

Significant Campaign Events

The Citizens' Flag Alliance, Inc. and The American Legion have waged a battle to secure a flag-protection amendment since 1989. Highlights by years are available [here](#).

Significant Campaign Events 2007

January 11, 2007 – House Joint Resolution 12, the flag amendment, is introduced in the 110th Congress of the United States. Rep. John Murtha [D-PA], who has been the Democrat chief sponsor of the amendment for several years, takes the initiative. Discussions get underway with members of the US Senate to effect similar actions on their side of the Hill.

Significant Campaign Events 2006

January, 2006 – The Second Session of the 109th Congress brings excitement with the departure of amendment opponent Sen. Jon Corzine, who wins an election bid for Governor of the State of New Jersey. The appointment to fill his unexpired term goes to long-time flag amendment proponent Robert Menendez, formerly the U.S. Representative from New Jersey's 13th District. This puts support for the flag amendment at 66 – just one vote away from the required 67 votes.

February, 2006 – With support for the amendment at a record high, a letter writing campaign is launched, focusing on all members of the Judiciary asking that they bring SJR 12 to a hearing before April 1, 2006.

March, 2006 – Representatives of the Citizens Flag Alliance descend on Capitol Hill in early March to go face-to-face with a number of Senators on the flag amendment. Visits with Majority Leader Bill Frist result in the “promise” of a date to bring the flag amendment to the floor for a vote: the week of June 26, 2006

April 3, 2006 – The CFA launches “Countdown to Victory.” With a congressional headcount indicating sixty-six US Senators supporting the amendment, a plan is developed and executed to secure the one vote needed to pass the flag amendment. Polling is planned for several key states; press conferences are scheduled to announce polling results. Letter writing, emailing, and personal visit campaigns are set in motion. All efforts are focused on the promised date of June 26.

April 21, 2006 – Polling is completed in ten key states that may offer the best chance for securing the single vote needed. The numbers are strong and continue to reflect an uncompromising position by the majority of Americans that they want returned to them the right to protect the flag from physical desecration.

May, 2006 – Media attention mounts as press conferences are conducted on or near the State Capital in Hartford, CT; Dover, DE; Springfield, IL; Frankfort, KY; Albany, NY; Bismarck, ND; Warwick, RI; Salt Lake City, UT; Olympia, WA; and Charleston, WV.

May-June, 2006 – As radio, newspaper, and magazine advertising touts support for the flag amendment the issue becomes “front page” news across the Nation. It gains steam through CFA inroads to the media as opponents pitch their “parade of horrors” in attempts to defeat the will of the people.

June 13-15, 2006 – With the day of the vote less than two weeks away, a CFA-sponsored “Walk the Hill” event enjoys participation from more than one hundred people who are in Washington, DC in support of the amendment. Talks are had with Senators, hands are shook and pledges of support are offered by most. Some amendment opponents do their best to avoid amendment supporters.

June 25, 2006 – Supporters return to “Walk the Hill” again, wanting to nail down that single vote that is needed. Optimism that at least one opposing Senator will reverse their position is guarded. Calls and emails are coming into the offices of many US Senators as the CFA issues the call to “turn up the heat.”

June 26, 2006 – Tennessee’s U.S. Senator Bill Frist hosts a noontime outdoor press conference on Capitol Hill and is joined by a throng of amendment supporters to include chief sponsors of the measure, Senators Orrin Hatch and Dianne Feinstein. The amendment gets a phenomenal boost in media attention when Major League Baseball great Rick Monday and former Miss America Heather French Henry call for the United States Senate to support S.J. Res. 12, the flag amendment.

June 26, 2006 – Speculation on the time of the vote and the current vote count builds as flag amendment advocates answer inquiries from the media and continue to press for the deciding vote. The measure comes to the floor of the Senate and debate begins. Senate Joint Resolution 12 is put to a vote, but is lost by one. In a 66-34 finish, the decision to protect the flag is again kept from the people by a handful of United States Senators. CFA representatives depart Capitol Hill, but with the determination to return in the 110th Congress.

September, 2006 – The November mid-term elections are on the horizon and the CFA begins to circularize candidates, seeking their support for the flag amendment and getting them on record with their position.

November 7, 2006 – The mid-term elections result in a change of leadership roles in both Houses of Congress. With those changes come changes in Committee structure and leadership. Those who strongly advocated for the amendment move out of their positions of authority while those who have advocated its defeat move in.

