U.S. Congress Declares 1986 “Year of the Flag”

WASHINGTON, D.C. — To coincide with the 200th anniversary of the first constitutional convention and the rededication of the Statue of Liberty, Reps. Edolphus Towns (D, N.Y.) and William W. Cohen (R, N.C.) sponsored House Joint Resolution 424 (H.J. Res. 424), designating 1986 in the United States as the “Year of the Flag.” When signed by the president, copies of the proclamation will be available from The Clerk’s Office, The White House, Room 34 OEOB, Washington, D.C. 20500.

H.J. Res. 424

Whereas the flag of the United States is a symbol of our Nation and its ideals, traditions, and institutions;  
Whereas the flag is also symbolic of the territorial development of the Nation, and the tremendous effort, sacrifice, and love of country that made such development possible;  
Whereas the stars of the flag signify the number of States in the Union today and the stripes signify the number of States in the original Union;  
Whereas the colors of the flag signify qualities of the human spirit which all Americans should strive for: red for hardiness and courage, white for purity and innocence, and blue for vigilance and justice;  
Whereas awareness and appreciation of their Nation’s ideals, traditions, development, and accomplishments are important in inspiring and guiding citizens’ efforts in carrying the American legacy into the future;  
Whereas citizen interest in and appreciation of the flag and its development, meaning, and relationship to the American heritage is vitally important, so that it may always serve as an effective reminder of the ideals, accomplishments, and lessons of history for which it stands;  
Whereas citizen awareness, interest, and appreciation of the flag and its relationship to the American heritage has declined in recent years, thereby threatening its effectiveness in reminding citizens of their heritage and inspiring them in their daily lives;  
Whereas there is a need for renewed interest in the flag, and a promotion of awareness of its relationship to the Nation’s Constitution, values, heritage, and accomplishments;  
Whereas a commemorative year would serve to heighten such interest in and awareness of the flag, by encouraging efforts to educate citizens regarding the relationship of the flag to their heritage, and celebrations honoring the flag;  
Whereas 1986 is the year of the rededication of the Statue of Liberty; and  
Whereas the two hundredth anniversary of the first call for a Federal constitutional convention is an appropriate occasion to commemorate the flag as the symbol of American heritage for which the Constitution serves as foundation and the Statue of Liberty serves as a beacon: Now, therefore, be it  
Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That 1986 is designated the “Year of the Flag.” The President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe such year with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

From Congressional Record December 13, 1985
With this issue of NAVA News we welcome a new Editor, Tom Carrier. Members who have attended the last several annual meetings have had a chance to get to know Tom, who has been a bright, young addition, and who has served as Recording Secretary for the past two years. For those of you who have not had a chance to meet Tom, I would like to introduce him to you.

Thomas J. Carrier joined NAVA in 1980 and at the Annual Meeting in St. Louis that year presented “The Sovereignty of Camdenshire: Flags and Seals” an entertaining insight we all enjoyed. But the real life of this imaginative creator had spent the previous three years in the United States Army, 82nd Airborne Division as an Administrative Specialist to battalion staff officers. After his Honorable Discharge he worked briefly for a ceramic tile distributor and then became Chief Deputy Clerk for the Cleveland (Ohio) Municipal Court. In 1982 and 1983 Tom worked for the President’s Private Sector Survey on Cost Control (Grace Commission) in Washington, D.C., and then became a Staff Assistant for the Democratic National Committee. In 1983 he became the Operations Coordinator for the Curry Foundation, where he coordinates the day-to-day administrative operations for the Foundation. His experience with bi-monthly reports, coordinating conferences, editing a quarterly newsletter, compiling guides for conferences and general administrative support will be of immeasurable help in this new volunteer work he has generously agreed to do for his fellow NAVA members. Let’s all show Tom our appreciation and support by sending him interesting flag-related material from local sources.

As President of NAVA and speaking for the entire NAVA membership, I would like to offer our most sincere “Thank You” to the Rev. John R.B. Szala for the excellent work he performed as Editor of NAVA News for the past six years. Editing a bi-monthly newsletter is a time consuming job. We thank John for all the hours he has given to NAVA, and we thank him for all the interesting newsletters we have received over the past six years. We will look forward to more great presentations, like “The Swastika: Sacred and Profane” (1980), now that he doesn’t have the grind of the “News”.

