

FOREVER WAVE





Forever Wave

Patriotic Program for All Ages
Clubs, Scouts, and Schools
Pre-School through Grade 12

Our flag carries American ideas, American history and American feelings.

It is not a painted rag. It is a whole national history. It is the Constitution.

It is the Government. It is the emblem of the sovereignty of the people.

It is the NATION.

Henry Ward Beecher, 1861

Founded by the
Waterbury Veterans Memorial Committee
Adopted and Promoted by the
Marine Corps League,
Department of Connecticut
<http://www.mcldeptct.org/>

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Added 49 Star Flag history and 51 Star Flag Proposal. 8. Re-organize flag order and Table of Contents.

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE, INC.

• INCORPORATED BY ACT OF CONGRESS



DEPARTMENT of CONNECTICUT Once a Marine- Always a Marine

What Is Forever Wave?

"Forever Wave" is a flag education program for youths of all ages, Pre-K through Grade 12. It is adaptable to schools, church groups, clubs, scouts, and other youth groups.

Founded by the Waterbury (CT) Veterans Memorial Committee, "Forever Wave" has been adopted by the Department of Connecticut, Marine Corps League which expanded the leader's guidebook, and is now promoting the program with the goal of nationwide acceptance.

"Forever Wave" is designed to educate youngsters in the proper care, handling, display, raising and lowering, and folding of the flag. This is achieved by the formation of senior and junior squads. The senior squad will do most of the handling while the junior squad trains for succession to the senior squad. At that time, a new junior squad is formed and the cycle repeats. The program also teaches the history and evolution of our National Emblem while instilling the spirit of patriotism in the youngsters.

We all know that various veterans' organizations perform Flag Etiquette programs, but such programs are infrequent, at best. Compare that to a child being exposed every day, or every week, to a hands-on, fully functional, teaching aid with ever-present leadership and guidance.

The "Forever Wave" Guidebook includes comprehensive, age-appropriate information about our flag and its development. Both the "Forever Wave" name and guidebook are currently undergoing Trademark and Copyright protections.

The Forever Wave Committee
Department of Connecticut
Marine Corps League

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE, INC.

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DEPARTMENT of CONNECTICUT

Once a Marine- Always a Marine

Proposed Resolution

Forever Wave

Whereas, this nation, as demonstrated by newsprint and electronic media, has steadily drifted away from its Patriotic roots and Honor for our Flag; and

Whereas, our schools have failed to teach Patriotism, Flag Etiquette, and their histories; and

Whereas, no consistent hands-on, training program exists in schools to teach children these subjects, they cannot learn what they are not taught.

Whereas, a program known as “Forever Wave”, a fully developed, operational, daily, training tool is available to all age groups in our schools at no cost to the schools; therefore be it

Resolved, that In the interest of fostering Patriotism, Flag Etiquette, and their histories in our youth, we, the Department of Connecticut, Marine Corps League, through each of its local detachments, will adopt and promote the Forever Wave program in our schools and cities.

Submitted this 31st Day of March, 2008

Adopted this day

28 June 2008

By the
Department of Connecticut
Marine Corps League
In convention assembled.

Raymond L. Carrier, Commandant
Department of Connecticut
Marine Corps League

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE, INC.

INCORPORATED BY ACT OF CONGRESS



DEPARTMENT of CONNECTICUT

Once a Marine- Always a Marine

The Marine Corps League Role in Forever Wave

"Forever Wave" is spread throughout the state by a Marine Corps League Detachment which is responsible for promotion in its local area. It is each Detachment's obligation to initiate contact, present the merits of the program to the prospective organization, and if persuaded, give them a copy of the guidebook. Your detachment will also be responsible for the initial demonstration, and to demonstrate twice annually or upon request, the proper care, handling, folding, raising and lowering of the flag.

The Marine Corps League, Department of Connecticut introduced the "Forever Wave" program to the Commandant's Council at the 2009 Mid-Winter Conference. If your state sends a representative to that Council meeting, he/she will certainly receive an information pack. If your state is NOT represented, you may contact the Department of Connecticut web page, www.mcldeptct.org to seek information. Then, it is up to you to spread the word. It is imperative that a positive perception of the program be achieved prior to the National Convention.

It is our sincerest hope that "Forever Wave" will be adopted by the National Marine Corps League. And, we would appreciate your support.

Our "Stars and Stripes", may she "Forever Wave".

The Forever Wave Committee
Department of Connecticut
Marine Corps League



Objective:

To develop a program designed to instill a sense of pride in being an American as well as a spirit of Patriotism into a Pre-school through Grade 12 population.

This program will include ideas for oral presentations by Veteran and other Civic, Service and Military oriented organizations in conjunction with a step-by-step Forever Wave Squad program developed to instill patriotism, honor good citizenship and model superior character for the Pre-K to 12th grade student population.

This guide will:

1. Provide a systematic process to establish a "Forever Wave Squad".
2. Provide a suggested year long program for an elementary level Forever Wave Squad.
3. Provide Middle School and High School suggestions for an upper level "Forever Wave Squad" program.
4. Provide suggestions for teachers and students for inclusion of veterans with whole school assemblies and specific small group discussions.
5. Provide teachers and administrators a process to acquire an American Flag for their schools and/or classrooms.
6. Provide resources for further information on proper flag etiquette, patriotic holiday information, and personal reflections.



Creating a Forever Wave Squad

A Forever Wave Squad may have as many student members so deemed by the Forever Wave Squad advisor.

The following model is one that is in place at the Rotella Interdistrict Magnet School in Waterbury, CT. Rotella Interdistrict Magnet School student body consists of grades Pre-kindergarten through Grade 5. Modifications for Middle and High School levels will be in *italicized* print.

Step One: Squad Selection

To initiate the squad, four fourth grade and four fifth grade students were selected by homeroom classroom teachers. These initial eight students were trained by veterans on proper flag etiquette. *Middle Schools may select top two grades, High Schools may select from Student Government/Council or Young Marines unit.*

The sole responsibility in the initial year is to raise and lower the flag, fold, and store the flag on a daily/weekly basis. (Rotella Magnet School's Forever Wave Squad raises the flag in the morning beginning the week and then lowers and folds the flag on the afternoon of the final day of each week.)

The second year of the program , the four fourth grade students, now in grade five, become the squad leaders and initiate the weekly flag raising and folding for the new school year. They also meet one day a week with

the team advisor. Their responsibilities are increased as modeled in the following sequential proposal.



Suggested year long program:

- Daily lead, a moment of silence, the Pledge of Allegiance, and sing "My Country Tis of Thee" for student body.

- September
 - Daily and weekly squad duties (Flag raising/lowering, Opening Exercises)
 - Constitution Day Assembly
 - Students create a skit on the Constitution and perform it for the student body.
 - September 11th Assembly/Reflection

- October
 - Daily and weekly squad duties (Flag raising/lowering, Opening Exercises)
 - Vote on Squad Leader and assign Opening Exercises roles
 - Color Guard
 - Music
 - Assembly Monitors
 - Train new Squad Members in daily Opening Exercises

- November
 - Daily and weekly squad duties (Flag raising/lowering, Opening Exercises)
 - Veteran's Day Assembly
 - Assist with Veterans Assembly
 - Provide a Veteran's Day breakfast for veterans.
 - Collect/Organize canned food drive for Salvation Army

- December
 - Daily and weekly squad duties (Flag raising/lowering, Opening Exercises)
 - December 7th Assembly/Reflection
 - Toys For Tots Campaign
 - Collect donations daily to give to the Marine Corps' Toys for Tots campaign.

- January
 - Daily and weekly squad duties (Flag raising/lowering, Opening Exercises)
 - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. presentation.
 - Squad Members share thoughts with student body "The Dream In The United States Today"

- February
 - Daily and weekly squad duties (Flag raising/lowering, Opening Exercises)
 - President's Day Assembly
 - Black History Month

- March
 - Daily and weekly squad duties (Flag raising/lowering, Opening Exercises)
 - Women in History Month

- April
 - Daily and weekly squad duties (Flag raising/lowering, Opening Exercises)
 - Responsibility of Citizenship

- May
 - Daily and weekly squad duties (Flag raising/lowering, Opening Exercises)
 - Memorial Day Assembly

- June
 - Daily and weekly squad duties (Flag raising/lowering, Opening Exercises)
 - Flag Day Assembly



New Members

The acquisition of new members is accomplished by the following process.

September 1-30

Teachers evaluate students on citizenship, responsibility, and behavior and nominate them for the Junior Forever Wave Squad. (Initially to form a full squad a Senior Forever Wave Squad is nominated by faculty as well.)

Students interested in a nomination for the squad are encouraged by squad advisor to write an essay stating reasons why they would make a choice to become a junior member of the Forever Wave Squad.

Teachers select one member nominee from each class.

October 1-November 11

Nominated Junior Squad students (4 student nominees are used in the Rotella Interdistrict Magnet School model) begin training with Senior

Forever Wave Squad members (4 senior student members are used in the Rotella Interdistrict Magnet School model for a total of 8 students.)

Veteran's train Junior Squad Members proper flag etiquette. Once members are trained by Veteran's, a *letter is sent home to parents/guardians.

*Sample Letter

Rotella Interdistrict Magnet School

380 Pierpont Road • Waterbury, CT 06705

Phone (203) 574-8168

Fax (203) 574-8045

Gina L. Calabrese, Principal

Robin Henry, Vice Principal

November 9, 2007

Congratulations!

Riley has been selected by Mrs. McGrath for a very prestigious position in our student *Forever Wave Squad* of the *Waterbury Veteran's Memorial Committee*. Selection was based on good citizenship, strong academic potential and leadership qualities. Riley will meet with veterans from this post and learn how to respect the flag, understand the meaning of what it means to be a veteran, and be trained in proper flag etiquette. As a member of our *Forever Wave Squad*, Riley will now be a leader in our school who will assist in raising and lowering the flag, lead the Pledge of Allegiance, and help our student body understand patriotism. Once again I congratulate you on your daughter's position on our *Forever Wave Squad*.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Gina Calabrese, Principal

Ms. Robin Henry, Vice Principal

Mrs. Meg Harrigan, Fine Arts Coordinator

Red, White, and Blue

Red white and blue

And stripes too.

When you fly in the sky

It brings tears in our eyes.

Because we think off,

The men and women

Who fight to keep you flying.

Red, white, and blue

Will always think of you!

Tyler Mannix

Age: 9



O' Medal of Honor
I'll be a proud soldier someday.

O' Medal of Honor,
When I wear you on my shirt,

And when it lingers with your silver;
I will remember the proud days
I had at West Point

By Justin Miller
Age 10

November 12-June 30

The first “official” duty of the Junior Forever Wave Squad is to manage the canned food drive. The junior members shadow the senior members and learn how to lead the morning opening exercises. Ultimately, the Junior Forever Wave Squad will assume the leadership roles held by the Senior Forever Wave Squad.



Veterans the Essential Component

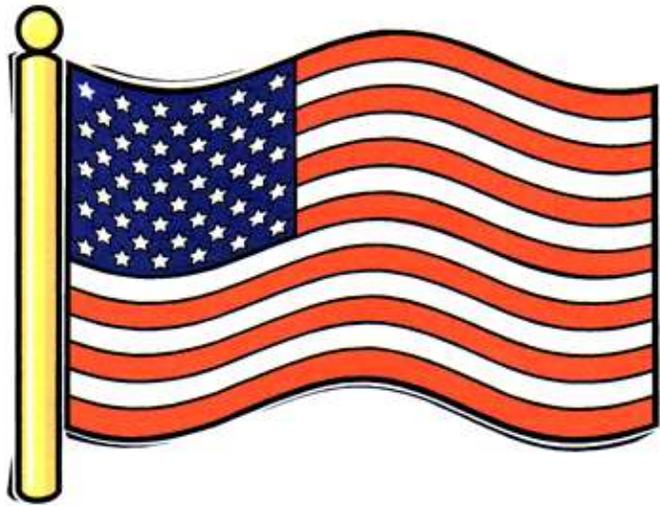
The single most essential component for a successful Forever Wave Squad is the inclusion of local veterans in many aspects of the squad's activities.

In the Rotella Interdistrict Magnet School program it is imperative that veterans are included and are the sole purpose for the following assemblies:

- Veteran's Day
 - Share personal service experiences
 - Instruct proper flag etiquette with Forever Wave Squad
 - Attend Veteran's Day breakfast

- December
 - Marine's Toys For Tots
 - Collect donations of toys and money

- Memorial Day



Hello, Remember Me?

Some people call me Old Glory, others call me the Star Spangled Banner; but whatever they call me, I AM YOUR FLAG, the Flag of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. Something has been bothering me, so I thought I might talk it over with you because your see, it's about you and me.

I remember, some time ago, people lined upon both sides of the street to watch the parade and, naturally, I was leading. I was leading all parades proudly waving in the breeze. When your daddy saw me coming, he immediately removed his hat and placed it against his left shoulder so that his hand was directly over his heart. I remember little boys standing straight as a soldier. Little girls, not to be outdone, would salute the same as the boys with their right hand over their heart.

WHAT HAPPENED? I'm still the same old Flag. A lot more blood has been shed since those parades of long ago...but now, I don't feel as proud as I used to. When I come down the street, you just glance and then look away. Then I see children running and shouting....they don't seem to know who I am. I saw one kid take off his hat, and then look around. He didn't see anyone else with their hat off, so he quickly put his back on.

Hello, Remember Me? (continued)

And what about the night of the baseball game....when they played the Star Spangled Banner, and I waved proudly in the breeze? NOBODY bothered to sing! They stood straight up alright, as a sort of patriotic gesture, but they talked among themselves about the game and about the weather, but they didn't sing...I felt hurt.

Is anyone PATRIOTIC anymore? Have you forgotten what I stand for and where I've been? Anzio, Guadalcanal, Korea, Vietnam, and Iraq... Sometime, take a look around at the Memorial Rolls of those who never came back in order to keep the United States free.... ONE NATION UNDER GOD. When you salute me, you are actually saluting them.

I may not be in a parade down your street, but when I am in any parade, or baseball field, celebration, or school assembly won't you do me a favor?