Significant Campaign Events 2005

November - December, 2005 – Promises are made and tentative schedules are set for hearings on Senate Joint Resolution 12 by the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Property Rights. In last minute “bargaining” schedules are scuttled after opponents suggest a later time for hearings would better suit the Senate’s calendar. The First Session of the 109th Congress adjourns with the Senate having taken no action on the flag amendment.

September, 2005 – Nominations and hearings associated with the selection of new Supreme Court Justices pushes aside Senate action on the flag amendment. Hurricanes Katrina and Rita further burden the Senate schedule as relief legislation gets priority attention and many measures – to include the flag amendment – are placed on a back burner.

August, 2005 – Reacting to media reports that play fast and loose with the facts, and commentary detrimental to the flag amendment in the state of Utah, the CFA commissions yet another survey to determine the precise level of support among residents there. Results of the 500-respondent poll refute the media hype, revealing that 8 of 10 Utah residents believe that flag desecration should be against the law. Seventy percent of all respondents “favor” the amendment. The CFA calls a press conference in Salt Lake City in early August to announce the polling results. Media attention to the issue is good and the CFA gets its points and figures into the press.

July, 2005 – In concert with the Hill presence, the CFA places pro-amendment ads in The National Journal, a prestigious Capitol Hill magazine. Ads run in four consecutive issues through the month of July. Subjects include results of the national survey; a discourse by Harvard Law School Professor Richard Parker on why a “statute approach” [simple law] to flag protection will not work; a public declaration of support by Medal of Honor recipients is stated; and a second piece that exposes the mind-set of Senators who discredit the amendment while touting the merits of a simple statute.

July, 2005 – In further support of possible Senate action on the amendment, the CFA organizes a “Walk the Hill” event and invites CFA partners to participate. Twenty-five representatives of various member organizations spend three days on Capitol Hill meeting face-to-face with Senators and their staff. Opposition is addressed, support is gathered, and commitments are nailed down.

June, 2005 – Anticipating Senate action soon, a major letter writing campaign is launched within the ranks of the CFA and aimed at every member of the United States Senate.

June, 2005 – The Citizens Flag Alliance commissions a nationwide poll to determine, once again, the public’s desire for flag protection. Results are not surprising. The survey of more than 1,000 adult respondents shows 80 percent believe flag

desecration should be “against the law”; 75 percent of all respondents “favor” the flag amendment. These figures reflect extremely consistent support among the American people, support that has not waned over sixteen years since the Supreme Court’s decision in *Texas v. Johnson*.

June, 2005 – House Joint Resolution 10 goes to the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives where attempts to scuttle it fail. On June 22nd the proposed amendment passes 286-130, marking the sixth consecutive time that a flag amendment has passed in the House.

April, 2005 – Senators Orrin Hatch [R-UT] and Dianne Feinstein [D-CA] introduce Senate Joint Resolution 12 on April 14th. Fifty Senate cosponsors join them in support and by July the number of Senators on record in support of the amendment is at 58, nine away from the 67 needed to pass the amendment.

January, 2005 – The 108th Congress adjourns, sine die. The flag amendment never gets to the Senate floor. On Tuesday, January 25, 2005, Representatives Duke Cunningham [R-CA] and John Murtha [D-PA], with 46 cosponsors introduce House Joint Resolution [H.J. Res.] 10, a proposed constitutional amendment that reads, "The Congress shall have power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States." Similar action is pending in the Senate, where backing for the amendment is greater than ever with 65 supporters of record.

Significant Campaign Events 2004

November, 2004 - MG Brady makes a strong appeal to Senate Republican and Democrat leaders to take action on the amendment. The American Legion purchases ad space in prominent Washington publications - and in no uncertain terms chastises both supporters and opponents in the Senate for allowing the "will of the people" to languish in the closing days of the 108th Congress.

August, 2004 -Pressure by flag amendment advocates forces action and SJR 4 is favorably released by the Judiciary, headed to the Senate floor with an 5-4 vote. The Senate leadership promises a vote in September, but reneges on the promise, while offering up the idea of a pre-election vote. But, again, the promise is broken when the elections pass without amendment action.

May, 2004 -Two months after Senate hearings, no Judiciary mark-up is done. Independence Day passes and the situation remains unchanged.

