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A Lawyer's Letter on Law Day

A letter to the Congress of the United States of America

By Bill Faber

To the Honorable Member of Congress:

Here on the Plains the Vista is Vast

I work as a lawyer in the middle of the Illinois farm land. I appear in the same law courts as Abraham Lincoln. On the prairie nature gives a far horizon.

The approach of Law Day compels me to write to you because you permit the President to violate the Nation's highest law - the Constitution. You allowed the President to send America's army to war without a declaration of war.

The Constitution and Congress

Article II, Section 8 of the Constitution grants important powers that belong only to Congress: to coin money, to raise an army, to ratify treaties and to declare war.

In 1964 President Lyndon Johnson evaded the exclusive power of



Congress to declare war, using the Gulf of Tonkin resolution instead. Based on the precedent successive Presidents conduct undeclared wars while Congress stands mute.

If a President sought to coin his own money, certainly Congress would act to stop him. Or if a President attempted to form his own army, like Caesar's Praetorian Guard, Congress would act. But now when the President, together with the Pentagon and Blackwater wage their war, Congress stands silent. Irrelevant to the Nation's destiny.

What History Teaches

History watched Rome decline when its Senate relinquished power to

Caesar. Our Founding Fathers, Jefferson, Franklin, Madison and Adams, understood the history of nations. That is why they drafted the Constitution so that only the full Congress could make war, but only after a careful and deliberative process. The Founding Fathers understood that to permit one man to decide the nation's course to war is folly.

Defend the Constitution and Protect our Soldiers

On this occasion of Law Day, I petition you in the name of the People to reclaim your war power. You serve the Nation and her brave soldiers when you defend and protect the Constitution. Permit no war without declaration by Congress. Save our Republic and her children from tomorrow's Caesars before it is too late. May God guide you.

Bill Faber is a Decatur lawyer with 27 years experience trying cases to juries of the people.