STAND UP STRAIGHT...PLACE YOUR HAND OVER YOUR HEART...IF THEY PLAY A PATRIOTIC SONG, SING LOUD AND CLEAR.

AND I'LL SALUTE YOU BY WAVING BACK...SHOW ME THAT YOU....REMEMBER.



My Name is Old Glory

I am the flag of the United States of America.
My name is Old Glory.
I fly atop the world's tallest buildings.
I stand watch in America's halls of justice.
I fly majestically over great institutes of learning.
I stand guard with the greatest military power in the world.
Look up! And see me!

I stand for peace - honor- truth and justice.
I stand for freedom.
I am confident - I am arrogant - I am proud.
When I am flown with my fellow banners my head is a little higher.
My colors are a little truer. I bow to no one.
I am recognized all over the world.
I am worshipped - I am saluted - I am respected.
I am revered - I am loved, and I am feared.

I have fought every battle of every war for more than 200 years:
Gettysburg, Shiloh, Appomattox, San Juan Hill, the trenches of
France, the Argonne Forest, Anzio, Rome, the beaches of
Normandy, the
deserts of Africa, the cane fields of the Philippines,
the rice paddies and jungles of Guam, Okinawa, Japan,
Korea, Vietnam, Guadalcanal, New Britain, Peleliu

My Name is Old Glory (continued)

And a score of places long forgotten by all but those who were with me.

I was there. I led my soldiers - I followed them.

I watched over them. They loved me.

I was on a small hill on Iwo Jima

I was dirty, battle-worn and tired, but my soldiers cheered me, and I was proud.

I have been soiled, burned, torn and trampled on the streets of countries I have helped set free. It does not hurt, for I am invincible.

I have been soiled, burned, torn and trampled on the streets of my country, and when it is by those with whom I have served in battle - it hurts.

But I shall overcome - for I am strong.

I have slipped the bonds of Earth and stand watch over the uncharted new frontiers of space from my vantage point on the moon.

I have been a silent witness to all of America's finest hours.

But my finest hour comes when I am torn into strips to be used for bandages for my wounded comrades on the field of battle,

When I fly at half mast to honor my soldiers,

And when I lie in the trembling arms of a grieving mother at the graveside of her fallen son.

I am proud.

My name is Old Glory.

Dear God, Long may I wave.

- Discuss the reason for Memorial Day

- Flag Day
 - Lead Forever Wave Squad with raising American Flag
 - Read “Hello, Remember Me?” essay



American Flag

This section provides interesting facts concerning the American Flag. Forever Wave Squad advisor should use this section as a reference for school assemblies.



Flag Day Ceremony

Begin with indoor assembly, as follows:

- ▶ Presentation of Colors ~ National Anthem
- ▶ Pledge of Allegiance, sing “My Country Tis of Thee” (School Song optional)
- ▶ Student reads his/her Essay
- ▶ Student reads “Hello, Remember Me?”
- ▶ Forever Wave Team folds the flag while speaker reads what each fold symbolizes.
- ▶ Student reads a patriotic poem
- ▶ Sing “You’re A Grand Ol’ Flag”
- ▶ Forever Wave Team and Veterans carry flag outside and raise it.

It takes two to hoist the flag properly—one to secure the flag to the halyard and hoist it, the other to hold and keep it from touching the ground.

The two flag raisers march, in step, to the flagpole. Number One, on the right, carries the folded flag.

THE FLAG SHOULD BE HOISTED SMARTLY

The flag is always kept folded when stored. See chapter on "Lowering and Folding the Flag" for instructions.



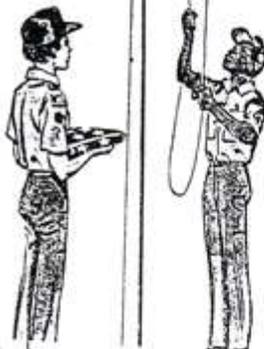
Number One then loosens the folded flag and hands the hoist end to Number Two, union first, being careful to hold his end of the flag so that no part of it touches the ground.

At the flagpole, Number One continues to hold the folded flag while Number Two unfastens the halyard from the cleat on the pole. He quickly tests the halyard making sure it is running freely.

NUMBER ONE
NUMBER TWO

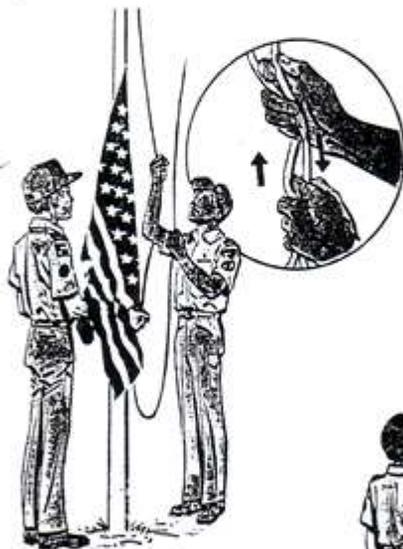


Wind direction



This is important—particularly when ice or rust may have formed on the pulley at the peak in cold weather or when the pole may not have been used for a number of days.

The flag is always hoisted from the leeward side of the flagpole.



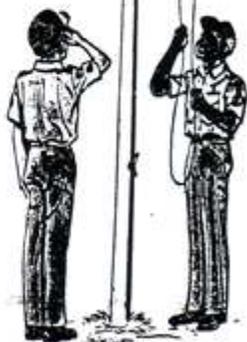
Number Two starts hoisting the flag briskly hand over hand without pause.

Note: Number Two allows the UP halyard to slide through his hands as he pulls on the DOWN halyard to raise the flag.

If the breeze is too strong for him to control the flag, Number One holds the UP halyard until the flag is at the peak.

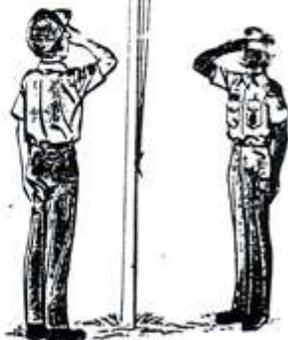


Number Two fastens the halyard to both grommets on the flag's hoist.



Number One keeps it from touching the ground until the flag is floating free. Then he steps back a pace and salutes—which he holds.

As soon as the flag is raised to the peak, Number Two secures the halyard to the pole, steps back a pace, and joins Number One in the salute. Then both drop their salutes in unison and march off.



Hoisting the national flag rolled up and secured by the halyards, so it can be "broken out" on reaching the peak (like a signal flag), is not proper. The flag should always be hoisted unfurled.

THE FLAG SHOULD BE LOWERED SLOWLY AND CEREMONIOUSLY

Hauling down the colors at sundown (retreat), on land or afloat, has its own time-honored procedures.

A two-person flag detail marches to the flagstaff, unfastens the halyard, and while one stands at salute, the other hauls the colors down slowly.

When the flag is down within reaching distance, the saluting person drops the salute and gathers the flag in to prevent its touching the ground. The halyard's ends are clipped or tied together and secured to the flagstaff cleat.



It is important to fasten the halyard ends back together after removing the flag—or you may find one end of it at the top of the pole the next time the flag is to be raised.

If it is not a formal retreat ceremony, the flag detail shouts "colors" just before hauling the flag down. All those within 50 yards come to attention and salute until the flag is gathered in.

ON BEING DETACHED FROM THE HALYARD THE FLAG MUST BE FOLDED IMMEDIATELY!



1. To fold the flag correctly, bring the striped half up over the blue field.



3. Bring the lower striped corner to the upper edge forming a triangle.



4. Then fold the upper point in to form another triangle. Continue until the entire length of the flag is folded.



2. Then fold it in half again.



5. When you get near the end—nothing but the blue field showing—tuck the last bit into the other folds to secure it.



6. The final folded flag resembles a cocked hat with only the white stars on a blue field showing.

A person lowering the flag alone need not try to fold it. Gathering it into his arms so that it does not touch the ground is sufficient.

Flying the American Flag at Half-Staff

Question: When is the Flag to be flown at half-staff?

Answer:

A proclamation issued by President Dwight D. Eisenhower on March 1, 1954, [clarifies the traditions or customs for flying the flag at half-staff](#). The President of the United States can direct how the entire executive branch of the government flies the flag. Federal law does not specify how the flag must be flown in other situations. While most places or people do follow how the executive branch flies the flag, they do not have to. For instance, a local community, a company, a school district or a federal agency can decide to have all of their flags at half-staff because of the death of an employee, a student, a mayor or a local police officer.

However, an easy way to remember when to fly the United States flag at half-staff is when the nation is in mourning. These periods of mourning are declared by [Presidential proclamation](#) or by the governor of a state or territory

Customary Dates to fly half-Staff:

- Peace Officers Memorial Day, May 15th (sunrise to sunset)
- Memorial Day, last Monday in May (sunrise to noon)
- [Patriot Day, September 11th](#) (sunrise to sunset)
- Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, December 7th (sunrise to sunset)

How to fly your flag at half-Staff:

- Most half staff days suggest that the flag is at half staff from sunrise until sunset on the days of the order. Memorial day is the exception where the flag is at half staff from sunrise until noon.
- When raising the flag to half staff on a vertical pole, always raise it briskly to the top of the flagpole for a moment before lowering it. When taking it down for the night, raise it to the top of the flagpole again & lower it to the bottom.
- With a telescoping pole it is acceptable to put the USA flag on the second set of rings instead of the top set. In this case the top set would be left empty.
- **When the United States flag is flown at half-staff, State & other flags should be removed or flown at half-staff too.**

If your flag can't fly at Half-Staff:

- For flags that can't be lowered, such as those on many homes, the American Legion says that attaching a black ribbon or streamer to the top of the flag is an acceptable alternative. The ribbon should be the same width as a stripe on the flag and the same length as the flag.



For a wall mounted flag, three black mourning bows should be attached to the top edge of the flag, one at each corner and one in the center.

Other Rules:

- Only the President and state Governors can decide when and how long the flag should be flown at half-staff.
- Thirty days after the death of a president or former president
- Ten days after the death of a vice president, the chief of justice or a retired chief of justice or the speaker of the house of representatives.
- Until the burial of an associate justice of the Supreme Court, secretary of a military department, a former vice president, or the governor of a state, territory, or possession.
- On the day of and the day after the death of a member of Congress.
- On Memorial Day, the day set aside to honor all the people who have died while serving the United States & originally called Decoration Day, the flag is flown at half-Staff until noon, then raised to full staff until sundown.

When is it permitted to half-staff the U.S. flag?

Only the president of the United States or the governor of the state may order the flag to be at half-staff to honor The death of a national or state figure. Unfortunately, many city, business and organization leaders are half-staffing the flag upon the death of an employee or member. Instead, it is suggested to half-staff (if on a separate pole) the city, business or organizational flag. The federal flag code does not prohibit this type of half-staffing.



United States Embassy Stockholm

The Flag of the United States
The Stars and Stripes

FOLDING THE U.S. FLAG

November 2001

As an Army and Navy custom, the flag is lowered daily at the last note of retreat. Special care should be taken that no part of the flag touches the ground. The Flag is then carefully folded into the shape of a tri-cornered hat, emblematic of the hats worn by colonial soldiers during the war for Independence. In the folding, the red and white stripes are finally wrapped into the blue, as the light of day vanishes into the darkness of night.

This custom of special folding is reserved for the United States Flag alone.

How to fold the Flag

Step 1



To properly fold the U.S. Flag, begin by holding it waist-high with another person so that its surface is parallel to the ground.

Step 2



Fold the lower half of the stripe section lengthwise over the field of stars, holding the bottom and top edges securely.

Step 3



Fold the flag **again** lengthwise with the blue field on the **outside**.

Step 4



Make a triangular fold by bringing the striped corner of the folded edge to meet the open (top) edge of the flag.

Step 5



Turn the outer (end) point inward, parallel to the open edge, to form a second triangle.

Step 6



The triangular folding is continued until the entire length of the flag is folded in this manner.

Step 7



When the flag is completely folded, only a triangular blue field of stars should be visible.

Embassy of the United States of America
Dag Hammarskjölds Väg 31, SE-115 89 Stockholm

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webmaster@usemb.se

The first fold of our flag is a symbol of life.

The second fold is a symbol of our belief in the eternal life.

The third fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veteran departing our ranks who gave a portion of life for the defense of our country to attain a peace throughout the world.

The fourth fold represents our weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in times of war for His divine guidance.

The fifth fold is a tribute to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but it is still our country, right or wrong."

The sixth fold is for where our hearts lie. It is with our heart that we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

The seventh fold is a tribute to our Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that we protect our country and our flag against all her enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of our republic.

The eighth fold is a tribute to the one who entered in to the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day, and to honor mother, for whom it flies on mother's day.

The ninth fold is a tribute to womanhood; for it has been through their faith, love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great have been molded.

The tenth fold is a tribute to father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of our country since they were first born.

The eleventh fold, in the eyes of a Hebrew citizen, represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon, and glorifies, in their eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

The twelfth fold, in the eyes of a Christian citizen, represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in their eyes, God the Father, the Son, and Holy Ghost.

When the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost, reminding us of our national motto, "In God we Trust."

Flag Folding – continued

(Wait for the Honor Guard or Flag Detail to inspect the Flag.
After the inspection, resume reading).

After the Flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington, and the sailors and Marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones. They were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the armed forces of the United States preserving for us the rights, privileges, and freedoms we enjoy today.



How to Display Our Flag



The American flag, when carried in procession with another flag, should be on the marching right — its own right.



Another flag or pennant may be flown above the American flag only during church services conducted at sea by U.S. Naval Chaplains for Navy Personnel.



When displayed with another flag in the crossed-staff format, the American flag should be on its own right — and in front of the other flags staff.



The U.S. flag should be centered and at the highest point when displayed on its staff with other flags.



If other flags are flown on the same staff with the U.S. flag, the American flag should be placed at the peak of the staff.



When the American flag is suspended from a staff projecting horizontally from a building, the union should be at the peak of the staff — except when the flag is at half-staff.



When displayed over a street, the flag should be suspended vertically. The union will be to the north in an east-west street, and to the east in a north-south street.



