

ACTS OF THE FIRST U.S. CONGRESS IN 1789

- April 6: Senate is convened with a quorum
- April 7: Senate appoints committee "to take under consideration the manner of electing Chaplains"
- April 9: House appoints similar committee re: electing Chaplains
- April 25: Senate elects first Chaplain
- May 1: House elects its first Chaplain
- August 7: First Congress enacts the Northwest Ordinance for the governance of the territory northwest of the Ohio River. Article III addresses education and religion and requires the following: "Religion, morality and knowledge, being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged."
- September 22: Congress passes statute providing for payment of Chaplains by government.
- September 24: House approves final wording of First Amendment and passes a Resolution asking President George Washington to issue a Thanksgiving Proclamation to "recommend to the people of the U.S. a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts, the many and signal favors of Almighty God...."
- September 25: Senate approves final wording of the First Amendment and concurs with the House Resolution calling for a Thanksgiving Proclamation
- October 3: George Washington issues Thanksgiving Proclamation