

Dissenters condemn US gay marriage ruling as a "disgrace"

Washington (dpa) - The voices of protest were faint Thursday as the US Supreme Court declared gay marriage to be a constitutional right.

The two dozen dissenters were far outshouted - and outsung - by the hundreds of celebrants who broke into singing The Star Spangled Banner after the ruling was released.

Nary a boo was heard, in fact.

But Ronald Brock, 58, who had been waiting outside the court for the past few days for the news, made clear his displeasure.

Brock, who identified himself as a travelling, independent Christian missionary, called the ruling an "absolute disgrace" and the Supreme Court "insane."

"God says what's right and what's wrong, but He does not allow us to chose the consequences," Brock said. "We've completely walked away from God's standards, and we're going to suffer the consequences of it."

He warned that America will suffer because of the ruling.

"They neither glorified God or give thanks to Him," Brock said. "They allowed us to change the natural for the unnatural, and we will suffer the consequences."

The four dissenting justices did not use religion but rather states' rights to justify their objections.

Chief Justice John Roberts wrote that he believed the democratic process should have worked the issue of gay marriage out on its own at the state level. (But even so, he urged the victors to celebrate.)

Justice Antonin Scalia complained that the court had put an abrupt end to a debate over same-sex marriage and criticized the ruling for lacking "even a thin veneer of law."

Marriage in the United States is regulated at the state level. Thirty-seven states and the District of Columbia allow gay marriage although there are ongoing legal disputes over the issue in some of them. The remaining 13 states have full or partial bans.