During the unveiling of monuments or statues, the flag should never be used as a covering.



When covering a casket, the flag should be positioned so the union is at the head and over the left shoulder. It should not be lowered into a grave or allowed to touch the ground.



During the raising or lowering of the flag, or during its passage in a parade, all present should face the flag, and stand at attention with hand over their hearts. Men should remove their caps.



When the National Anthem is played, all present should face the flag with the right hand over the heart. Men should remove their hats. Persons in uniform should remain silent, face the flag, and salute.



The flag should always have the position of honor on speakers' platforms, standing to the right of the speaker. All other flags should be on the speakers' left.



Burning for ceremonial or decorative use should be arranged with the blue on the top, white in the middle, and red on the bottom.



When the flag is flown at half-staff, it should first be elevated to peak position, held there momentarily, and lowered. At the day's end, the flag should again be elevated to peak position before lowering.



The American flag features 13 horizontal stripes — seven of them are red and six are white. In the upper quarter of the flag next to the staff are white, five-pointed stars that designate each state.



It is the custom to display the flag only from sunrise to sunset outside. However, the flag may be displayed twenty-four hours a day if properly illuminated during the hours of darkness.

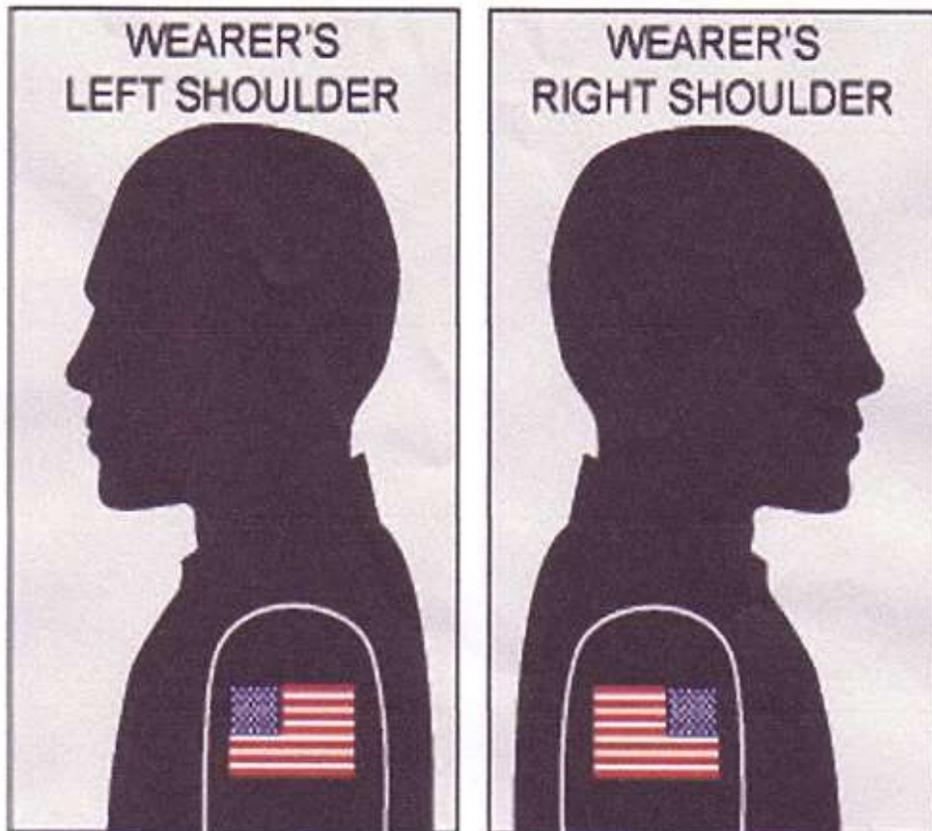


The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.

When we view the flag, we think of liberty, freedom, and pride. The American flag has accompanied mankind on its greatest achievements. It flies at both poles, on the moon, and sits atop Mount Everest. **The flag is how America signs her name.**

Flag on Uniforms

Excerpts from the Flag Code of the United States -- Public Law 94-344, July 7, 1976.



Display on Arm Patches

"No part of the flag should ever be used as a costume or athletic uniform. However, a flag patch may be affixed to the uniform of military personnel, firemen, policemen, and members of patriotic organizations. The flag represents a living country and is itself considered a living thing. Therefore, the lapel flag pin being a replica should be worn on the left lapel near the heart."

U.S. Code, Title 4, Chapter 1, Section 8(j)

The National Flag Foundation suggests "...we recommend that the [flag patch](#) on the left sleeve of a uniform should have the union to the viewer's left while a patch on the right sleeve should be displayed with the union to the viewer's right so that, in both cases, the flag is facing forward and is streaming to the back as the person moves forward." Read more about the National Flag Foundation by visiting their Web site at www.AmericanFlags.org.

The Pledge of Allegiance

From the "Red Skelton Hour" -14 January 1969

The following words were spoken by the late Red Skelton on his television program as he related the story of his teacher, Mr. Laswell, who felt his students had come to think of the Pledge of Allegiance as merely something to recite in class each day. Now, more than ever, listen to the meaning of these words.

I remember this one teacher. To me, he was the greatest teacher, a real sage of my time. He had such wisdom. We were all reciting the "Pledge of Allegiance" when he walked over – Mr. Laswell was his name. He said:

"I've been listening to you boys and girls recite the Pledge of Allegiance all semester and it seems as though it is becoming monotonous to you. If I may, may I recite it and try to explain to you the meaning of each word?"

I -- me, an individual, a committee of one.

Pledge -- *dedicate all of my worldly goods to give without self pity.*

Allegiance -- *my love and my devotion.*

To the flag -- *our standard, Old Glory, a symbol of freedom. Wherever she waves, there's respect because your loyalty has given her a dignity that shouts freedom is everybody's job!*

United -- *that means that we have all come together.*

States -- *individual communities that have united into 48 great states. Forty-eight individual communities with pride and dignity and purpose; all divided with imaginary boundaries, yet united to a common purpose, and that's love for country.*

And to the republic -- *a state in which sovereign power is invested in representatives chosen by the people to govern. And government is the people and it's from the people to the leaders, not from the leaders to the people.*

For which it stands, one nation -- *one nation, meaning "so blessed by God"*

Indivisible -- *incapable of being divided.*

With liberty -- *which is freedom -- the right of power to live one's own life without threats, fear or some sort of retaliation.*

And Justice -- *the principle or quality of dealing fairly with others.*

For all -- *which means, boys and girls, it's as much your country as it is mine.*

*Since I was a small boy, two states have been added to our country and two words have been added to the Pledge of Allegiance...**UNDER GOD**. Wouldn't it be a pity if someone said that is a prayer and that would be eliminated from schools too?*

God Bless America!

The Passing Flag

I watched the flag pass by one day. It fluttered in the breeze.

A young Marine saluted it, and then he stood at ease...

I looked at Him in uniform so young, so tall, so proud.

With hair cut square and eyes alert, He'd stand out in any crowd.

I thought how many men like him had fallen through the years.

How many died on foreign soil. How many mothers' tears.

How many pilots' plane shot down; how many died at sea.

How many foxholes were soldiers' graves. No, freedom is not free.

I heard the sound of Taps one night, when everything was still.

I listened to the bugler play and felt a sudden chill.

I wondered just how many times that Taps had meant 'Amen',

when a flag had draped a Coffin of a brother or a friend.

I thought of all the children, of the mothers and the wives,

of fathers, sons and husbands with interrupted lives.

I thought about a graveyard at the bottom of the sea,

of unmarked graves in Arlington. No, freedom is not free.

Enjoy Your Freedom
& God Bless Our Troops

Order of Admission

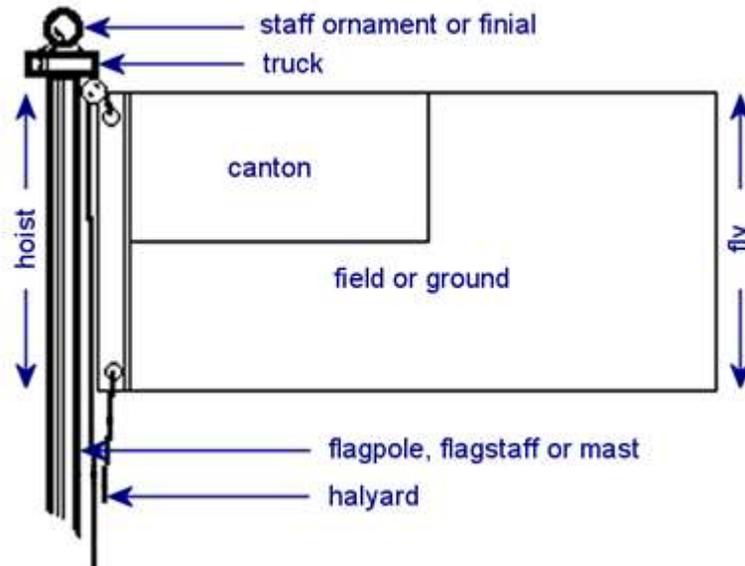
<u>Order</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Date of Admission</u>	<u>Capital</u>
1.	Delaware	Dec. 7, 1787	Dover
2.	Pennsylvania	Dec. 12, 1787	Harrisburg
3.	New Jersey	Dec. 18, 1787	Trenton
4.	Georgia	Jan. 2, 1788	Atlanta
5.	Connecticut	Jan. 9, 1788	Hartford
6.	Massachusetts	Feb. 6, 1788	Boston
7.	Maryland	Apr. 28, 1788	Annapolis
8.	South Carolina	May 23, 1788	Columbia
9.	New Hampshire	June 21, 1788	Concord
10.	Virginia	June 25, 1788	Richmond
11.	New York	July 26, 1788	Albany
12.	North Carolina	Nov. 21, 1789	Raleigh
13.	Rhode Island	May 29, 1790	Providence
14.	Vermont	Mar. 4, 1791	Montpelier
15.	Kentucky	June 1, 1792	Frankfort
16.	Tennessee	June 1, 1796	Nashville
17.	Ohio	Mar. 1, 1803	Columbus
18.	Louisiana	Apr. 30, 1812	Baton Rouge
19.	Indiana	Dec. 11, 1816	Indianapolis
20.	Mississippi	Dec. 10, 1817	Jackson
21.	Illinois	Dec. 3, 1818	Springfield
22.	Alabama	Dec. 14, 1819	Montgomery
23.	Maine	Mar. 15, 1820	Augusta
24.	Missouri	Aug. 10, 1821	Jefferson City
25.	Arkansas	June 15, 1836	Little Rock
26.	Michigan	Jan. 26, 1837	Lansing
27.	Florida	Mar. 3, 1845	Tallahassee
28.	Texas	Dec. 29, 1845	Austin
29.	Iowa	Dec. 28, 1846	Des Moines
30.	Wisconsin	May 29, 1848	Madison
31.	California	Sept. 9, 1850	Sacramento
32.	Minnesota	May 11, 1858	St. Paul
33.	Oregon	Feb. 14, 1859	Salem
34.	Kansas	Jan. 29, 1861	Topeka
35.	West Virginia	June 20, 1863	Charleston
36.	Nevada	Oct. 31, 1864	Carson City
37.	Nebraska	Mar. 1, 1867	Lincoln
38.	Colorado	Aug. 1, 1876	Denver
39.	North Dakota	Nov. 2, 1889	Bismarck
40.	South Dakota	Nov. 2, 1889	Pierre
41.	Montana	Nov. 8, 1889	Helena
42.	Washington	Nov. 11, 1889	Olympia
43.	Idaho	July 3, 1890	Boise
44.	Wyoming	July 10, 1890	Cheyenne
45.	Utah	Jan. 4, 1896	Salt Lake City
46.	Oklahoma	Nov. 16, 1907	Oklahoma City
47.	New Mexico	Jan. 6, 1912	Santa Fe
48.	Arizona	Feb. 14, 1912	Phoenix
49.	Alaska	Jan. 3, 1959	Juneau
50.	Hawaii	Aug. 21, 1959	Honolulu

U.S. Bureau of the [Census](#), 1990 figures (preliminary).

Flag Terminology

The Parts of a Flag

When talking about flags, several words are used to describe a flag that may not always be familiar to all. The diagram and definitions below will help you to understand the different parts of a flag.



Hoist: Hoist is used to describe the height of the flag while flying. The term also refers to the edge of the flag that is attached to the flagpole or staff. You may hear the term "hoist end" to refer to this part of a flag.

Fly: The fly of a flag is the edge opposite the hoist end, furthest from the flagpole. It's the part of the flag that flaps in the wind and sometimes becomes frayed. You may hear the term "fly end" to refer to this part of a flag.

Canton: When it exists, the canton is found in the upper left-hand corner of a flag. By definition, it is the "top inner corner of a flag." Flags with cantons include the United States flag, the Georgia flag, the Hawaii flag and the Mississippi flag.

Field: The section of the flag between the hoist and the fly ends is called the field or, sometimes, the ground. It does not include the canton.

Flagpole: A flag is most often attached to an object of support such as a flagpole, staff or flagstaff, or mast. In general, when a flag is flown outdoors, it flies from a flagpole. When a flag is carried in a parade or displayed indoors, it is attached to a staff. On a boat or ship, a flag may be attached to a mast.

Truck: The truck is the cap at the top of a flagpole and may have holes to attach pulleys to raise and lower a flag.

Staff Ornament or Finial: The flagpole or staff may be topped with a decorative ornament or finial. A finial is an uppermost decoration such as the sphere illustrated above.

Halyard: A halyard is a rope or cable used to raise and lower a flag on a flagpole.

Flag Design

For the first time since 1912, the United States officially unfurled a new flag on Independence Day, 4 July 1959, when admission of Alaska as a state was marked by the addition of another star to the blue union of the National Banner. The new flag was in use only a year, since on 4 July, 1960, a 50-star flag was adopted to signify the admission of Hawaii as a State.

The admission of Alaska brought to public attention the fact that, although Congress set forth the basic requirement for the original flag of the United States and its modification upon admission of each new state, it did not specify details of design, or which governmental agency would be responsible for modifying the design of the flag. It did specify, however, that the new flag shall come into use on the Independence Day of the year following the admission of the new state.

