

The American Flag and What it means to the Governed of A Great Republic:

Ruth Apperson Rous scribed a great definition of our American Flag in poetry. She writes: I am the Flag of the United States of America. I was born on June 14, 1777, in Philadelphia. There the Continental Congress adopted my stars and stripes as the nation's flag. My thirteen stripes alternating red and white, with a union of thirteen white stars in a field of blue, represented a new constellation, a new nation dedicated to the personal and religious liberty of mankind. Today fifty stars signal from my union, one for each of the fifty sovereign states in the greatest constitutional republic the world has ever known. My colors symbolize the patriotic ideals and spiritual qualities of the cities of my country. My red stripes proclaim the fearless courage and integrity of American girls and boys and the self-sacrifice and devotion of American mothers and daughters. My white stripes stand for liberty and equality for all. My blue is the blue of heaven loyalty, and faith. I represent these eternal principles: liberty, justice, and humanity. I embody American freedom: freedom of speech, religion, assembly, the press, and the sanctity of the home. I typify that indomitable spirit of determination brought to my land by Christopher Columbus and by all forefathers-the Pilgrims, Puritans and settlers at Jamestown and Plymouth. I am as old as my nation. I am a living symbol of my nation's law: the Constitution of the United States and the Bill of Rights. I voice Abraham Lincoln's philosophy: "A government of the people, by the people, for the people. I stand guard over my nation's schools, the seedbed of good citizenship and true patriotism. I am displayed in every schoolroom throughout my nation; every school has a flag pole for my display. Daily thousands upon thousands of boys and girls pledge their

allegiance to me and my country. I have my own law—Public Law 829, “The Flag Code”—which definitely states my correctness and display for all occasions and situations. I have my special day, Flag Day; June 14 is set aside to honor my birth. Americans, I am the sacred emblem of your country. I symbolize your birthright, your heritage of liberty purchased with blood and sorrow. I am your title deed of freedom, which is yours to enjoy and hold in trust and posterity. If you fail to keep this sacred trust inviolate, if I am nullified and destroyed, you and your children will become slaves to dictators and despots. Eternal vigilance is your price of freedom. As you see my silhouetted against the peaceful skies of my country, remember yourself that I am the flag of your country, that I stand for what you are...no more...no less!

Recently the US Senate had an opportunity to protect our flag with a constitutional amendment ... H.J. Res. 10 and S.J. Res. 12 ... It was to read, “The Congress shall have power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.” There were 34 Senators (31 democrats and 3 republicans) who were opposed to this protection in spite of the fact that the flag amendment had 59 Senate co- sponsors, 300 Congressmen, and 75% of the governed! One of those 34 was our own Senator McConnell who has from the very beginning of his career opposed the protection of the American Flag! Of course joining Senator McConnell and the additional 33 Senators is the ACLU and the People for the American Way who applaud his actions. Isn't that a coincidence? Mr. McConnell says he treasures the Stars and Stripes ... and he reveres the American flag ... but rejected the Flag Amendment to protect his so-called dedication to the Constitution. He feels S.J. 12 would tamper with the First Amendment and weaken it as well. William Tyler Page wrote the American's Creed in 1917 that was accepted by Congress on April

3, 1918. “I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived FROM THE CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED, a democracy in a republic, a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States; a perfect union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes. “I therefore believe it is MY DUTY to my country to love it, to support its Constitution, to obey its laws, to RESPECT ITS FLAG, and to defend it against ALL enemies.” The protection of the American Flag has always been supported by all 50 states and was CONSTITUTIONAL until 1989 when the Supreme Court struck down all STATES RIGHTS concerning the American Flag by a 5-4 ruling. That particular year the Supreme Court overturned a 1968 federal statute and flag protection law. Bill Frist of Tennessee said, “ Old Glory lost At a time when our armed services are defending America’s freedom in the War on Terror, it’s unfortunate that a minority of my colleagues blocked this amendment. The amendment simple returns the right to protect the American Flag an authority that existed for 200 years prior to an activist Supreme Court decision in 1989. It’s supported by ALL 50 state legislatures and countless veterans across the nation. US Senator Lamar Alexander also said, “Our flag was protected until 1989 when five Supreme Court justices decided to permit flag burning as a political statement...The American Flag is one of our greatest symbols of national unity and it DESERVES to be respected as such!” Since then, the House has approved flag amendments in 1995, 97, 99, and 2001, all by more than 300 votes, Senator McConnell and 33 of his colleagues have lost contact with the governed!