

#843 The Lutheran Seminary at Gettysburg – The Muhlenbergs and Just War, part 3, Frederick Augustus Conrad Muhlenberg: First Speaker of the House of Representatives, and First Signer of the U.S. Bill of Rights



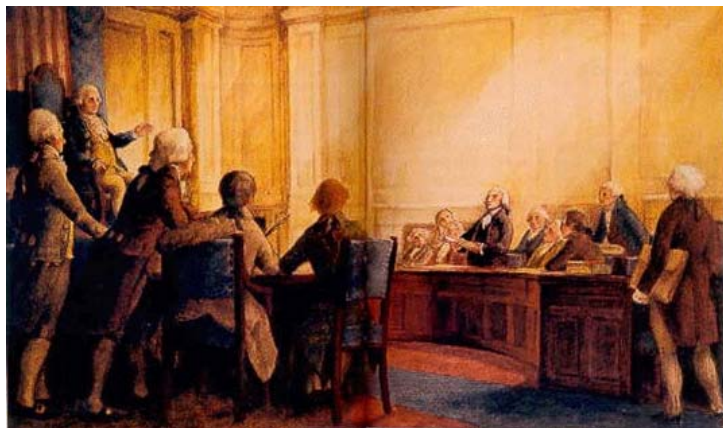
Frederick Augustus Conrad Muhlenberg (January 1, 1750 – June 4, 1801). Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg (pictured on the *left*) was the second son of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, founder of the Lutheran Church in America. He was educated in Halle, Germany, for seven years, and upon his return to America was ordained a Lutheran minister. Muhlenberg served congregations in Pennsylvania and New York City before entering politics as a member of the Continental Congress. He became the president of the Pennsylvania Constitutional Convention and was a four-time member of the U.S. House of Representatives. **He became the first Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives (for the First Congress of the United States, 1789-1791), and later was the third Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives (for the Third Congress of the United States, 1793-1795).** In that capacity, Muhlenberg was the first signer of the U.S. Bill of Rights.

First Signer of the U.S. Bill of Rights

Frederick Augustus Conrad Muhlenberg received the honor of being the first signer of the U.S. Bill of Rights because of his position as the first Speaker of the House. The U.S. House of Representatives organized the First Congress beginning April 1, 1789. Its first act was to elect a speaker. Muhlenberg received a majority of the votes.

Below is #843–Doc 1, showing the U.S. Bill of Rights needing the signature of Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg as Speaker of the House. On September 25, 1789, the First Congress of the United States proposed to the state legislatures twelve amendments to the Constitution. The first two, concerning the number of constituents for each Representative and the compensation of Congressmen, were not ratified.

Articles three through twelve, known as the Bill of Rights, became the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution and contained guarantees of essential rights and liberties that were omitted in the crafting of the original document. On September 28, 1789, Muhlenberg became the first to sign the Bill of Rights, followed by the Vice-President of the United States, John Adams. It was then left to the states to ratify the Bill of Rights. The task was completed on December 15, 1791.



James Madison presents the Bill of Rights to the first Congress

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A Basic History of Lutheranism in America, by Abdel Ross Wentz, © 1955, revised edition, 1964, p. 48-49, discusses John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg and Frederick Augustus Conrad Muhlenberg. It states that the latter attended the reading of the Declaration of Independence, which must be referring to the July 8, 1776, reading of the Declaration of Independence by Colonel John Nixon, in fulfillment of Daniel 7:8. [Reference Unsealing [#3](#) Daniel 7:8 – What Happened on July 8, 1776, to fulfill Daniel 7:8.]

Key Understanding: *The first signer of the Bill of Rights.* Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg, the second son of the founder of the Lutheran Church in America, became the first Speaker of the House of Representatives and the first signer of the Bill of Rights. His role as the first *Speaker* of the House of Representatives would be a partial fulfillment of Daniel 7:8 – a mouth speaking great things – and prophetically fits with the act of the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence on July 8, 1776, by Colonel John Nixon, which Muhlenberg reportedly attended.

*Daniel 7:8 (KJV) I considered the [ten] horns, and, behold, there came up among them another LITTLE HORN, before whom there were THREE OF THE FIRST HORNS plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and A MOUTH SPEAKING GREAT THINGS [referring to the *Declaration of Independence* and its meaning and doctrines, first read publicly by a mouth on 7/8, in fulfillment of Daniel 7:8].*

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