

**THE FIRST CONGRESS (1789)**  
(The First Six Months)

- April 6:** Senate 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 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.
- 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