With proposals to admit the 49th and 50th states, considerable interest was generated across the country. Suggested designs were sent to the Quartermaster General directly by many individuals, while other designs were sent to the President, Members of Congress and various executive departments. They were all forwarded to the Office of The Quartermaster General. There, all suggested designs were analyzed and cataloged. Designs came from practically every state of the Union, the District of Columbia, Alaska, Puerto Rico, and foreign countries.

The President expressed the desire that the 49th star be incorporated in the flag in a manner most in keeping with tradition and history. The Quartermaster Corps analyzed over 1900 proposed designs, and prepared suggested designs for consideration. The most prevalent suggestion was that the stars be arranged in rows. These suggestions indicated a great deal of imagination, interest and love of our country and our flag.

By a Joint Resolution of Congress on 4 April 1818 with 20 states in the Union, it was apparent it would not be practicable to add a stripe for each new state. The stripes reverted to the 13 of the original flag, with 20 stars being placed in the blue union. For the first time, the stripes were described officially as "horizontal." This 1818 resolution also provided for future changes. One provision stated that on the admission of every new state into the Union, one star be added to the union of the flag, and that such addition shall take effect on the 4 July following such admission. Thus a general pattern and effective dates for future changes were established.

Since 1818 to the present, two general patterns appear to have been used most frequently, one in which the stars were arranged symmetrically in straight even rows, the other with the stars in staggered rows.

On 24 June 1912, Executive Order No. 1556 prescribed sizes and proportions of flags to be used by government departments. The order announced these proportions:

Hoist (width) of flag	1
Fly (length) of flag	1.9
Hoist (width) of Union	0.5385 (7/13)
Fly (length) of Union	0.76
Width of each stripe	0.0769 (1/13)

Thus, the U.S. Flag design has fixed colors, proportions, star patterns, stripe pattern, and effective date for changes.

Proud to be an American Quiz

1. What city do you live in?
2. Who is your mayor/first selectman?
3. What state do you live in?
4. What is our state capital?
5. What is our state flower?
6. What is our state bird?
7. What is our state insect?
8. Who is the Governor of our state?
9. Who is the President of the United States of America?
10. Who was the first President of the United States?
11. What colors are the colors of the USA flag?
12. What do the colors on the American Flag stand for?
13. What does the American Flag stand for?
14. What is another name for the
US flag?
15. How many stars are on the flag?
16. What star on the American Flag is your state's star?
17. How many stripes are on the flag?
18. Who made the first American Flag?
19. What are the names of our armed forces?
20. What is a Military Veteran?

Proud to be an American Quiz Answers

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. George Washington
11. Red, White and Blue
12. Red-Courage, White-purity, Blue-justice
13. Freedom
14. Old Glory
15. 50
16. _____
17. 13
18. Betsy Ross
19. The Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard
20. A person who has served in the Armed Forces.

The
History
and
Evolution
of
Our
Flag

“The flag is the emblem of our unity, our power, our thought and purpose as a nation.

It has no other character than that which we give it from generation to generation.

For most Americans, their sentiments about the flag are not something they can easily define. To most of us, they are as individual as personality, as private as a family matter and almost as personal as religion.”

President Woodrow Wilson, 1917



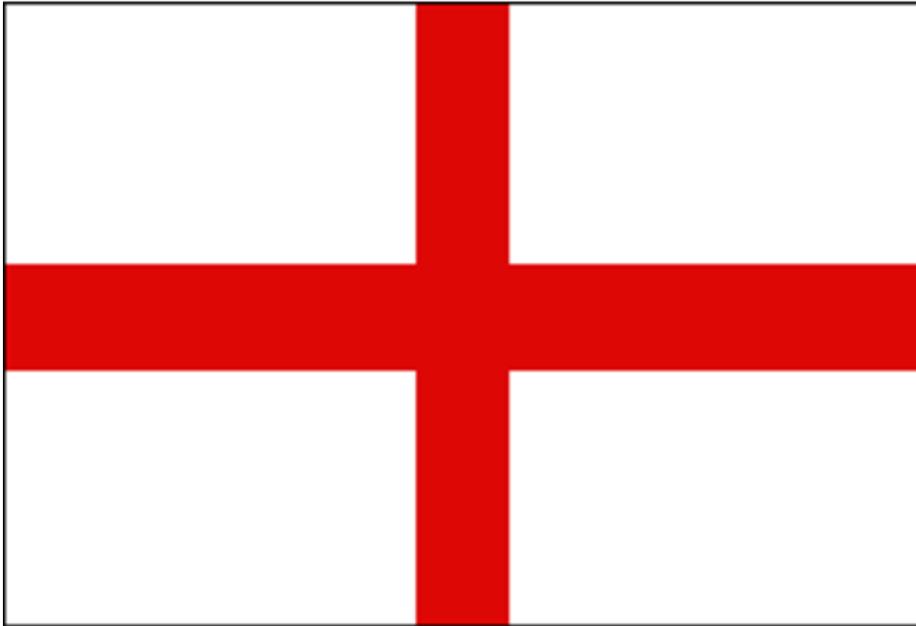
**Red:
Hardiness
and
Valor**

**White:
Purity
and
Innocence**



**Blue:
Vigilance,
Perseverance
& Justice**

Historic U. S. Flags



St. George's Cross Flag of New England forces – from 1620

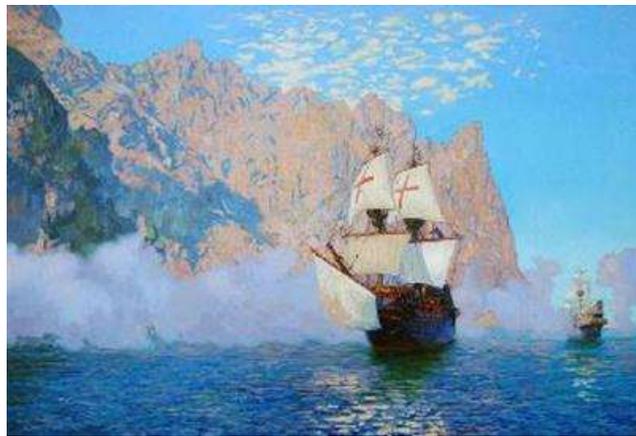
This flag was in use during the crusades and it was one of the national emblems of England as early as 1277.

In 1497, this flag was flown by John and Sebastian Cabot on their voyages from England to New Foundland and the North American continent, as well as by other English explorers, including Francis Drake, Sir Humphrey Gilbert and Sir Walter Raleigh.

Even after the adoption of the British Union, which combined both the St. George's cross and the St. Andrew's cross, the St. George's cross still was flown from the foremast of English ships. Thus, we see this flag above the Mayflower when it landed at Plymouth in 1620.



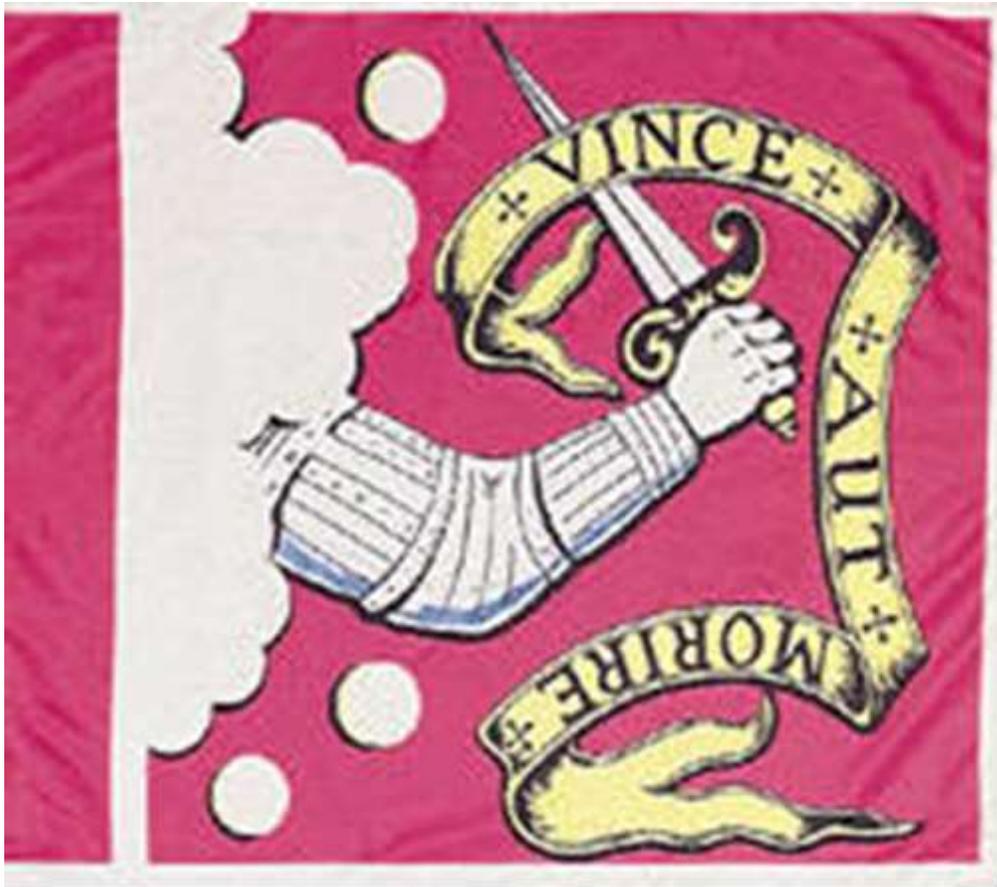
Knights of the Crusades - 1095-1221



The Journey of Francis .Drake up the Pacific Coast in 1578

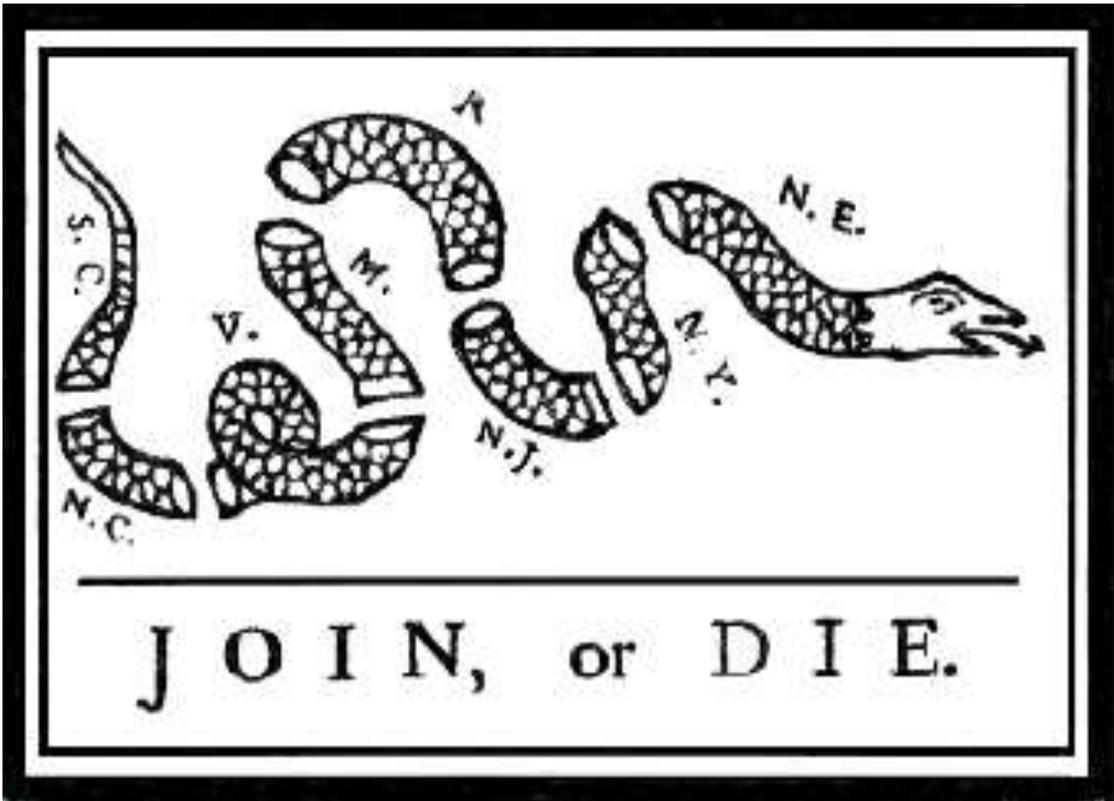


The Mayflower - 1620



Bedford Flag
c. 1737 – 1775

The oldest known flag in the United States.
It was carried at the Battle of Concord,
April 19, 1775, the opening day of the
American Revolution, and is still in
existence today in Bedford, Massachusetts.

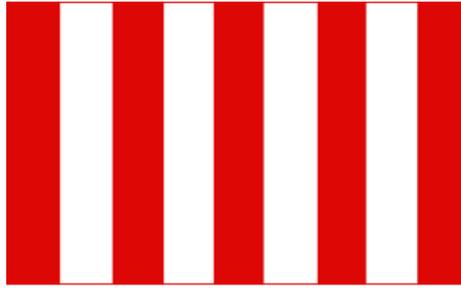


Join or Die Flag, 1754

The rattlesnake was the favorite animal emblem of the Americans even before the Revolution. In 1751 Benjamin Franklin's *Pennsylvania Gazette* carried a bitter article protesting the British practice of sending convicts to America. The author suggested that the colonists return the favor by shipping "a cargo of rattlesnakes, which could be distributed in St. James Park, Spring Garden, and other places of pleasure, and particularly in the noblemen's gardens." Three years later the same paper printed the picture (as seen above) of a snake as a commentary on the Albany Congress. To remind the delegates of the danger of disunity, the serpent was shown cut to pieces. Each segment is marked with the name of a colony, and the motto "Join or Die" below. Other newspapers took up the snake theme.

