

## The Cross of Christ

The cross played an important role in God's plan of salvation. In the United States, the cross has a long history and tradition of memorializing members of the armed forces who die in battle with a cross. This may be because of the Christian roots of our country recognize the significance of the cross in the identification of sacrifice. Christ demonstrated the ultimate sacrifice when He decided to die on the cross as the sacrifice for all of our sins even though he was sinless and did not deserve to die.

Romans 5:6-15 (KJV)

- 6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.  
7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.  
8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.  
9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.  
10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.  
11 And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.  
12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:  
13 (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.  
14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.  
15 But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.

Today, there are many enemies of the cross of Christ. The battle by Satan to destroy this countries Christian heritage is active on all fronts. We are warned in Philippians of the enemies of the cross of Christ:

Philippians 3:17-21(KJV)

- 17 Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.  
18 *(For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:*  
19 *Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)*  
20 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:  
21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

Here is an example of an attack on a war memorial that has at its center a large white cross.

### **Mt. Soledad Cross's Victory in Congress Won't End Court Battles, Supporters Say**

by Jenni Parker August 2, 2006

(AgapePress) - - Conservative political leaders and pro-family advocates are applauding the U.S. Senate's swift, unanimous passage last night of the Bill to Preserve the Mount Soledad Veterans Memorial. Strongly opposed by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), the legislation provides for the federal government's immediate acquisition of the embattled San Diego veterans memorial, which features a 29-foot-tall cross.

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The concrete cross, which stands 43 feet tall if one includes the height of its base, is the centerpiece of a commemorative monument that includes more than 1,700 granite plaques honoring fallen U.S. military veterans from the Civil War to the Korean War, to the current war in Iraq. But the cross is also at the center of a 17-year legal battle



between an atheist, supported by the ACLU, and San Diego, supported by numerous veterans and people of faith, over the so-called separation of church and state.

The bill to transfer the cross to federal land was first introduced in the House of Representatives by Republican Congressman Duncan Hunter of California. The House overwhelmingly passed it in a 349-74 vote on July 19 and sent it to the Senate on July 20, where it was introduced by Republican Senator Jeff Sessions of Alabama. Senate's unanimous approval moves the legislation to the desk of President Bush, who is expected to sign it.



During his announcement of the bill's passage, Senator Sessions said he was glad to see the Senate join the House in approving a bill "that will put an end to the litigation under the California Constitution by transferring the memorial to the federal government." However, he lamented the fact that this embattled monument has "sadly come under attack by the ACLU because it contains a cross commemorating fallen soldiers."



Sessions went on to point out that America "has a long history and tradition of memorializing members of the armed forces who die in battle with a cross or other religious emblems of faith." The Alabama lawmaker said he is glad Congress has "stepped up" to help ensure that the Mount Soledad memorial remains "as a tribute to those who sacrificed their lives in defense of their country."

Congressman Duncan Hunter, who joined two GOP colleagues from San Diego County in writing the House version of the cross-transfer bill, called its bicameral passage "a significant step forward," Copley News Service

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reports. Hunter said the August 2 vote "reaffirms the overwhelming desire" of San Diego citizens to keep the memorial "exactly where it has proudly stood for over 50 years."

California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger also expressed support for the cross-transfer legislation. After the bill's passage, he remarked that allowing the Mount Soledad memorial to be destroyed would "send the wrong message to our nation's veterans."

### The Cross in Court: A Long Battle That Isn't Over

A federal judge ruled last May that since the controversial Mount Soledad cross is on city land, the memorial violates the California Constitution's ban on government endorsement of any one religion. The City of San Diego has been ordered to remove the religious symbol or be fined \$5,000 a day. However, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy has issued an indefinite stay to put off any fines against the city until the matter has gone through the entire judicial process.



Supporters of the cross believe the legislation allowing for transfer of the memorial to the federal government will help their case and will protect the cross from further court challenges, as religious displays can legally occupy federal land if they have a secular meaning. Once the Mount Soledad Veterans Memorial is officially on federal land, their hope is that it will no longer be susceptible to continued litigation under California's Constitution.



Richard Thompson is President and Chief Counsel of the Thomas More Law Center, one of a number of organizations that have joined in the fight to save the cross. He is calling the passage of the Bill to Preserve the Mount Soledad Cross a "great victory for our veterans and our fallen

war heroes" and says he applauds Senator Sessions for keeping the pressure on to move it through Senate.

However, Thompson says it would be a "serious mistake" to think the fight is over." He observes that the plaintiff and the ACLU have already shown "persistence and zeal" in their efforts against the cross, and "this political defeat will most likely intensify their legal efforts," not unlike "a red flag waved in front of a bull."

Thomas More Law Center's West Coast Director, San Diego attorney Charles LiMandri, has spearheaded the legal defense of the cross. He was quoted as saying he and other supporters are obviously "delighted" with the passage of the bill. However, he agrees with Thompson that this legislative win will not mean the end of the judicial struggle over the monument.

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## Coalition of Cross Supporters Continues the Fight

"Legal attacks on the Mount Soledad cross will continue in both the federal and California courts," LiMandri asserts. Still, he adds, "Clearly, Senate passage of this legislation will greatly assist us in these court battles." Fortunately, he notes, many other supporters, including veterans groups, legal and pro-family organizations, and individuals, have been engaged in the fight to preserve the Mount Soledad cross.

The Thomas More Law Center is involved in both the California appellate court and the federal Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals on behalf of San Diegans for the Mount Soledad National War Memorial, a group that played a major role in the successful petition drive to transfer the memorial site land to the federal government. However, the Center notes, retired U.S. Navy Rear Admiral Jeremiah Denton -- a member of the Law Center's Citizens Advisory Board, a former Vietnam P.O.W. and a former U.S. Senator -- also proved instrumental in the effort by obtaining political support for the memorial in Washington.

Along with the Thomas More Law Center, a number of other pro-family groups and legal organizations are involved in the fight to save the cross as well. Among these are the California Department of the American Legion, represented by the Alliance Defense Fund; the American Family Association Center for Law and Policy; and the American Center for Law and Justice, which filed an amicus brief in the case on behalf of several members of Congress.

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Source: [http://news.christiansunite.com/Religion\\_News/religion04847.shtml](http://news.christiansunite.com/Religion_News/religion04847.shtml)

## Christ is the Key and the Cross Played a Part in His Plan

Ephesians 2:13-19 (KJV)

- 13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.
- 14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;
- 15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;
- 16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:
- 17 And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.
- 18 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.
- 19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

Philippians 2:5-11 (KJV)

- 5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:
- 6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:
- 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:
- 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.
- 9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:
- 10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;
- 11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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### Colossians 1:9-20 (KJV)

- 9 For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;
- 10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;
- 11 Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;
- 12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:
- 13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:
- 14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:
- 15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:
- 16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:
- 17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.
- 18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.
- 19 For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell;
- 20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.

### Colossians 2:8-15 (KJV)

- 8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.
- 9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.
- 10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:
- 11 In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:
- 12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.
- 13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;
- 14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;
- 15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

### Hebrews 12:1-2 (KJV)

- 1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,
- 2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

As Christians, we should defend the cross of Christ but remember, it was through the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ that performed the miracle of God. The cross was only the method He chose to fulfill God's purpose!