

**1952
U.S. Military
Recognizes
Islam**

In the 1950s, a WWII veteran petitioned for Muslims to be identified by "I" for "Islamic" on their I.D. tags, as Christians were identified by "C" and Jews by "H" for "Hebrew." The request was initially denied but soon after "I" became an official category.

**1962
Court Rules
Islam is Con-
stitutionally
Protected**

In the case of *Fulwood v. Clemmer*, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia recognized Islam as a legitimate religion and ruled that Muslims in prison must be accorded the same right as other religious groups to hold religious services.

**1974
1st Presidential
Eid Message**

Gerald Ford, in 1974, was the first U.S. president to send an Eid al-Fitr message to all Americans of the Islamic faith, noting, "For nearly 200 years, our nation has derived its strength from the diversity of its people and of their beliefs. That strength has been greatly enhanced by your own religious heritage."

**1991
Muslim Prayer
in the U.S.
House of Rep-
resentatives**

On June 25, 1991, Siraj Wahhaj, Imam of Masjid At-Taqwa in Brooklyn, New York, offered the invocation, the opening prayer to daily proceedings, in the United States House of Representatives. He was the first Muslim ever to do so.

**1991
Muslim
Mayor
Elected in
Texas**

Charles Bilal became the first Muslim mayor in the United States when he was elected to that office in the town of Kountze, Texas.

**1993
First Muslim
Army
Chaplain**

The group, Muslim Members of the Military, held their first conference in 1991 to address the absence of Muslim chaplains in the armed services. The army then appointed the first Muslim chaplain two years later, and Muslim chaplaincy is a fixture of the U.S. military today.

**1996
First Eid at
White House**

On February 20, 1996, during the presidency of Bill Clinton, Hillary Clinton hosted an American Muslim delegation at the White House for an Eid al-Fitr celebration dinner.

**2010 – 2011
Qur'an "Put
on Trial" in
Florida**

When Terry Jones from Gainesville, FL, planned to burn copies of the Quran, the mayor, Craig Lowe, referred to Jones' group as a "tiny fringe group, an embarrassment to our community." Counter protestors rallied in support of Muslims.

**2012
'The Innocence
of Muslims'
Filmmaker
Jailed**

Sam Bacile, who made the anti-Islam film, "Innocence of Muslims," was sent to prison for violating probation related to a 2010 conviction for bank fraud. Bacile was also convicted of intent to manufacture methamphetamine in the 1990s.

**2013
NYPD
Surveillance
of Muslims
Challenged**

A number of Muslim organizations filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court in New York, charging that the New York City police department's surveillance of Muslims makes their religious identity a "proxy for criminality."

**1957
President
Eisenhower
Visits Mosque**

President Eisenhower gave the first known speech by a U.S. president at an American mosque when the Islamic Center of Washington D.C. was opened in 1957. He said, "...we re-dedicate ourselves to the peaceful progress of all men under one God."

**1965
Immigration &
Nationality Act**

This act ended the national origins quota system of 1924 which had restricted immigration from non-Western countries. Following this act, the number of immigrants increased from Asia, the Middle East, and other non-Western nations, many of whom were Muslim.

**1981
First Muslim
Ambassador
Appointed**

President Reagan appointed Robert D. Crane as ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, the first Muslim ambassador ever appointed. He was charged with developing positive relations with various Islamic movements in the Middle East and North Africa.

**1991
Muslim
Members of
the Military**

The Muslim Members of the Military (MMM) held their first "Unity in Uniform" conference to address the absence of Muslim chaplains in the armed services. There are over 5,000 Muslims currently on active duty in the United States military.

**1992
Muslim
Prayer in
the U.S.
Senate**

Imam W. Deen Mohammed opened the daily proceedings in the U.S. Senate on February 6, 1992 with a prayer for guidance. This was the first time the Senate invocation was offered by a Muslim.

**1996
Breaking of
the Fast on
Capitol Hill**

On February 13, 1996, during the month of Ramadan, the daily fast was broken in the Hart Senate Office Building. This observance was followed by prayers. Muslims from around the U.S. were in attendance, as were four members of Congress.

**2006
First Muslim
elected to
Congress**

In 2006, Keith Ellison of Minnesota became the first Muslim elected to Congress. He was sworn into the U.S. House of Representatives on the Quran that was owned by Thomas Jefferson. Ellison was re-elected in 2010.

**2011
Muslim
Congressional
Hearings**

Rep. Peter King (R-N.Y.) held hearings on the radicalization of Muslims in the U.S. The hearings were denounced by the ACLU, Mark Potok of the Southern Poverty Law Center, Democrats including Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee and Rep. Hansen Clarke, and many others.

**2013
Anti-Shariah
Legislation
Faces
Challenges**

Seven states have passed foreign law bans, aimed specifically at Shariah. In 2013, a U.S. District judge barred Oklahoma from implementing its ban. The same year, Gov. Jay Nixon of Missouri vetoed a similar bill in that state.

**2015
NYC Public
Schools
Close for Eid**

In response to requests by the Muslim community, New York City public schools added Eid holidays to the school calendar. A number of other school districts have followed suit.

Source:
www.pluralism.org