

Contact: Matt Lloyd

**PENCE SAYS U.S. FLAG MUST BE PROTECTED**

**Washington, Jun 3, 2003** - WASHINGTON, DC – U.S. Congressman Mike Pence took to the House floor today to urge Congress to pass a bill that amends the U.S. Constitution to prevent desecration of the U.S. flag. The bill is expected to pass the House later this afternoon. Pence's floor speech follows:

"Mr. Speaker, after surviving the bloodiest battle since Gettysburg, a platoon of marines trudged up Mount Suribachi on Sulfur Island with a simple task: to raise the American flag above the devastation below. When the flag was raised by Sergeant Mike Strank and his platoon, history records that a thunderous cheer arose from our troops on land and on sea, in foxholes and on stretchers.

"Hope is returned to that field of battle when the American flag began flapping in the wind. It is written, 'Without a vision, the people perish.' The flag was the vision that inspired and rallied our troops at Iwo Jima. The flag, Mr. Speaker, is still the vision for all Americans who cherish those who stood ready to make the necessary sacrifices.

"By adopting the Flag Protection Amendment, we will raise Old Glory yet again. We will raise her above the decisions of a judiciary that was wrong on both our law and our history. We will raise the flag above the cynicism of our times. We will say to my generation of Americans those unwelcome words, 'There are limits.' Out of respect for those who served beneath it and those who died within its sight, we must say that there are boundaries necessary to the survival of freedom.

"C.S. Lewis said, 'We laugh at honor and are shocked to find traitors in our midst.' Mr. Speaker, let us this day cease to laugh at honor. Let us elevate out of dishonor our unique national symbol to its rightful sacred place. Let us pass this amendment to restore to Old Glory the modest protections of the law she represents. For the sake of those who venerate her, it is time to raise the American Flag to her old glory again."

###