

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7183

To amend title 36, United States Code, to designate the Freedom Flag as an official symbol of the United States to honor and remember the victims and emergency responders who died on September 11, 2001, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 11, 2020

Ms. SPANBERGER (for herself, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. CLINE, Mr. BEYER, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. RIGGLEMAN, Ms. WEXTON, Mr. WITTMAN, Mrs. LURIA, Mr. MCEACHIN, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. ZELDIN, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. ROSE of New York, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. KATKO, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. BRINDISI, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. DEAN, and Ms. NORTON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend title 36, United States Code, to designate the Freedom Flag as an official symbol of the United States to honor and remember the victims and emergency responders who died on 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “National Nine-Eleven
3 Victims and Emergency Responders Flag Of Remem-
4 brance, Gratitude, and Education for Tomorrow Act” or
5 the “National NEVER FORGET Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) On September 11, 2001, terrorists launched
9 an attack on the United States that resulted in the
10 deaths of nearly 3,000 United States citizens.

11 (2) Richard N. Melito designed a flag known as
12 the “Freedom Flag” on September 20, 2001, to me-
13 morialize and commemorate—

14 (A) the victims and emergency responders
15 of such attack;

16 (B) the events surrounding such attack;
17 and

18 (C) the sense of national unity and patriot-
19 ism that followed the attack.

20 (3) The meaning of the Freedom Flag is illus-
21 trated by the colors and symbols of the flag, includ-
22 ing—

23 (A) an old glory blue background that rep-
24 resents the people of the United States uniting
25 together for freedom;

1 (B) a white star that represents all individ-
2 uals who have lived and died for the freedom of
3 the people of the United States;

4 (C) five white bars that represent the Pen-
5 tagon and the organized protection of the free-
6 dom of the United States;

7 (D) a top old glory red stripe that rep-
8 resents the bloodshed of the individuals who
9 perished at the Pentagon and the crew and pas-
10 sengers on American Airlines Flight 77;

11 (E) two broad old glory red stripes that
12 represent the twin towers of the World Trade
13 Center in the city of New York and the blood-
14 shed of the individuals who died there, on
15 American Airlines Flight 11, and on United
16 Airlines Flight 175;

17 (F) a bottom old glory red stripe that rep-
18 resents the bloodshed of the crew and pas-
19 sengers who perished on United Airlines Flight
20 93 in Shanksville, Pennsylvania; and

21 (G) three white stripes that represent the
22 rescue workers, firefighters, police officers, port
23 authority employees, and other individuals who
24 worked tirelessly during and after the terrorist
25 attacks on September 11, 2001.

1 (4) On October 25, 2001, a flag maker sewed
2 the first Freedom Flag with the design of Mr. Melito
3 and unveiled the flag on December 16, 2001.

4 (5) The Virginia Historical Society adopted the
5 Freedom Flag on November 12, 2001, for display
6 during a memorial exhibit commemorating the Sep-
7 tember 11, 2001, attack on the Pentagon.

8 (6) In May 2002, Mr. Melito established a non-
9 profit organization known as the “Freedom Flag
10 Foundation” to facilitate the distribution of the
11 Freedom Flag to help educate children about the
12 terrorist attacks and to foster the establishment of
13 a national symbol of remembrance.

14 (7) On March 30, 2018, the Commonwealth of
15 Virginia designated the Freedom Flag as an official
16 emblem of Virginia.

17 **SEC. 3. DESIGNATION OF FREEDOM FLAG HONORING AND**
18 **REMEMBERING THOSE WHO DIED ON SEP-**
19 **TEMBER 11, 2001.**

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

23 **“§ 904. Designation of Freedom Flag**

24 “(a) DESIGNATION.—The flag known as the ‘Free-
25 dom Flag’ designed by Richard N. Melito is designated

1 as the symbol of the commitment of the United States to
2 honoring and remembering the victims and emergency re-
3 sponders who died as a result of the terrorist attacks on
4 September 11, 2001.

5 “(b) REQUIRED DISPLAY.—The Freedom Flag shall
6 be displayed each year on Patriot Day, September 11, and,
7 thereafter, each day 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 “(6) each medical center of the Department of
19 Veterans Affairs; and

20 “(7) each United States Postal Service post of-
21 fice.

22 “(c) DISPLAY VISIBLE TO THE PUBLIC.—The Free-
23 dom Flag shall be displayed pursuant to subsection (b)
24 in a manner designed to ensure visibility to the public.”.

1 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
2 at the beginning of chapter 9 of title 36, United States
3 Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new
4 item:

“904. Designation of Freedom Flag.”.

○