

## (June 22, 2005) Congressman Lipinski Votes to Protect the American Flag

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WASHINGTON, DC - U.S. Rep. Dan Lipinski (IL-03) said today that he cherishes the First Amendment as the bedrock of the American way of life and his support of protecting the Flag in the Constitution does not diminish the power of Freedom of Speech.

"I supported a Constitutional Amendment to protect the Flag because desecrating it is not a form of speech," Congressman Lipinski said. "From the Founding Fathers through more modern legal minds like Supreme Court Justices John Paul Stevens and Hugo Black, many have recognized our Flag's unique place as worthy of protection & from acts of desecration and disgrace."

Congressman Lipinski's support of the Flag Amendment was crystallized after hosting a Veterans' Town Hall meeting earlier this month.

"I met with more than 100 veterans from across the District who have served in every major conflict from World War II onward, including two young men who recently returned from combat in Iraq, Army Lt. Eduardo Alvarez and Marine Cpl. Eric Shaw Pittman," Congressman Lipinski said. "I find it difficult to accept that the Flag these brave Americans fought under and risked their lives for is merely a symbol that can be destroyed like a stage prop for dramatic affect during a protest."

Congressman Lipinski urged the United States Senate to take up the Amendment quickly, pass it and send it to state legislatures for ratification.