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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS
HOUSE POLICY COMMITTEE

file
HB 1673

October 26, 1999

TO: Representative Jess Stairs, Majority Chairman
House Education Committee

FROM: Rep. Allan Egolf *al*

SUBJECT: House Bill 1576 and House Bill 1673

I have two bills in the Education Committee that I would like your help in getting moved out to the full House of Representatives.

The first is House Bill 1576, the Student Responsibility Act, which passed unanimously out of the Education Committee late in the last session as House Bill 1408.

I have received numerous inquiries on the bill's status and expressions of support. The bill is supported by both PSEA and PSBA (copies of letters attached). Also, Senator Mike Waugh has recently asked if I would mind if he introduced it in the Senate, to which I wholeheartedly agreed.

The second bill, House Bill 1673, will require schools to display a United States Flag in each classroom and to offer the Pledge of Allegiance and/or the National Anthem at the beginning of each school day. The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States had requested this legislation, and it is supported by them, the Pennsylvania State Veterans' Commission, the National Flag Foundation, and the Pennsylvania War Veterans Council (copies attached).

I would appreciate your assistance in scheduling both bills for early consideration by the Committee, and for passage of both bills unencumbered to the full House.

Thank you for your consideration.

AE/tcr

July 19, 1999

JUL 22 1999

**National
Flag
Foundation**



Flag Plaza
Pittsburgh, PA
15219-3630
412-261-1776

The Honorable Allan Egolf
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
House Box 202020
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020

Dear Representative Egolf:

National Flag Foundation (NFF) applauds your efforts to introduce legislation to require the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and the display of the Flag of the United States of America in classrooms of Pennsylvania public schools.

One of the goals of NFF is to encourage love and respect for the United States Flag. Although NFF, as a nonprofit educational organization, is not able to lobby for the passage of any legislation, we can and do often recognize the valiant efforts of others to promote our Flag. We wish you success in your endeavors!

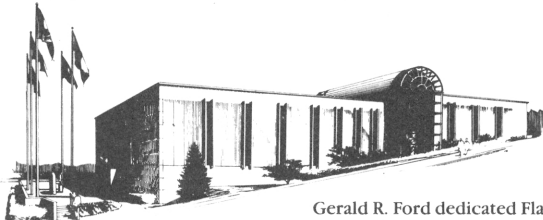
Best Regards and a Cordial Salute!

David L. White
Executive Director

NFF's 31st Year

*In adopting
America's first
symbol the
Founding
Fathers said
it represented
"A New
Constellation."*

*We salute the
Blessings of Liberty
they secured.*



Gerald R. Ford dedicated Flag Plaza as "America's Principal Bicentennial Gift." Donor Vivian W. Lehman 1889-1977
National Flag Foundation is a publicly supported Pennsylvania non-profit corporation exempt from income tax.



House of Representatives

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

MEMORANDUM

June 1, 1999

SUBJECT: Cosponsorship of Legislation

TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative Allan Egolf *al*

In the near future, I will be introducing legislation which amends the Public School Code by requiring schools to offer the Pledge of Allegiance or the National Anthem at the beginning of each school day. As well, a United States flag shall be displayed in each classroom within a school building.

If you would like to become a cosponsor of this legislation, please contact my office at 3-1593.

ROL/smg



DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA
Veterans of Foreign Wars
OF THE UNITED STATES



MAY 17 1999

May 13, 1999

The Honorable Allan Egolf
PA House of Representatives
Veterans Affairs Committee
403 South Office Bldg.
Harrisburg, Pa 17120

Dear Representative Egolf:

As we approach Memorial Day 1999, please consider the proposed legislation concerning the displaying of the United States flags in classrooms and the daily saying of the Pledge of Allegiance in our schools. This legislation is supported by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and is proposed as part of our **100th Anniversary** Patriotic Education program.

Now, more than ever, we need to refocus our society on the things that unify our nation instead of things that threaten to tear our social fabric apart. The American flag and the Pledge of Allegiance are simple but extraordinarily meaningful symbols of civic pride, community responsibility and patriotism. They serve as reminders that we have a collective identity as citizens that transcends our individual differences and that calls on us to respect both the benefits and the responsibilities of membership in a free society.

Most of us remember starting each school day when we were growing up by facing the flag, placing our hand over our heart, and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, we would be surprised to learn that these patriotic traditions are no longer routine and in many cases are completely ignored. In a day and age where our schools are going to great lengths to teach diversity and emphasize the differences between people, it is altogether appropriate that we begin to re-emphasize the unifying national symbols and traditions like the flag, the Pledge of Allegiance, and the National Anthem. It takes less than a minute and provides a lifetime of pride, and civic responsibility.

Your support for this important issue will be very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Albert S. Thomas, Jr.
State Commander

*John Reeves
Adjutant*

AST:clb