March, 2004 -Senate Judiciary Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-UT) calls hearings on SJR 4, the Senate version of the flag amendment. Individuals from several CFA member organizations fill the hearing room as the Judiciary hears testimony from CFA's MG Patrick Brady and consultant Professor Richard Parker, who are joined by professional racecar driver John Andretti. Andretti draws great media attention and broadens support among "NASCAR Dads" and others who learn of the amendment. Senate leadership promises a vote between Memorial Day and July, but delays dog the procedure.

Significant Campaign Events 2003

June, 2003 - With the highest vote count in four years, the United States House of Representatives passes House Joint Resolution 4 - the flag protection constitutional amendment - for the fifth consecutive time since the CFA's campaign began with the 104th Congress. Going to the floor for a vote, the proposed amendment carries 213 official cosponsors. The final tally, 300-125. Support in the Senate remains strong with more than 60 US Senators on record as supporters of the amendment and more than 55 signed on as official cosponsors. CFA throttles up in preparation for a run at the Senate.

January, 2003 – Flag protection amendments are introduced in both the House and Senate early in the 108th Congress.

The House measure, HJ Res. 4, is introduced by chief cosponsors Rep. Duke Cunningham (R-CA) and Rep. John Murtha (D-PA) on January 7, the opening day of the 108th Congress, with twenty-four colleagues as cosponsors. On January 16, Senators Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) introduce SJ Res. 4, the Senate's companion measure, which shows 41 of their colleagues as cosponsors. With an all-time high number of member organizations at 144, the Citizens Flag Alliance ratchets up operations and prepares for work in the 108th.

Significant Campaign Events 2002

November, 2002 – The dust had all but settled from the November 5 mid-term elections as things looked brighter for the CFA than anytime in the preceding 18 months. Post-election analysis showed that support for the amendment remained exceptionally strong and a headcount of the winners in both chambers showed no loss of support. With the start of the 108th Congress, amendment-friendly legislators would return to leadership positions in both the US Senate and House of Representatives. In the House, 305 flag amendment supporters would be seated in the 108th Congress. Senate wins indicated that of 34 Senate seats open, 25 amendment supporters and nine opponents would be seated. Headcount in the Senate: 60+ supporters; 30+ opponents.

October, 2002 – Press conferences were conducted by the CFA in four states – Kentucky, Arkansas, Iowa, and South Carolina – where Senate candidates were of opposing positions on a flag protection constitutional amendment. The purpose of the events was to give opportunity to all candidates to state their position and, ultimately, to educate the voters of the state on the position of each candidate.

July-August, 2002 – For the fourth time in consecutive congresses, CFA Member Organizations paid special tribute to House members in the 107th Congress who voted “yes” to the proposed flag protection constitutional amendment. More than 300 personal mementos went to Representatives who voted in support of the flag amendment, HJ Res. 36, on July 17, 2001. Many of the presentations, done in the Representatives' district office, garnered media coverage for both the amendment supporter and the issue of flag protection.

March, 2002- Market Strategies, an independent pollster, is commissioned by CFA to conduct a nationwide survey to determine the level of support among Americans. Results show support for a flag protection amendment remains overwhelmingly high, as 3 of 4 adult Americans believe it important enough to be taken up by the Senate before close of the 107th Congress. Other findings show that young people, 18-24, are a group with the second highest level of support (80%), just behind those 65 years and older (85%); half of the 800 respondents said, for them, the flag had greater importance following the horrors of September 11th; 90% of those interviewed said the flag was special and worthy of special protections.

January 10, 2002- Twelve years of hard work paid off for CFA members in Vermont when the state legislature passed Joint Resolution 9, urging Congress to explore "all avenues available, which may include a constitutional amendment," to protect the flag from physical desecration. With this, the call for a flag protection constitutional amendment is unanimous among the fifty states of the United States.

Significant Campaign Events 2001

October, 2001- CFA rekindles flag protection petition drives. With more than 3 million petition signatures boxed up and shelved, the request goes out for the collection of 1 million signatures, by summer 2002, that call on the US Senate to take up the flag protection amendment before the 107th Congress closes.

September 11, 2001- America is attacked. Two commercial airliners are flown by terrorists into the twin towers of the World Trade Center; another is flown into the Pentagon; and yet one other, purportedly enroute to the US Capitol, crashes

in a Pennsylvania farm field, brought down by passengers aboard the aircraft. Thousands are killed, hundreds of thousands directly affected, millions of flags flying within hours of the catastrophe.