By 1774 the segments of the snake had grown together, and the motto had been changed to read, "United Now Alive and Free Firm on this Basis Liberty Shall Stand and Thus Supported Ever Bless Our Land Till Time Becomes Eternity"

Other authors felt the rattlesnake was a good example of America's virtues. They argued that it is unique to America; individually its rattles produce no sound, but united they can be heard by all; and while it does not attack unless provoked, it is deadly to step upon one.



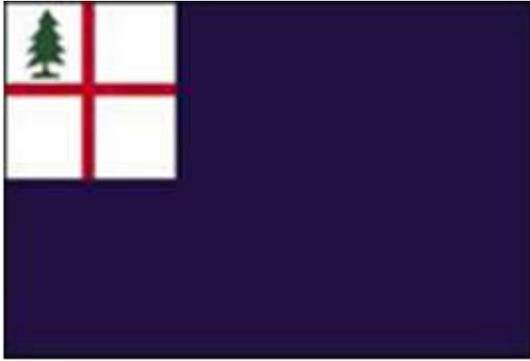
Flag of the Sons of Liberty

Prior to the beginning of the Revolutionary War, there was a decade or so of unrest in the British North American Colonies. The end of the French and Indian War in 1763 left a large debt that Parliament decided to pay by raising taxes directly on the colonies, since they were the primary beneficiary of the successful prosecution of the war. Taxes were imposed on a number of items, including legal documents, newspapers, lead, glass, paper and, of course, tea. Stamps were issued to be affixed at the time of the payment of taxes onto the legal documents and newspapers.

Beginning in 1765, protests of the duties and taxes and stamps required by Parliament began in the colonies. James Otis, in a famous speech characterized by John Adams as being "then and there was the child Independence born," before a court in Massachusetts proclaimed that it was a violation of God's law to impose "Taxation without Representation. One such protest was resistance to the Stamp Act, on October 7, 1765. A delegate from each of the nine colonies formed the "Stamp Act Congress". They petitioned the king and parliament, the act was repealed on March 18, 1766. The flag of nine red and white stripes that represented these "Sons of Liberty" became known as the "Rebellious Stripes." On December 16, 1773, the Sons of Liberty protested the parliament's Tea Act, an action that became known as the Boston Tea Party. The colonists' believed the tax to be a violation of their legitimate economic liberty. Three and a half years after the Tea Party the thirteen colonies had come together in their decision to fight for independence and the nine stripes had grown to thirteen". Benjamin Franklin's emblem of a Rattlesnake cut into pieces with the motto "Unite or Die" was resurrected to remind the colonists of the effects of disunion.

Liberty trees and liberty poles were erected or dedicated and Liberty flags were flown. It was subsequent to a protest of the Stamp Act held under a particular Elm tree in Boston, known thereafter as "the Liberty Tree," that the Sons of Liberty were formed and they met under this tree. Later, the British cut the tree down but the Sons replaced it with a Liberty pole. Their flag of nine alternating red and white vertical stripes was flown from this pole.

This flag is still in existence. According to "Standards and Colors of the American Revolution" by Edward W. Richardson (University of Pennsylvania Press and the Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution and its Color Guard, 1982 .



The Bunker Hill Flag



The Continental Flag

On the night of June 16-17, 1775, the Americans fortified Breed's Hill and Bunker Hill overlooking Boston Harbor. Although they had not officially declared their independence, a fight was underway.

When the British advanced up the slope the next day they saw an early New England flag, possibly a red or blue banner. Many early Colonial flags had been made by altering the English flag and most still contained a reference to the mother country.

This was an example that the Colonists still saw themselves as British subjects, but were declaring their right to be free from violation of their liberties.

This red flag uses a version of the British Red Ensign or Meteor flag with a green New England Pine tree substituted for the Union flag in the canton. The Continental flag is believed to have been carried at the Battle of Bunker Hill.



Washington's Cruisers Flag

George Washington owned his own private squadron of six schooners outfitted at his personal expense in the autumn of 1775. Washington chose the New England pine tree motif as a gesture of solidarity and Friendship between the northern and southern colonies. Even though they knew they were up against the world's foremost military, they believed that they were sustained by a greater power, thus their APPEAL TO HEAVEN. The fleet, and later their ensign, came to be known as Washington's Cruisers.



Gadsden Flag

This flag was named after Colonel Christopher Gadsden of South Carolina. He led the Sons of Liberty in South Carolina starting in 1765, and was later made a Colonel in the Continental Army. In 1775 he was in Philadelphia representing his home state in the Continental Congress. He was also one of three members of the Marine Committee who decided to outfit and man "The Alfred" and its sister ships. Gadsden and Congress chose a Rhode Island man, Commodore Esek Hopkins, as the Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Fleet.

It's generally accepted that Christopher Gadsden, who felt it was especially important for the Commodore to have a distinctive personal standard, presented the flag to him. Gadsden also presented a copy of this flag to his state legislature in Charleston. This is recorded in the South Carolina Congressional Journals.

The flag was flown on the Alfred early in 1776. Its inscription represented a warning by the colonists to the British. The Gadsden flag and other rattlesnake flags were widely used during the American Revolution. There was no standard American flag at the time. People were free to choose their own banners.

The flag was likely used by the Continental Marines making their first amphibious assault on a British weapons depot at New Providence, Grand Bahamas.



Marines First Amphibious Assault

March 1776 - America's first amphibious assault landing occurred early in the Revolutionary War on 3 March 1776 as Marines land on New Providence Island, Bahamas. In 13 days they secure 2 forts, Fort Montague and Fort Nassau, a British ammunition depot and naval port. Additionally, they occupy Nassau, control the Government House, and seize 88 guns, 16,535 shells and other supplies. Their initial objective, Fort Montagu, is in the left distance. Close off shore are the small vessels used to transport the landing force to the vicinity of the beach. They are (from left to right): two captured sloops, schooner Wasp and sloop Providence. The other ships of the American squadron are visible in the distance. Upon returning from the raid, they encountered a British ship. Marines engaged the ship with muskets and assisted in manning the broadside cannon.



Grand Union

The Grand Union Flag (also the Continental Colors, the Congress Flag, the Cambridge Flag, and the First Navy Ensign) is considered to be the first national flag of the United States. This flag consisted of thirteen red and white stripes with the British Union Flag of the time (the variant prior to the inclusion of the St. Patrick's cross of Ireland) in the canton.

By the end of 1775, during the first year of the American Revolutionary War, the Continental Congress operated as a de facto war government authorizing the creation of an army, navy and even a marine corps. A new flag was required to represent the Congress and fledgling nation, different from the Red Ensign flown from British vessels and British Union flags carried by the King's troops.

The Grand Union flag was first hoisted on the USS *Alfred*, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on December 3, 1775, by Lieutenant John Paul Jones. The event had been documented in letters to Congress and eyewitness accounts. The Grand Union flag was used by the American Continental forces as both a naval ensign and garrison flag through 1776 and early 1777.



1st Navy Jack Flag

In the fall of 1775, as the first ships of the Continental Navy readied in the Delaware River, Commodore Esek Hopkins issued a set of fleet signals. Among these signals was an instruction directing his vessels to fly a striped Jack and Ensign at their proper places. This first U.S. Navy Jack has traditionally been shown as consisting of 13 horizontal alternating red and white stripes with a superimposed rattlesnake and the motto "Don't Tread on Me." The rattlesnake had long been a symbol of resistance to British repressive acts in Colonial America; its display on the new jack of the fledging Continental Navy fit naturally with the fervor of the times.

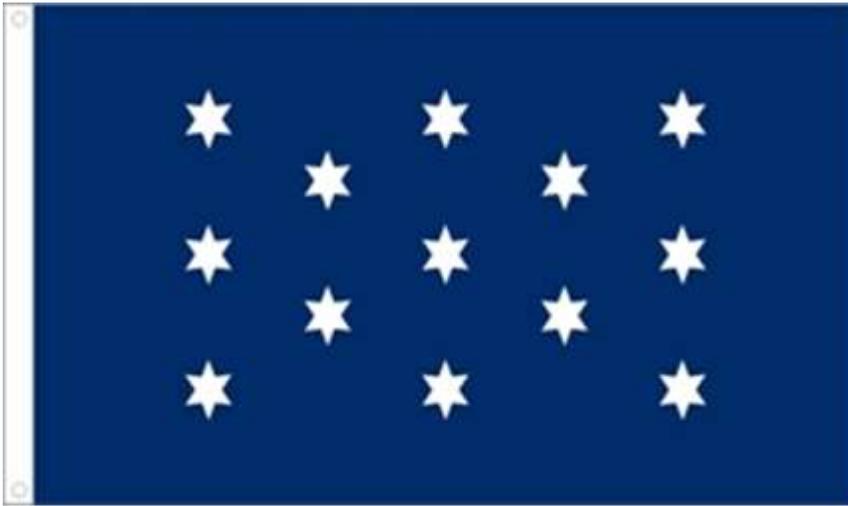
1. In 1975, the Secretary of the Navy directed that the First Navy Jack be flown in 1975 and 1976 in lieu of the Union Jack during the United States Bicentennial Year as a colorful and historic reminder of the nation's and the Navy's origin.
2. In August 1977 (the date is sometimes mistakenly (?) given as 1980 or even 1981), the Secretary of the Navy specified that the ship with the longest total period of active service display the First Navy Jack until decommissioned or transferred to inactive service.

On May 22, 2002, the U.S. Navy ordered all ships to display the First Navy Jack during the War on Terrorism



Green Mountain Boys

On August 16, 1777 the "Green Mountain Boys" fought under General Stark at the Battle of Bennington. Its green field represented their name and the thirteen white stars a tribute to the thirteen colonies. A notable victory of the Green Mountain Boys under Ethan Allen, occurred on the morning of May 10, 1775, when they silently invaded the British held Fort Ticonderoga and demanded its surrender "In the name of the great Jehovah and the Continental Congress". The captured cannon and mortars were transported across the snow covered mountains of New England and their installation on the heights over Boston Harbor enabled Washington to force the British to leave that important seaport.



Washington's Commander-In-Chief Flag 1775 (Replica)

This was the personal flag of the George Washington, the Commander-In-Chief during the Revolutionary War. This flag was the personal standard of the Commander of the Continental Army everywhere he went. The presence of the flag meant George Washington was there. It saw every battle and location that the Commander-in-Chief did during the Revolutionary War. It is unique due to its 6-pointed stars and was allegedly designed by Washington himself. A reproduction of this flag flies today at Washington's Headquarters, Valley Forge.



Washington's original Commander in Chief Flag

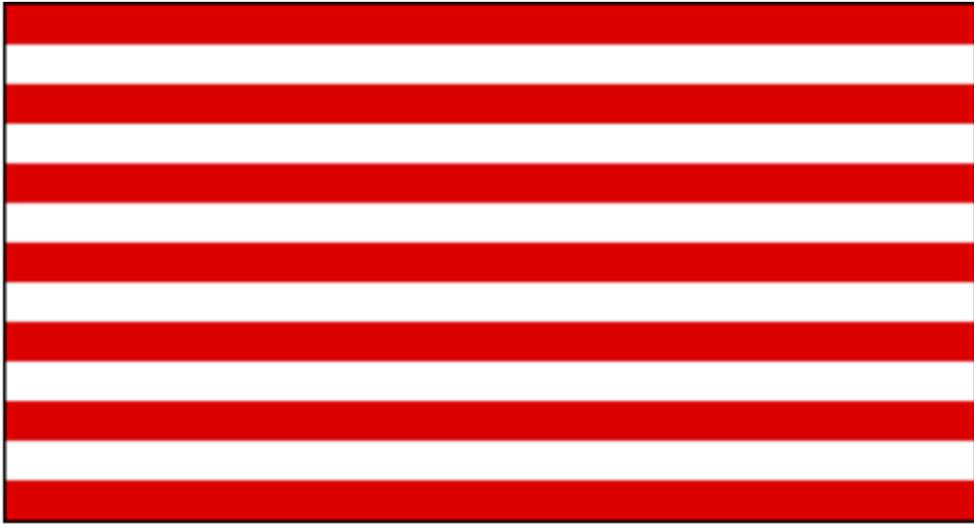


Taunton Flag

The Taunton Flag was raised on the Liberty pole in Taunton, Massachusetts, on October 19, 1774. This was the first flag to represent any dissention amongst the Colonies. This flag was raised as a symbol of the colonies frustration and unwillingness to be persecuted. It was the first in a series that would warn the British that the Colonies were a force to be reckoned with, and would not accept the any loss of their rights or freedom. The bold words “Liberty and Union” reflect the original sentiment of the Colonists, which was to be treated as equal citizens of the British Empire, (“No taxation with representation!”) rather than be excluded from it.

At this time, many colonists still did not want to break away from Great Britain. Their protests were against corrupt politicians and taxes and laws that had been passed that they believed violated their constitutional rights as British subjects.

The flag from Taunton is considered to be one of the oldest American Flags, if not *the* oldest American Flag. It was adopted by the city of Taunton as its official flag on October 19, 1974, the 200th anniversary of its raising. It should be noted, though, that no one knows exactly what the original flag looked like because the modern version was drawn from an incomplete newspaper article from the time.



Merchant and Privateer Ensign *c. 1776 – 1800*

A privateer or "corsair" was a private person or ship authorized by a government by letters of marque to attack foreign vessels during wartime. Privateering was a way of mobilizing armed ships and sailors without having to spend treasury resources or commit naval officers. They were of great benefit to a smaller naval power or one facing an enemy dependent on trade: they disrupted commerce and pressured the enemy to deploy warships to protect merchant trade against commerce raiders. The cost was borne by investors hoping to profit from prize money earned from captured cargo and vessels. The proceeds would be distributed among the privateer's investors, officers, and crew.

Privateers were part of naval warfare from the 16th to the 19th centuries. Some privateers have been particularly influential in the annals of history. Some notables are: Sir Francis Drake, English, c. 1540–1596, Sir Henry Morgan, Welsh, 1635–1688, Jean Lafitte 1776–1854, French Louisiana.

