, scheduled for September 25, 2007, at the Capitol Rotunda. After review of this matter, the office of Crime Victim Services has revised the program to avoid any potential conflict with the U.S. and Wisconsin constitutions and applicable case law.

In your letter you also pointed out that the annual law enforcement memorial which commemorates officers killed in the line of duty has traditionally included religious rituals as part of the ceremony. While this is correct, you are incorrect in your assumption that this ceremony is sponsored by the Department of Justice. While the Attorney General is normally asked to, and does participate in the annual memorial ceremony, I am informed it is sponsored and organized by the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Memorial Inc., a private entity.

Thank you for bringing these matters to our attention and allowing us to address your concerns.

Sincerely,

Kevin Potter
Assistant Attorney General
Administrator, Legal Services

KP:lkw