July 17, 2001 - The U.S. House of Representatives passes HJR 36 by a 298-125 margin, 8 votes more than needed for the two-thirds majority required for passage of a constitutional amendment.

May, 2001- Sen. James Jeffords of Vermont leaves the Republican Party, becoming an independent and throwing control of the Senate to the Democratic Party for the first time since 1994. With his defection, flag amendment champions Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Trent Lott (R-MS) lose their leadership positions to flag amendment opponents Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Tom Daschle (D-SD).

March 13, 2001 - A press conference is called in Washington, DC, to announce the introduction of the flag protection amendment in both chambers in the 107th Congress. Senators Max Cleland (D-GA) and Orrin Hatch (R-UT) become the Chief Cosponsors in the US Senate, while Representatives Randy "Duke" Cunningham (R-CA) and John Murtha (D-PA) champion the cause in the US House of Representatives. The House resolution, HJR 36, enjoys official cosponsorship from more than 100 members. In the Senate, SJR 7 counts 40 official cosponsors. Efforts toward a cosponsor drive in both chambers continue.

March 2001 - The CFA produces another in a continuing line of video pieces that depict the importance of the flag and call to action, during the 107th Congress, the 141 Organizations that make up the Citizens Flag Alliance.

Significant Campaign Events 2000

March 29, 2000 - Senate Joint Resolution 14, the Flag Protection Constitutional Amendment, falling four short of the necessary 67 votes, is lost 63-37 in the United States Senate. The Citizens Flag Alliance notes deep disappointment in two Senators whose previous support was withdrawn at the last minute. Senator Robert Byrd (D-WV) notifies CFA Board Chairman MG Patrick Brady and American Legion National Commander Alan Lance of his decision just a day before the scheduled vote. Deliberations with the Senator in the closing hours just before the vote are to no avail and Sen. Byrd votes "Nay" to SJ Res. 14. Nevada's US Senator, Richard Bryan (D-NV), without disclosing a change in position also votes "Nay," and has yet to explain his change. Once again a clear, but insufficient, majority supports it. Once again, a small number of US Senators make it clear they place no trust in the American people and have a mere spoken regard for the importance the people place on the Flag of the United States.

For the remainder of the year, the Citizens Flag Alliance focuses in two broad areas: recognizing supporters in the 106th Congress and determining the position of every candidate seeking a seat in the 107th. Three hundred sixty-eight members of Congress (305 Representatives and 63 Senators) receive a formal, personal thank-you and a small memento from the CFA groups in their state. More than 1,000 candidates for federal office are queried on their support for a flag protection amendment. When election returns are finalized, more than 300 Representatives and 60 Senators are seated and on the record as flag amendment supporters.

Significant Campaign Events 1999

June 24, 1999 - The U.S. House of Representatives, by an overwhelming majority, passes H.J. Res. 33 by a 305-124 margin, 15 votes more than was needed for the two-thirds majority required for passage of a constitutional amendment.

April 20, 1999 - Senate Judiciary Committee holds hearings on S.J. Res. 14, a proposed constitutional amendment which would return to the American people the right to protect their flag. The committee hears supporting testimony from a diverse group of witnesses including Richard Parker, Professor of Law, Harvard Law School and Maj. Gen. Patrick Brady

(USA-Ret.), Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Citizens Flag Alliance, and Medal of Honor Recipient. Other witnesses include Lt. Gen. Edward Baca (USA-Ret.), former Chief, National Guard Bureau and Maribeth Seely, a fifth grade school teacher from New Jersey.

March 24, 1999 - House Judiciary Subcommittee hearings on H.J. Res. 33. Witnesses testifying in favor of the amendment include Stephen Presser, Professor of Law, Northwestern University School of Law, Maj. Gen. Patrick Brady (USA-Ret.), Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Citizens Flag Alliance, Inc., Stephan Ross, a holocaust survivor who was liberated from Dachau by the U.S. Army, and Bishop Carlton Pearson, the presiding Bishop for more than 500 churches and ministries throughout the Azusa Interdenominational Fellowship.

March 17, 1999 - Senators Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Max Cleland (D-GA) introduce S.J. Res. 14. The amendment has 54 cosponsors. In all sixty-four Senators have pledged their support of the amendment.