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**LETTER FROM OTTAWA**

Department of the Secretary of State of Canada

Secretariat d’Etat du Canada

State Ceremonial

Ceremonial d’Etat

You may be interested to know that, in 1980, the Lieutenant Governors, at one of their regular meetings with the Governor General, asked that their standards be revised. The Lieutenant Governors had been using since 1870 the flag approved for them by the Colonial Office in London, that is to say the Royal Union Flag (Union Jack) bearing a white disk charged with the provincial shield of arms circled with a garland of green maple leaves. The new design incorporates the shield of arms of the province, surmounted by a Royal Crown and circled with a garland of ten gold stylized maple leaves, all of which is on a blue background. This new design symbolizes the dignity of the Queen’s representatives in the Canadian Provinces.

In approving the new flags for the Lieutenant Governors, the Governor General acted on the advice of the Secretary of State of Canada, further to a formal request submitted by the government of the Province. So far, Québec, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland are yet to request that the new design be approved for their Lieutenant Governors.

Your interest in the matter is very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Jean-Paul Roy
Chief of Ceremonial and Institutions

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**International Flag Convention Stays in City— Mostly**

by Jim Labig
Staff Writer

The long-planned international convention for an organization of flag historians, slated for Trenton’s Capitol Plaza Hotel in October, will still be held in the city—mostly.

While the North American Vexillological Association’s 20th annual convention will still hold all of its meetings and conference activities at the Capitol Plaza, participants will be sleeping at the Sheraton Inn in Bordentown.

Although the NAVA convention had been planned for Trenton for more than a year, the problems started shortly after the Capitol Plaza got new owners.

A massive refurbishing is planned for the rooms at the Capitol Plaza and the rooms won’t be finished in time for the convention, according to the Capitol Plaza’s Shelly Zeiger.

When Donald T. Healy, the local NAVA host coordinator for the convention, learned of the refurbishing schedule on March 31, it set off several very long days of headaches because notices had already gone out to the more than 400 members of the organization.

Healy credited Trenton Mayor Arthur J. Holland and Zeiger for saving the day for the convention, which Healy said is certainly the first international conference in the city in many years and may be the first ever.

The conventioners will be bused between Bordentown and the Capitol Plaza for the conference activities.

Although past conventions have attracted close to 100 participants (85 last year in Kansas City and 90 in Vancouver the year before), Healy expects this year’s attendance to be higher because most NAVA members live in the northeastern U.S.

The society, which is made up of those interested in the study of flags and their history, will be honoring the New Jersey state flag’s 90th birthday during their convention.

from: The Trentonian
Trenton, N.J. April 17, 1986
City flag designer’s determination unwavering

By MARY LOU AGUIRRE
Desert Sun Staff Writer

Henry Untermeyer of Palm Springs is a flag maker with unwavering determination.

Back in March 1984 the Palm Springs City Council adopted his design as the official city flag.

But Untermeyer says the flag has yet to fly at City Hall.

Untermeyer said it took him three years to get the flag’s six-color design adopted by the council.

However, the flag with its yellow sinking sun, orange sunset, purple mountains and palm tree, does fly in front of city’s Leisure Center, Mesquite Country Club and Palm Springs Deuville resorts.

But in Untermeyer’s opinion, it’s simply not enough flag-waving.

“The flag is not being flown at City Hall. It should also be flown at the police station, fire station, the libraries, golf course and at every (Palm Springs) school,” he said.

Untermeyer said Mayor Frank Bogert should have given recent Palm Springs visitor, Prince Charles, a city flag as a gift.

“They give VIPs the key to the city. They should have given him a small flag for his desk. It would be a constant reminder of Palm Springs. The key to the city doesn’t work,” he said.

So why isn’t the flag at City Hall?

Assistant City Manager Dallas Flicker said he didn’t know why the flag isn’t being flown.

“It’s probably just an oversight that the flags haven’t been put up. It’s just something that’s fallen through the cracks,” he said.

Untermeyer, 71, has been a vexiologist, or flag designer, since 1941. He is president of his Palm Springs business called Flags, Flagpoles and Saunas.