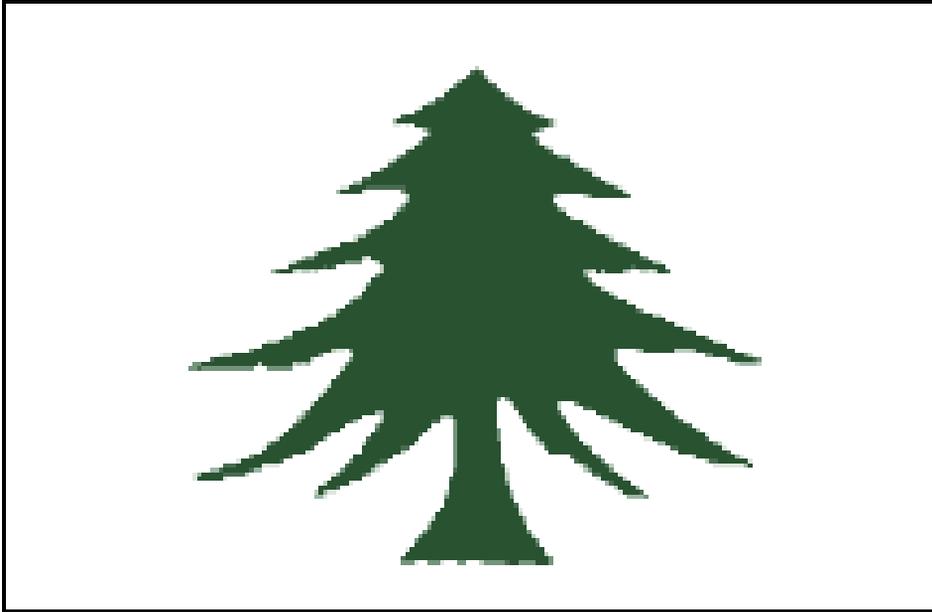
Sometimes the vessels would be commissioned into regular service as warships. The crew of a privateer might be treated as prisoners of war by the enemy country if captured.

Historically, the distinction between a *privateer* and a *pirate* has been, practically speaking, vague, often depending on the source as to which label was correct in a particular circumstance.^[1] The actual work of a *pirate* and a *privateer* is generally the same (raiding and plundering ships); it is, therefore, the authorization and perceived legality of the actions that form the distinction. At various times, governments indiscriminately granted authorization for privateering to a variety of ships, so much so that would-be pirates could easily operate under a veil of legitimacy.



Lord Baltimore

The Lord Baltimore flag consists of the black and gold coat of arms of the Calvert family, the Lords Baltimore, colonial proprietors of Maryland. It was granted to George Calvert as a reward for his storming a fortification during a battle. George Calvert was the First Baron of Baltimore, a town in Ireland and also a grant holder in Newfoundland. The Maryland grant was requested of King Charles I of England, but granted posthumously in 1622 to his son Cecil Calvert. The Calverts were Roman Catholic and the colony of Maryland was based on the ideas of freedom of religion and separation of church and state. This flag was used to represent Maryland from the 1600's until the Revolutionary War. Maryland adopted a state flag in 1904 which incorporates the Calvert family colors in two quadrants.



Pine Tree

This flag was in use 1775-1777. It was officially adopted by the Massachusetts Navy in April 1776. It flew over the floating batteries which sailed down the Charles River to attack British-held Boston. This flag is the jack form of the "Bunker Hill" flag. On October 20, 1775, Colonel Joseph Reed, General Washington's military secretary, recommended that this flag be put into general usage so that American ships could recognize one another. The "Pine Tree Flag" is a generic name for a number of flags used by Massachusetts and by New England from 1686 to 1776.



Rhode Island Regiment

In Rhode Island the anchor has been used as a state symbol ever since 1647 and is still evident in the current State flag. The anchor represents Rhode Island's seafaring activities and the thirteen stars, the original thirteen colonies. The native Rhode Islanders were among the first to join the Minutemen outside Boston. Rhode Island Regiments served at the Battles of Brandywine, Trenton and Yorktown.

This flag is preserved today in the State House at Providence, Rhode Island.

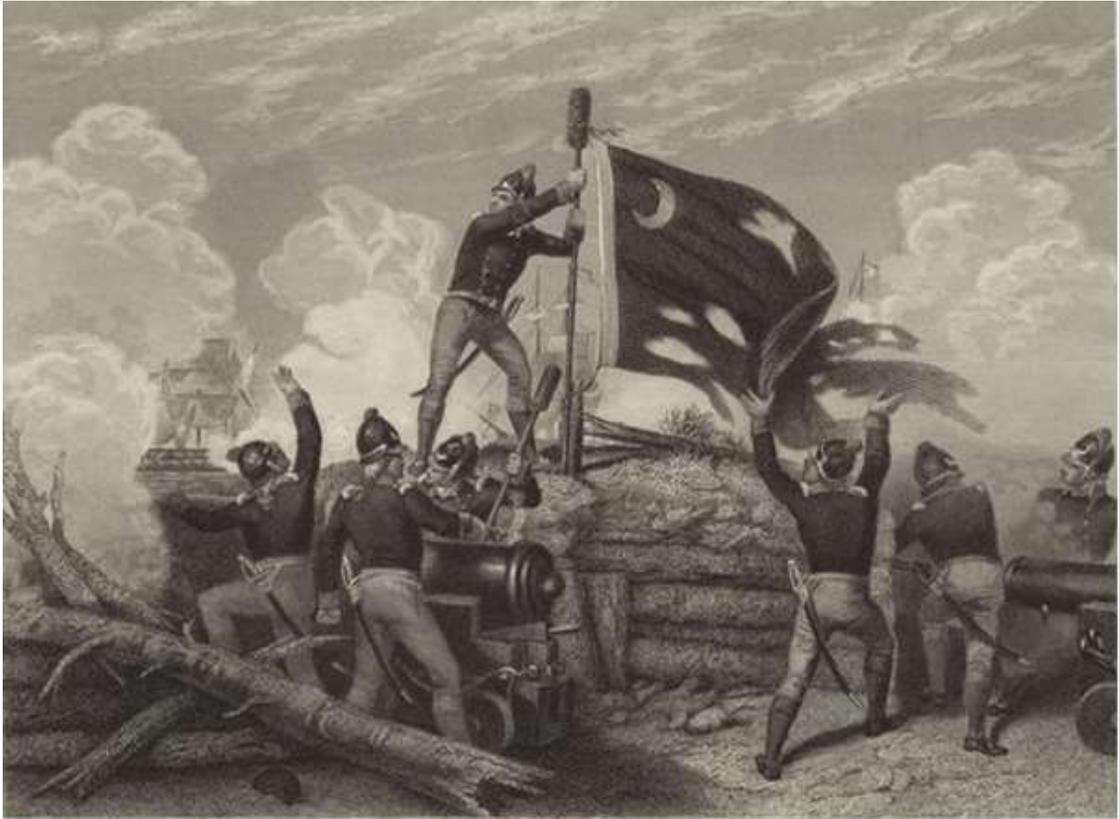


Fort Moultrie Flag

This flag was carried by Colonel William Moultrie's South Carolina Militia in defense of Sullivan Island against the British fleet in Charleston Harbor on June 28, 1776. Fighting back stridently during a ten hour bombardment and siege, Moultrie's forces eventually caused the invaders to withdraw entirely, saving Charleston from invasion and conquest until four years later. The British were defeated that day which saved the south from British occupation for another two years. The South Carolina state flag still contains the crescent moon from this Revolutionary flag.

During this battle, the flag was actually shot away, but Sergeant William Jasper ran out in the open and hoisted it again, apparently rallying the troops until a new stand could be provided. This dramatic event, along with the pivotal role of the battle itself, earned the flag a place in the hearts of the people of South Carolina as well as cementing it as a symbol of liberty in the South, and the new nation in general.

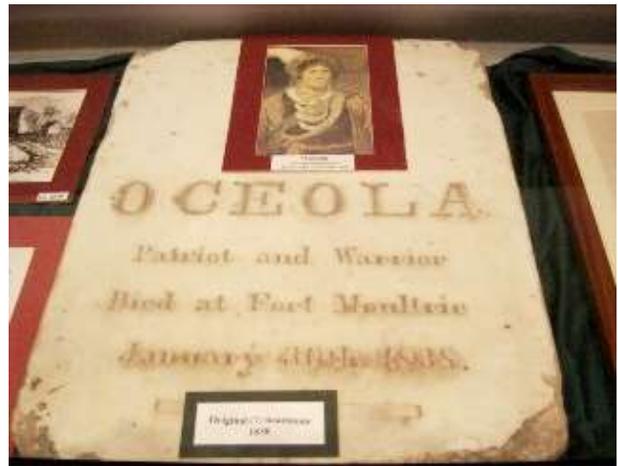
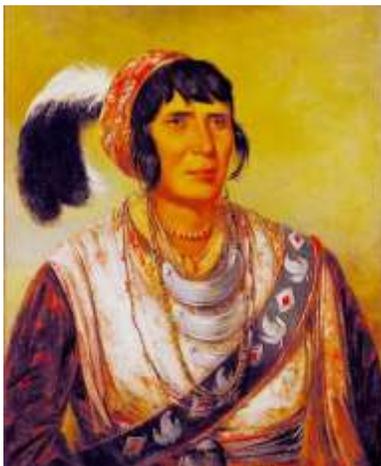
(Next Page)



The Liberty flag being raised over Fort Moultrie by Sergeant William Jasper, after its successful defense against British invaders

Iconic to the state as a symbol of freedom and the Revolution, eventually this was used as the foundation for the state's own flag. The fort was renamed Fort Moultrie and the flag is sometimes referred to as the Fort Moultrie Flag.

At the conclusion of the Seminole wars, Seminole Chief Ocoola was imprisoned at the Fort until his death. He is buried just outside the Fort's main gate. Colonel Moultrie is buried on the grounds of the fort's museum located across the street from the fort.





The Betsy Ross Flag

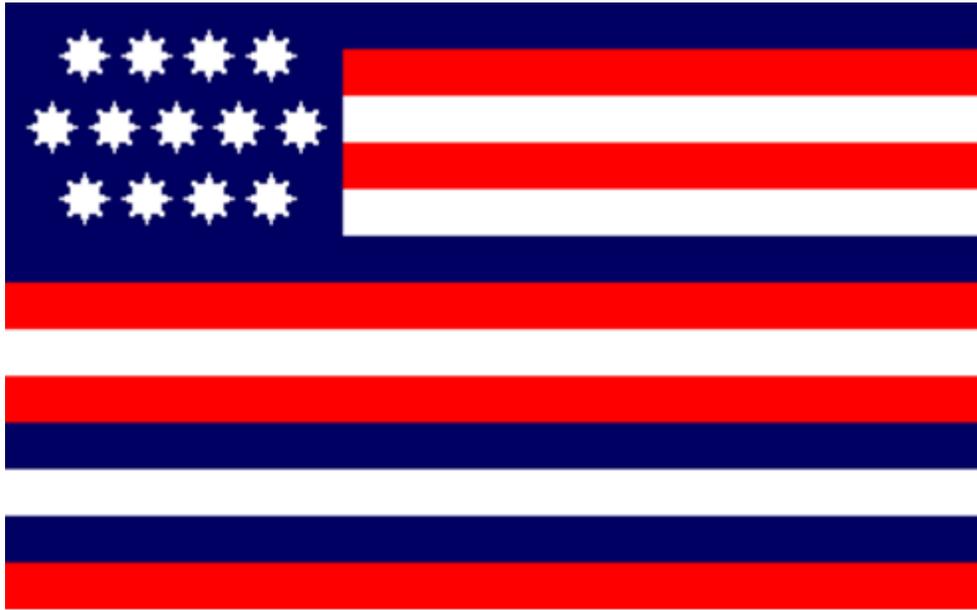
According to the traditional account, the original flag was made in June 1776, when a small committee — including George Washington, Robert Morris and relative George Ross — visited Betsy to discuss the need for a new American flag. Betsy accepted the job to produce the flag, altering the committee's design by replacing the six-pointed stars with five-pointed stars. The circular design of the Betsy Ross Flag was by George Washington and Francis Hopkins. But the Congress however, did not specify an arrangement for the stars in the canton; as a result there are many variations in the flags that followed until 1912. The flag is, nevertheless, one of the oldest versions of U.S. flags known to exist. While not the oldest surviving flag artifact in cloth form, its likeness appears on older physical relics, namely, the works of Charles Willson Peale. They depict the circular star arrangement being flown from ship masts and many other places, and thus provide the first known historical documentation of the flag's appearance. The Betsy Ross Flag was adopted June 14, 1777 (Flag Day).

The Continental Congress on this day resolved, "That the flag of the United States be thirteen stripes alternating red and white; that the Union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation".



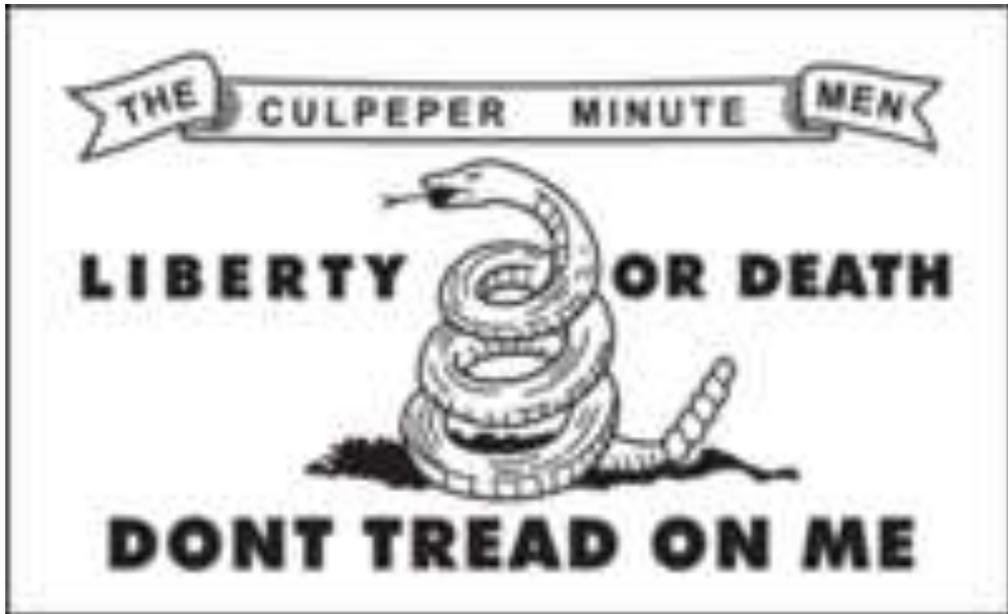
The Bennington Flag

The Battle of Bennington Flag flew over the military stores in Bennington, Vermont, on August 16, 1777. The American militia led by General John Stark, defeated a large British raiding force, thus protecting the military supplies at Bennington. Note that the Bennington flag begins with a white stripe. Also, its stars have seven points each instead of the current five and the blue canton is higher than on other flags, spanning nine instead of seven of the thirteen stripes. The original Battle of Bennington Flag is preserved in the Bennington, Vermont Museum. The Bennington flag is sometimes referred to as the "76" flag. The "76" on the flag refers to 1776, the year of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.