February 24, 1999 - Reps. Randy "Duke" Cunningham (R-CA) and John Murtha (D-PA) introduce H.J. Res. 33, a constitutional amendment which would return to the American people the right to protect their flag. Rep. John Sweeney (R-NY), who replaced retired Congressman Gerald Solomon, is also leading the co-sponsor drive by shoring up support among newly elected members of Congress.

Jan. 11, 1999 - Rep. Randy "Duke" Cunningham (R-CA) and Rep. John Murtha (D-PA) announce their plans to sponsor legislation in the next several weeks which would return to the American people the right to protect their flag.

Significant Campaign Events 1998

Nov. 4, 1998 - Election analysis indicates the CFA is one step closer to passage of a flag-protection constitutional amendment in the U.S. Senate in the 106th Congress. Newly elected Senators who support the flag-protection amendment include Sens. Blanche Lambert Lincoln (D-AR), Peter Fitzgerald (R-IL) and George Voinovich (R-OH). All three Senators replace incumbents who were on record as 'no' votes, thus further enhancing the amendment's chances for passage in the Senate where it will be voted on next year.

Oct. 7, 1998 - Sen. Majority Leader Trent Lott brings SJR 40 to the floor of the U.S. Senate asking for unanimous consent to proceed to debate and vote. Sens. Robert Kerrey (D-NE) and Patrick Leahy (D-VT) objected to consideration of the resolution, citing lack of time to sufficiently debate the amendment. With that the measure is lost in the 105th Congress.

July 8, 1998 - Senate Judiciary Committee holds hearings on S.J. Res. 40. Those testifying in favor of the amendment include baseball great Tommy Larsorda, actor-singer John Schneider and Harvard Law Professor Richard Parker.

June 17, 1998 - S.J. Res. 40 is approved by the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee in a meeting off the Senate floor by a vote of 5-3.

March 25, 1998 - Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, Federalism and Property Rights holds hearings on S.J. Res. 40. Those testifying in favor of the amendment include a diverse group of individuals including a Northwestern University Law Professor, a Pennsylvania union official, the Attorney General from the State of Idaho, a Wisconsin State Legislator, a school official and Medal of Honor Recipient Maj. Gen. Patrick Brady, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the CFA.

February 4, 1998 - Senators Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Max Cleland (D-GA) introduce S.J. Res. 40. The amendment has 61 co-sponsors to date.

Significant Campaign Events 1997

June 12, 1997 - H.J. Res. 54 passes the House by 310-114 margin, 20 votes more than is needed for the two-thirds majority required for passage of a constitutional amendment.

February 13, 1997 - Representatives Gerald Solomon (R-NY) and William O. Lipinski (D-IL) introduce House Joint Resolution 54, calling for the flag protection amendment. As before, the CFA officials vigorously encourage member organizations and individuals to persuade their representatives to become co-sponsors.

Significant Campaign Events 1996

November 1996 - Flag amendment supporters capture 25 of the 34 Senate seats and 290 plus House seats. The American Legion National Commander Joseph J. Frank and CFA Chairman Major General Patrick Brady reaffirm their flag amendment commitment.

September 1996 - Presidential candidate Bob Dole, addressing The American Legion National Convention in Salt Lake City, UT, pledges his support.

March - November 1996 - CFA launches massive "Get Out the Vote" effort. This nationwide campaign includes numerous press events, voter registration and voter education drives.

February 1996 - CFA commissions polls in states where House and Senate votes are needed; Polls in Minnesota and Kentucky reveal registered voters are less likely to vote for Sen. Paul Wellstone, D-Minn., and Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., because of their opposition to the amendment.

January 1996 - CFA launches nationwide campaign to inform citizens how their lawmakers voted on the amendment.

Significant Campaign Events 1995

December 12, 1995 - Senate rejects SJR 31 by a vote of 63-36; CFA pledges to continue fight for the amendment.

October 1995 - SJR 31 is tentatively scheduled for Senate vote; leadership elects to delay vote to garner more support. CFA launches aggressive advertising campaign in key states and continues to urge its members to write and telephone their Senators.

September 4, 1995 - Speaking before National Convention delegates in Indianapolis, Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kansas, a co-sponsor of SJR 31, says the measure will be voted on by Senate before year's end.

Polls conducted in key states show strong support for flag amendment among registered voters; polls also show candidates' position on flag amendment may determine citizens' votes in 1996 elections.

August 1995 - CFA reports 56 senators are co-sponsors of SJR 31.

