

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9522

To designate the Freedom Flag as the national symbol of remembrance
for September 11, 2001, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 29, 2026

Mr. MCGUIRE (for himself and Mr. GARBARINO) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To designate the Freedom Flag as the national symbol of
remembrance for September 11, 2001, and for other
purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “National Patriot Day
5 Remembrance Flag Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) September 11, 2001, will forever be one of
9 the darkest days in the history of the United States.

1 (2) Nearly 3,000 people, including citizens of
2 over 90 nations, died as a direct result of the 9/11
3 terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center in New
4 York, New York, the Pentagon in Arlington County,
5 Virginia, and in Somerset County, Pennsylvania.

6 (3) The first responders who served heroically
7 at Ground Zero in the City of New York paid a
8 heavy toll, with over 400 fire, police, and rescue
9 members making the ultimate sacrifice.

10 (4) The Freedom Flag was designed by a Vir-
11 ginian on September 20, 2001, to foster the estab-
12 lishment of a national symbol of remembrance that
13 honors and remembers the victims, heroic first re-
14 sponders, and all who were affected by the events of
15 September 11, 2001.

16 (5) The meaning of the Freedom Flag is illus-
17 trated by the colors and symbols of the flag, which
18 are—

19 (A) an “Old Glory” blue background sym-
20 bolizing all Americans united together for free-
21 dom;

22 (B) one white star symbolizing all who live
23 and died for freedom;

1 (C) five white bars symbolizing the Pen-
2 tagon and the organized protection of our free-
3 dom;

4 (D) one top “Old Glory” red stripe symbol-
5 izing the bloodshed of the people who perished
6 at the Pentagon and the crew and passengers
7 killed on American Airlines Flight 77;

8 (E) two broad “Old Glory” red stripes
9 symbolizing the Twin Towers and the bloodshed
10 of the people who perished at the World Trade
11 Center and on American Airlines Flight 11 and
12 United Airlines Flight 175;

13 (F) one bottom “Old Glory” red stripe
14 symbolizing the bloodshed of the crew and pas-
15 sengers who perished on United Airlines Flight
16 93 in Pennsylvania; and

17 (G) three white stripes symbolizing the res-
18 cue workers, firefighters, police officers, Port
19 Authority employees, and others who worked
20 tirelessly during and after the terrorist attacks.

21 (6) On October 25, 2001, a flag maker sewed
22 the first Freedom Flag and unveiled the flag on De-
23 cember 16, 2001.

24 (7) On November 12, 2001, the Freedom Flag
25 was officially adopted by the Virginia Historical So-

ciety as part of a special exhibition in conjunction with the Smithsonian Institution to commemorate the events of 9/11.

(8) The design of the 9/11 Remembrance Flag adheres to the five principles of “Good Flag Design” defined by the North American Vexillological Association.

(9) In 2018, the Virginia General Assembly voted unanimously to add the 9/11 Remembrance Flag to the Code of Virginia as Virginia’s official flag of remembrance of the events of September 11, 2001, making it our nation’s first codified 9/11 remembrance flag when it was signed into law on March 30, 2018.

(10) The 9/11 Remembrance Flag has also been adopted by the legislatures of Oklahoma (May 16, 2022) and Delaware (Sept. 8, 2022), and has flown or been displayed on 9/11 and for Patriot Day lessons in all 50 states, including at thousands of schools, fire/rescue stations, police stations, and civic institutions.

(11) Over 7,000 members of the Armed Forces of the United States have made the ultimate sacrifice in the Global War on Terrorism since September 11, 2001.

1 (12) The aftermath of 9/11 cleanup activities
2 continues to take a toll on first responders, including
3 over 3,000 who have perished due to 9/11-related ill-
4 ness since the attacks.

5 (13) The symbols of the Freedom Flag serve as
6 a meaningful educational tool and a unifying em-
7 blem of patriotism and remembrance.

8 (14) Nearly 100,000,000 Americans have been
9 born since September 11, 2001, or were too young
10 to remember the events that occurred on that day.

11 (15) The Freedom Flag memorializes the cou-
12 rageous and ongoing response of all Americans to
13 threats against our freedom.

14 (16) The Freedom Flag is a symbol of our Na-
15 tion's concern and commitment to remembering all
16 of the lives lost as a result of the terrorist attacks
17 of September 11, 2001.

18 **SEC. 3. FREEDOM FLAG.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 9 of title 36, United
20 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
21 lowing:

22 **“§ 905. Freedom Flag**

23 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Freedom Flag is designated
24 as the national symbol of remembrance for September 11,
25 2001, and to support educational efforts of teaching fu-

1 ture generations about the tragic events and many lives
2 lost on such date, including programming through the 9/
3 11 Memorial Museum and the Pentagon Memorial Foun-
4 dation.

5 “(b) REQUIRED DISPLAY.—The Freedom Flag shall
6 be displayed each year on Patriot Day, from September
7 11 through the end of September at—

8 “(1) the Capitol;

9 “(2) the White House;

10 “(3) each national cemetery;

11 “(4) each major military installation, as des-
12 igned by the Secretary of Defense;

13 “(5) the building containing the official office
14 of—

15 “(A) the Secretary of State;

16 “(B) the Secretary of Defense; and

17 “(C) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs;

18 and

19 “(6) each United States Postal Service post of-
20 fice.

21 “(c) DISPLAY VISIBLE TO PUBLIC.—The Freedom
22 Flag shall be displayed pursuant to subsection (b) in a
23 manner designed to ensure visibility to the public.

1 “(d) ORDER OF PRECEDENCE.—Notwithstanding
2 any other provision of law, the Freedom Flag shall follow
3 the POW/MIA Flag in any order of precedence.

4 “(e) FLAG MATERIALS.—The disposal and retire-
5 ment of the Freedom Flag shall comply with Veterans Af-
6 fairs retirement and flag disposal practices.”.

7 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chap-
8 ter 9 of title 36, United States Code, is amended by add-
9 ing at the end the following:

“905. Freedom Flag.”.

○