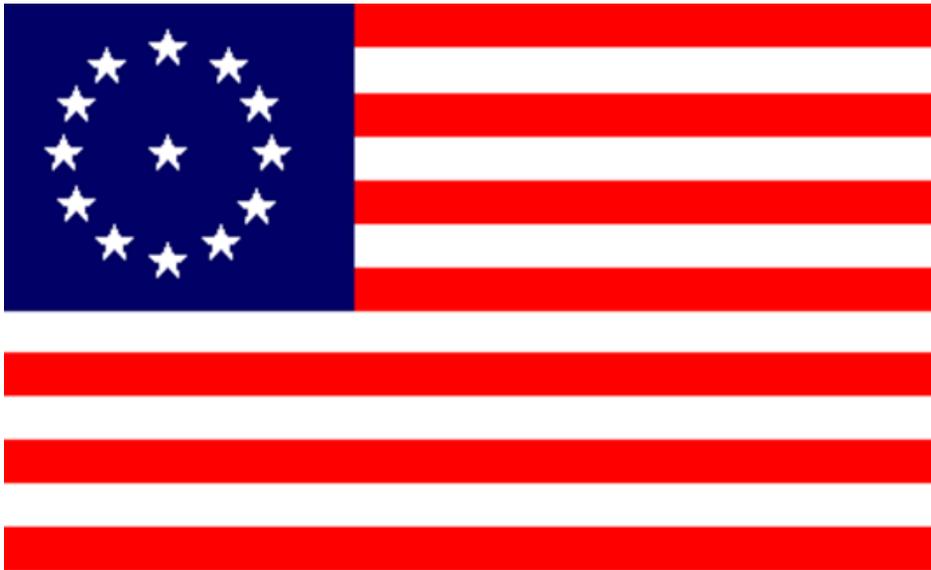
The Serapis Flag

This is the flag used on board the British ship "Serapis" in 1779 when it was captured by Captain John Paul Jones. This ship was captured following the famous sea battle between the "Serapis" and the "Bonhomme Richard" in which the latter's flag staff was blown away. The British Captain asked if Jones had struck his colors; and Jones replied "Struck, Sir? I have not yet begun to fight!" His ship the "Bonhomme Richard" was so badly damaged that it sank with its colors flying. After putting into the Dutch port of Texel for refitting, the British authorities in the Netherlands demanded Jones be arrested as a pirate since he flew no known flag. The Dutch replied that they would consult their archives. Sometime between then and a few days later when they replied to the British that they had evidence in their files that the flag used on the "Serapis" was a recognized flag and that Jones would be allowed to refit, a painting of this flag (and that of the Alliance) was made. Besides the unconventional use of blue stripes as well as white and red, if you examine the painting closely you will see there are 12 eight pointed stars and one seven pointed star on the flag. It is also nearly square.



Culpeper Flag

This flag represented a group of about one hundred minutemen from Culpeper, Virginia. The group formed part of Colonel Patrick Henry's First Virginia Regiment of 1775. In October-November, 1775, three hundred such minutemen, led by Colonel Stevens, assembled at Culpeper Court House and marched for Williamsburg. Their unusual dress alarmed the people as they marched through the country. The words "LIBERTY OR DEATH" were in large white letters on the breasts of their hunting shirts. They had bucks' tails in their hats and in their belts, tomahawks and scalping knives.



Cowpens Flag

American hopes were at a low point at the start of 1781 after suffering repeated defeats by the highly trained and disciplined British. That changed, however, on January 17, 1781 when General Daniel Morgan won one of the most brilliant victories of the Revolutionary War at Cowpens, South Carolina. With the help of Maryland, Virginia, and Georgia regiments, Morgan stopped the attacking British dead in their tracks by cunning tactics which included a double envelopment. Trapped by the cavalry and the militia, the surrounded British soon relented. The British force suffered an 86% casualty rate. Even worse for the British, the forces loss constituted the cream of Cornwallis' army.

Historian John Buchanan wrote, Morgan may have been "the only General in the American Revolution, on either side, to produce a significant original tactical thought."

Cowpens was a surprising victory and a turning point that changed the psychology of the entire war "*spiriting up the people*" in all the Southern states. Its strategic result—the destruction of an important part of the British army in the South—was incalculable toward ending the war. Cowpens was a decisive blow to Cornwallis. The battle set in motion a series of events leading to the end of the war.

This flag of the Third Maryland Regiment, which was present that day at Cowpens, is now enshrined in the State Capitol in Annapolis, Maryland, in honor of that battle.



Guilford Courthouse Flag

This flag has the unique elements of an elongated canton and blue stripes. It was raised over the Guilford Courthouse, North Carolina on March 15, 1781 under the leadership of General Nathaniel Greene.

After a long chase Lord Cornwallis' army battled General Greene's force at Guilford Court House, winning a very costly victory that so damaged his army that he withdrew to Yorktown, Virginia, to rest and refit. This was one of the bloodiest battles of the long war with the British losing over a quarter of their troops.

Washington seized this opportunity to trap and defeat Cornwallis at the Battle of Yorktown, which caused the British to give up their efforts to defeat the Americans.



Commodore Perry Flag

During the War of 1812, this flag flew aboard Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry's flagship "Lawrence" while he was commanding an American squadron in the Battle of Lake Erie on September 10, 1813. Perry had named his ship after Captain James Lawrence, the hero of an earlier sea battle off New England whose dying words were "Don't Give Up The Ship".

The Battle of Lake Erie was fought on 10 September 1813 off the coast of Ohio during the War of 1812. Nine vessels of the United States Navy defeated and captured six vessels of British Royal Navy. This ensured American control of the lake for the rest of the war, which in turn allowed the Americans to recover Detroit and win the Battle of the Thames to break the Indian confederation of Tecumseh. It was one of the biggest naval battles of the War of 1812.



The Star-Spangled Banner

During the War of 1812, Francis Scott Key, accompanied by the American Prisoner Exchange Agent Colonel John Stuart Skinner, went aboard the British ship HMS *Tonnant* to negotiate the release of prisoners, one being Dr. William Beanes. Beanes was a Maryland resident captured by the British and mistakenly accused of mistreating British wounded soldiers. Skinner, Key, and Beanes were not allowed to leave the ship because they were thought to have overheard plans to attack Baltimore. As a result of this, Key was unable to do anything but watch the bombarding of the American forces at Fort McHenry during the Battle of Baltimore on the night of September 13 into the dawn of September 14, 1814.

When the smoke cleared, Key was able to see an American flag still waving. On the way back to Baltimore, he was inspired to write a poem describing his experience. Originally titled "The Defence of Fort McHenry," he intended to fit the poem to the rhythms of composer John Stafford Smith's "To Anacreon in Heaven". It has become better known as "The Star Spangled Banner". Under this name, the song was adopted as the American national anthem, first by an Executive Order from President Woodrow Wilson in 1916 and then by a Congressional resolution in 1931, signed by President Herbert Hoover.

In the fourth stanza, Key urged the adoption of "In God is our Trust" as the national motto. The United States adopted the motto "In God We Trust" by law in 1956.

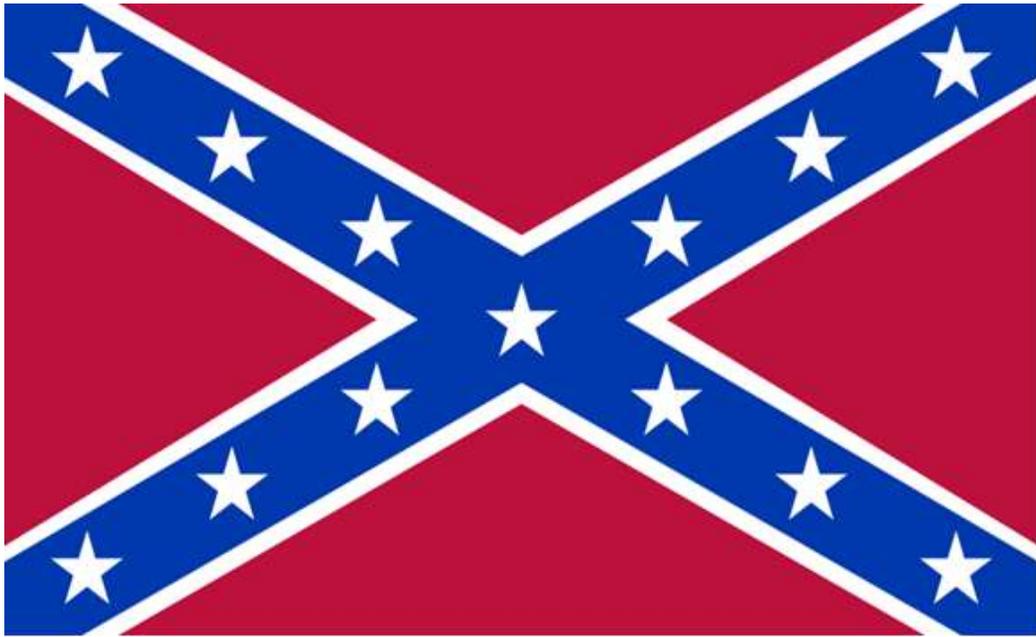


Fort Sumter Flag

The Fort Sumter Flag is a historic United States flag with a distinctive, diamond-shaped pattern of 33 stars. The flag was lowered by Major Robert Anderson on April 14, 1861 when he surrendered Fort Sumter, in the harbor of Charleston, South Carolina, at the outset of the American Civil War.

Anderson brought the flag to New York City for an April 20, 1861 patriotic rally, where it was flown from the equestrian statue of George Washington. More than 100,000 people thronged Manhattan's Union Square in what was, by some accounts, the largest public gathering in the country up to that time. The flag was then taken from town to town, city to city throughout the North, where it was frequently "auctioned" to raise funds for the war effort. Any patriotic citizen who won the flag at auction was expected to immediately donate it back to the nation, and it would promptly be taken to the next rally to repeat its fundraising magic. The flag was a widely known patriotic symbol for the North during the war.

On April 14, 1865, four years to the day after the surrender and as part of a celebration of the Union victory, Anderson (by then a major general), raised the flag in triumph over the battered remains of the fort.



Confederate Battle Flag

One of the first acts of the Provisional Confederate Congress was to create the Committee on the Flag and Seal, chaired by William Porcher Miles of South Carolina. The committee asked the public to submit thoughts and ideas on the design. Miles had already designed a flag that was rejected as the national flag in 1861 but would later become the Confederate battle flag.

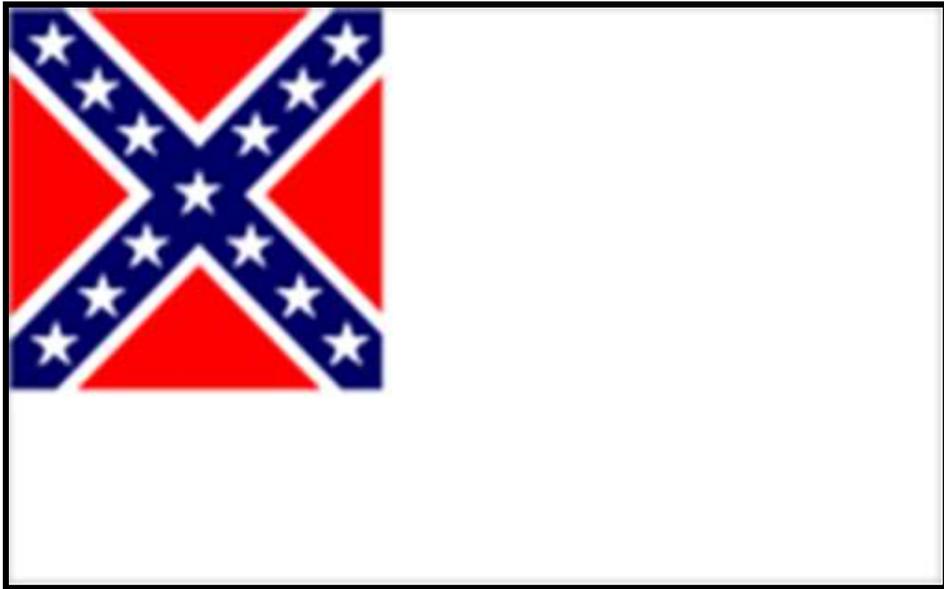
At the First Battle of Manassas, the similarity between the Stars and Bars and the Stars and Stripes caused confusion and military problems. After the battle, General P.G.T. Beauregard wrote that he was "resolved then to have our flag changed if possible, or to adopt for my command a 'Battle flag', which would be entirely different from any State or Federal flag."

It was adopted as a battle flag by the Army of Northern Virginia under General Lee. Despite never having historically represented the CSA as a country nor officially recognized as one of its national flags, it is commonly referred to as "the Confederate Flag" and has become a widely recognized symbol of the South. It is also known as the rebel flag, Dixie flag, and Southern Cross. It is often incorrectly referred to as the "Stars and Bars".