From: The Desert Sun
Palm Springs, CA, March 1986

BLOWIN’ IN THE WIND...

Town’s new city seal is true step forward

HICKORY, N.C. (AP)—It was all Greek—or Latin—to them, so Hickory officials asked a college professor to fix a “typographical error” on the city’s seal.

“We’d heard that the Latin is wrong,” said City Manager Gary McGee. “It’s been a little joke around City Hall.”

Before the City Council adopted a new seal Tuesday, the official city seal, which features a log cabin, had read “Vestigia Nulla Nitrorsum.” That, loosely translated, meant “No steps backwards”—very loosely translated.

Lenoir-Rhyne College Professor John Blakey looked in his Latin dictionary, and couldn’t find “nitorsum,” but he deduced the right word, “retrorsum.”

The new seal reads “Vestigia Nulla Retrorsum.”

From: The Plain Dealer
Cleveland, OH, Nov. 21, 1985

USPO Stamp Honors Texas’ Independence

The 150th anniversary of Texas’ declaration of independence from Mexico is remembered by a commemorative being issued today in San Antonio. The Republic of Texas won its independence on the battlefield and remained an independent republic for nearly 10 years before becoming the 28th state.

The lone star of the Republic of Texas, which was incorporated into the state flag, is one of the focal points of the new stamp. Another is a silver spur, said to have belonged to Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, the Mexican military leader who was defeated in the decisive battle of San Jacinto, which brought independence to Texas.

From: The Washington Post, March 2, 1986

AUSTRALIA
Run It Up The Flagpole

The timing was not altogether respectful, but it did make the point. As Queen Elizabeth II was making her royal rounds in Adelaide last week, a group called Ausflag 88 announced that Wayne Stokes, a Sydney graphic artist, had won its competition to design a new Australian flag without the Union Jack. The group argues that since Australia left the British colonial fold in 1901, the flag should drop the symbol of empire in time for Australia’s 1988 bicentennial. The winning banner features the white stars of the Southern Cross on a blue background with a red and a white strip across the bottom.

If public reaction is any indication, it may be a while before the new flag is snapping in Australian breezes. One television poll found that 64% of Stokes’ fellow citizens favored retaining the old standard. And Prime Minister Bob Hawke said he had “no intention” of changing the flag.

From: TIME, March 24, 1986
JOHN SZALA Let me reiterate Grace's comments from her column and thank the Rev. John R. B. Szala for all of his fine work as NAVA News Editor these past six years. I will do my best to "carry the banner" in the same fine and tireless manner. CORRECTION: Members, please note that my home address is different than the one printed in the January/February issue of NAVA News. My current address is: 2005 North Daniel #301, Arlington, VA 22201. NAVA XX: Don Healy, NAVA XX Host, dropped me a note asking that the registration form for NAVA XX in Trenton, NJ this October be amended to say $55 for the registration fee rather than $45 as printed. Doreen Braverman, NAVA VP and NAVA XX Program Chair, wanted to remind everyone that space is still available on the NAVA XX schedule for presentations and displays. Send her the form in the May-June NAVA News or write down your name, address, brief description of your presentation or display, time required or display requirements to Doreen Braverman, Program Chair, 2081 West 4th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C., Canada V6J 1N3. Send it soon. 1985-86 NAVA MEMBERSHIP LIST You should have received your 1985-86 NAVA Membership List by now. If any of the now 320 NAVA members in 15 countries around the world have not received it within, say, the next couple of weeks, let me know. SALUTE Sustained applause to several anonymous youngsters of the Francis Scott Key Elementary School in Arlington, VA who, apparently on their own initiative, lowered, refastened, and rehoisted the school's U.S. flag that had been inadvertently raised upside down - observing correct flag etiquette the entire time. A nice way to celebrate "Year of the Flag", I thought. HALF STAFF: Ilse Lincke, wife of NAVA member Wolf Lincke died peacefully after a lengthy illness March 27, 1986 in Vancouver, Canada. Our condolences to the Lincke family. If desired, donations may be sent to German-Canadian Care Homes, 2010 Harrison Drive, Vancouver, B.C. V5P 2P6.