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A Victory For The American People: Flag Protection Passes House Amendment Returns Precious Right

WASHINGTON, DC (June 22, 2005) - The leader of the nation's largest veterans organization applauded the members of the House of Representatives today for taking the flag amendment one step closer to victory.

A constitutional amendment to restore Congress' power to pass legislation that will protect the U.S. flag from acts of physical desecration. H.J. Res. 10, passed in the House today, for the sixth time. The amendment reads, "The Congress shall have power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States."

"The voice of the American people has been heard and heeded!" said Thomas P. Cadmus, national commander of the 2.7 million member American Legion. "I salute the House of Representatives for listening to their constituents and voting to return to the American people their God-given right to rule themselves that's been infringed on by the courts and minority special interests. They are returning a fundamental right to the people that had been exercised from our beginning as a nation - the right to protect our flag."

In 1989, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Texas vs. Johnson*, invalidated flag protection laws in 48 states and the District of Columbia. All 50 state legislatures have passed memorializing resolutions asking Congress to pass an amendment and send it back to the States for ratification.

"America's core values embedded in that concept 'We the People' are under attack," asserted Cadmus. "Core values such as reverence and respect for Old Glory, our religious heritage, the Pledge of Allegiance and even Scouting, are all under siege by elements in this country that do not believe in 'We the People.' Today's vote by the House is the first step in diffusing these premeditated attacks on those core values that made this country great."

A newly released independent poll by the Opinion Research Corp. confirmed that the vast majority of Americans want the U.S. flag protected from acts of desecration.

The poll reinforces numerous other polls conducted since 1989. According to Cadmus, "Poll after poll indicates that between 75 percent to 80 percent of the public support legal protection for Old Glory. I am especially delighted to see that in the latest poll, America's young people (18 to 25 years old) support flag protection by a whopping 89 percent.

"This is not a Democrat or Republican issue," Cadmus said. "It is an American issue. The four million members of the American Legion family, and indeed the vast majority of the American people, are counting on the Senate to pass the flag amendment and send it back to all 50 state legislatures to let the people decide." ★