July 20, 1995 - SJR 31 passes Senate Judiciary Committee in a 12-6 vote.

June 28, 1995 - HJR 79 clears House 312-120; 290 votes are needed for the two-thirds majority required for passage of a constitutional amendment.

June 6, 1995 - White House counsel appears before Senate Judiciary Committee hearings and says President Clinton is opposed to the flag amendment; American Legion National Commander, William Detweiler also testifies before the panel.

May 25, 1995 - National Commander William Detweiler and CFA member representatives appear before the House Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, testifying on behalf of HJR 79.

April 12, 1995 - Hawaii state lawmakers adopt flag memorializing resolution, becoming the 49th state to do so; Vermont is the only state not to pass the measure.

March 21, 1995 - Senators. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, and Howell Heflin, D-Ala., introduce Senate Joint Resolution 31, calling for the amendment; Reps. Gerald Solomon, R-N.Y., and G.V. 'Sonny' Montgomery, D-Miss., introduce a similar bill, House Joint Resolution 79, in their chamber. CFA officials vigorously encourage member groups and individuals to persuade their representatives and senators to become co-sponsors.

February 27, 1995 - 1,500 Legionnaires and other flag supporters gather on Capitol steps in support of the amendment; several lawmakers are on hand to show their support.

Significant Campaign Events 1994

August 24, 1994 - Citizens Flag Alliance publicly unveiled to promote flag amendment and education; the non-profit group seeks membership of other civic, social and fraternal organizations. Constitutional scholars gather in Williamsburg to discuss flag-protection amendment.

For the remainder of the year, CFA groups organize in all 50 states; National CFA mounts aggressive publicity campaign about flag awareness; Alliance grows to 112 groups by December 1995.

May 1994 - American Legion National Executive Committee approves Res. 19 (creating flag advisory committee), Res. 20 (financing mechanism for the flag-protection amendment), Res. 21 (creates Citizens Flag Alliance).

January 1994 - American Legion leaders meet in Indianapolis to discuss new strategies to promote passage of the flag amendment; Flag Amendment Working Group formed.

Significant Campaign Events 1992

August 25, 1992 - Presidential candidate Bill Clinton tells American Legion National Convention delegates in Chicago he opposes flag-burning and will do all that he can to legally protect the flag if elected.

Memorializing resolution campaign gains steam throughout 1992-93; by the end of 1993, 35 state legislatures have approved resolutions. Gallup Organization polls show overwhelming public support for flag-protection amendment.

Significant Campaign Events 1990

June 26, 1990 - Senate fails to obtain two-thirds majority for flag-protection amendment.

For the remainder of 1990, the Legion refocuses on memorializing resolution campaign in the states; the non-binding resolutions urge the Congress to adopt an amendment allowing the states to enact and enforce flag-protection laws.

June 21, 1990 - House fails to muster required two-thirds majority to pass a flag-protection amendment.

June 11, 1990 - Supreme Court rules PL 101-131 unconstitutional.

February - March 1990 - Federal judges in Seattle and Washington, D.C., rule PL 101-131 unconstitutional.

Significant Campaign Events 1989

October 28, 1989 - HR 2978 becomes Public Law 101-131; flag burned on steps of the Capitol in Washington to protest enactment of the law; other public flag-burnings reported throughout the country after passage of PL 101-131.

October 13, 1989 - President George Bush allows HR 2978 to become law without his signature because he says an amendment is the only way to protect the flag from physical desecration.

October 12, 1989 - House and Senate adopt House Resolution 2978, a federal statute to protect the flag; Legion predicts statute will not stand the test of the courts.

September 5, 1989 - American Legion delegates at the National Convention in Baltimore unanimously adopt Res. 355 (Americanism Committee), seeking adoption and ratification of flag-protection amendment.

July-August 1989 - American Legion launches petition drive to collect 1 million signatures of Americans demanding flag-protection amendment; goal reached and petitions presented to the Congress.

July 10, 1989 - Texas state legislature adopts memorializing resolution urging the Congress to adopt a flag-protection constitutional amendment.

June 21, 1989 - By a 5-4 vote, the Supreme Court rules in *Texas v. Johnson* that burning the American flag is free speech protected under the First Amendment. This abrogates flag-burning statutes in 48 states. American Legion National Commander H.F. 'Sparky' Gierke voices the organization's disgust over the ruling.