Confederate 1st National Flag - The Stars and Bars

This Confederate 'Stars and Bars' Flag was captured by the Union Army at Columbia, South Carolina. It was the first official national flag of the Confederacy. It was flown from its adoption in Montgomery, Alabama, on March 4, 1861 until May 1, 1863. Inspired by Austria's national flag, it was designed by Prussian artist Nicola Marschall in Marion, Alabama. However, the flag received criticism from its adoption on ideological grounds for its resemblance to the U.S. flag.

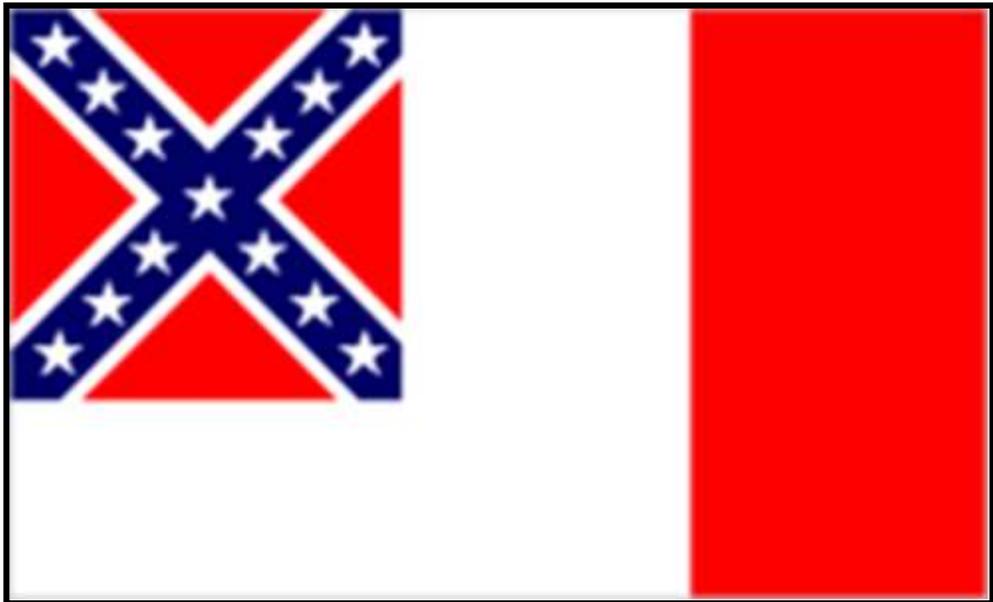


Confederate 2nd National Flag - *The Stainless Banner*

During the solicitation for the second national flag, there were many different types of designs that were proposed, nearly all making use of the battle flag, which by 1863 had become well-known and popular. The new design was specified by the Confederate Congress to be a white field "with the union (now used as the battle flag) to be a square of two-thirds the width of the flag, having the ground red; thereupon a broad saltire of blue, bordered with white, and emblazoned with mullets or five-pointed stars, corresponding in number to that of the Confederate States."

The flag is also known as "the Stainless Banner". The nickname "stainless" referred to the pure white field. The flag act of 1864 did not state what the white symbolized and advocates offered various interpretations. The Confederate Congress debated whether the white field should have a blue stripe and whether it should be bordered in red. William Miles delivered a speech for the simple white design that was eventually approved. He argued that the battle flag must be used, but for a national flag it was necessary to emblazon it, but as simply as possible, with a plain white field.

Initial reaction to the second national flag was favorable, but over time it became criticized for being "too white".



Confederate 3rd National Flag
'The Blood Stained Banner'

The Third National Flag, adopted March 4, 1865, was also called "the Blood Stained Banner".

Its red vertical bar was proposed by Major Arthur L. Rogers, who argued that the pure white field of the Second National flag could be mistaken as a flag of truce.

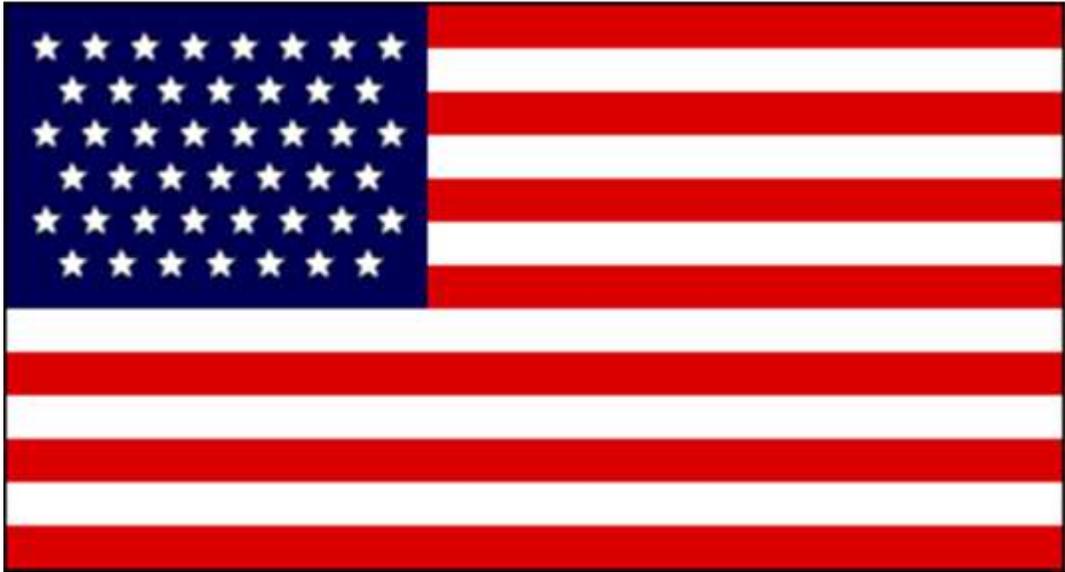
Rogers lobbied successfully to have this alteration introduced in the Confederate Senate. He defended his redesign as having "as little as possible of the Yankee blue",

Despite the passage of the Flag Act of 1865, very few Third National Flags were actually manufactured.



The Union Civil War Flag
The 33 Star Flag

Oregon was the 33rd state to join the Union. When it joined in February 1859, a 33rd star had to be added to the flag. This new flag was the nation's official flag when Abraham Lincoln was sworn in as President and it was the flag of the Union when the Southern states started to secede beginning with South Carolina in December 1860. Despite the South's secession, President Lincoln refused to remove stars from the flag as this would have been an admission that the South had the right to secede. The 33 star flag was in effect from 1859 to 1861.



US 45 Star Flag

The 45-Star Flag: This Flag became the Official United States Flag on July 4th, 1896. A star was added for the admission of Utah on January 4th, 1896, and was to last for 12 years.

The Presidents to serve under this flag were Grover Cleveland (1893-1897), William McKinley (1897- 1901), and Theodore Roosevelt (1901- 1909).

Spanish-American War 1898: (Cuba)
Battleship Maine sunk.

Philippine-American War: 1899-1902

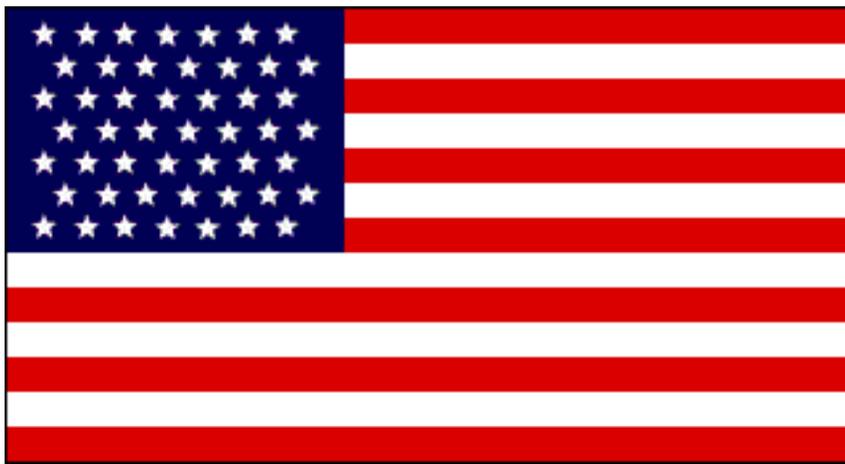
Boxer Rebellion: 1900 "55 Days in Peking".



U.S. 48 Star Flag

"Old Glory"

The 48 Star Flag: On July 4, 1912, the U.S. flag grew to 48 stars with the addition of New Mexico (January 6th, 1912) and Arizona (February 14, 1912) Executive Order of President Taft dated June 24, 1912 - established the proportions of the flag and provided for arrangement of the stars in six horizontal rows of eight each, a single point of each star to be upward. This flag was official for 47 years, longer than any other flag, through two World Wars and the emergence of the United States of America as the leading nation of the world. Eight Presidents served under this flag; William H. Taft (1909-1913), Woodrow Wilson (1913-1921), Warren Harding (1921-1923), Calvin Coolidge (1923-1929), Herbert Hoover (1929-1933), Franklin D. Roosevelt (1933-1945), Harry S. Truman (1945-1953), Dwight D. Eisenhower (1953-1961)



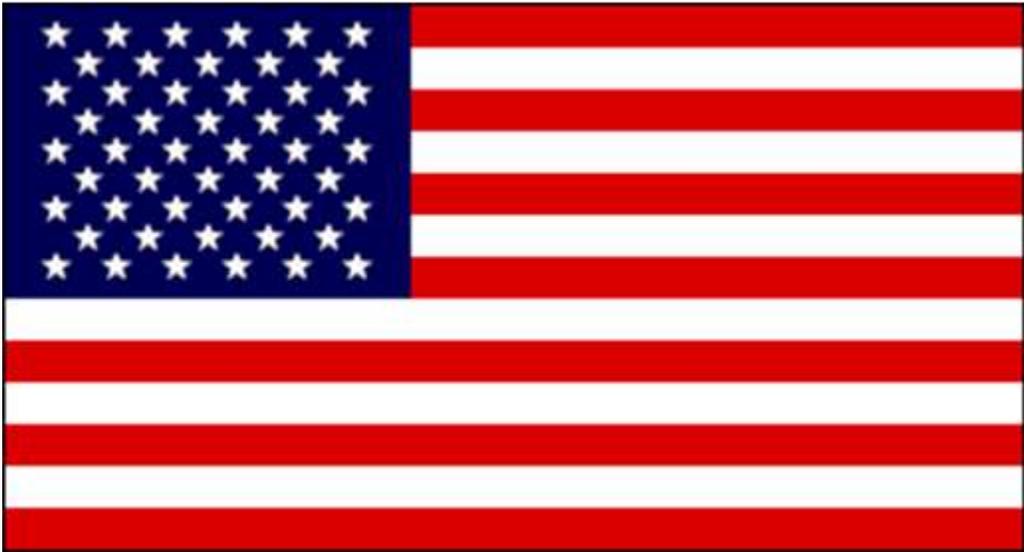
U. S. 49 Star Flag

July 4, 1959 - July 4, 1960

On January 3rd, 1959 [Alaska](#) was formally granted statehood placing the 49th star on our Flag. President Dwight D. Eisenhower, by Executive Order on the same day, provided for the arrangement of the stars in seven rows of seven stars each, staggered horizontally and vertically.

The first 49-star flag was made in the Army Quartermaster Depot at Philadelphia, and was used in the White House ceremony when [President Dwight D. Eisenhower \(1953-1961\)](#) signed the proclamation admitting Alaska to the Union. Subsequently, this flag was carried to Philadelphia by Senator Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania. He gave it to the mayor of Philadelphia to raise over Independence Hall on July 4th, 1959. After these ceremonies Scott gave the flag to his colleague, Senator Earnest Gruening of Alaska, who, in turn, delivered it to Governor William A. Egan to be flown over the state capitol at Juneau. This flag was later given to the Alaskan State Museum for preservation.

The 49-Star flag was official for only one year, until July 4, 1960, when [Hawaii](#) achieved its Statehood and the [50-Star flag](#) was born. [President Eisenhower](#) was the only President to serve under this flag.



50 Star American Flag "Stars and Stripes"

The most recent change, from 49 stars to 50, occurred in 1960 when the present design was chosen, after Hawaii gained statehood in August 1959. Before that, the admission of [Alaska](#) in January 1959 prompted the debut of a short-lived 49-star flag.

Prior to the adoption of the 48-star flag in 1912, there was no official arrangement of the stars in the canton, although the U.S. Army and U.S. Navy used standardized designs. Throughout the 19th century there were a plethora of star patterns, rectangular and circular.

On July 4, 2007, the 50-star flag became the version of the flag in longest use.



Proposed 51 Star U.S. Flag

Robert Galen Heft

January 19, 1941 – December 12, 2009

Born in [Saginaw, Michigan](#), Robert Galen Heft was the designer of the current [American 50-star flag](#) as well as a designer of a submitted [51-star flag](#) proposal.¹ Heft's place in history is already secure as the designer of the 50-star flag, but his dream is to have his 51 star version accepted when a new state is created.²

He created the 50 star American flag as a high school project in his hometown of [Lancaster, Ohio](#). Heft has also stated he had [copyrighted](#) designs for American flags with 51 to 60 stars. Heft said he designed a 51-star version a few weeks after he completed his school project. That flag has six rows of stars, beginning with a row of nine and alternated by rows of eight and nine stars to achieve a 51-star total. The proposed 51-star flag is in the hands of Rep. Clarence Miller, R-Ohio.

THE AMERICAN'S CREED

William Tyler Page

1918

I BELIEVE IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AS A GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE
PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE,

WHOSE JUST POWERS ARE DERIVED FROM THE
CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED,

A DEMOCRACY IN A REPUBLIC, A SOVEREIGN
NATION OF MANY SOVEREIGN STATES;

A PERFECT UNION, ONE AND INSEPARABLE,

ESTABLISHED UPON THOSE PRINCIPLES OF
FREEDOM, EQUALITY, JUSTICE, AND HUMANITY
FOR WHICH AMERICAN PATRIOTS SACRIFICED
THEIR LIVES AND FORTUNES.

I THEREFORE BELIEVE IT IS MY DUTY TO MY
COUNTRY TO LOVE IT, TO SUPPORT ITS
CONSTITUTION,

TO OBEY ITS LAWS, TO RESPECT ITS FLAG, AND
TO DEFEND IT AGAINST ALL ENEMIES.