

**A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY
LEGISLATORS MILLS AND MORTON**

Re: Support for a Constitutional Amendment Prohibiting Desecration of the US Flag

WHEREAS, Flag Day is June 14 and communities across the country will celebrate with public observances and displays to commemorates the 1775 adoption of the flag of the United States; and

WHEREAS, in light of decisions by the Supreme Court protecting the burning of the American Flag as freedom of expression, a Constitutional Amendment is needed to uphold the honor and presence of the U.S. flag; and

WHEREAS, all Americans should respect our right to dissent, but the burning of the U.S. flag should not be allowed under the banner of legal dissent through first amendment protections; and

WHEREAS, an amendment to the Constitution is in order to allow Congress to protect the U.S. flag from those who would seek to destroy it as a form of political protest.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature does hereby call upon the Congress of the United States to propose and approve a Constitutional amendment that would prohibit persons from desecrating, burning or defiling in any way the flag of the United States of America; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that such an amendment to the U.S. Constitution would allow for the imposition of severe penalties for any act of destroying the flag of the United States as a political statement of dissent or other form of expression; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that this Body urges the Congressional delegation for Western New York and the U.S. Senators from New York to work toward passage of an amendment that would protect our flag from dissenters who would defile and abuse it; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to the Western New York Congressional delegations and any other party deemed necessary and proper.

Fiscal Impact: None