

The Meaning behind Traditional Flag Folding

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There are many names for the American flag: Old Glory; The Stars and Stripes; The Red, White, and Blue; and The Star-Spangled Banner to name a few.



The original 13-star version of the flag was first unveiled on June 14, 1777, and that is why June 14 is known as Flag Day.

The flag is folded exactly 13 times in remembrance of the original 13 colonies as are the red and white stripes. The source and date of origin of the following meanings is unknown but lend themselves to a dignified way to treat the flag.

1. The first fold symbolizes the life we live and offer in service to country.
2. The second fold represents a belief in eternal life.
3. The third fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans who gave their lives in defense of the country to help attain peace throughout the world.
4. The fourth fold is in recognition of the nature of the country's citizens to trust in God.
5. The fifth fold is a tribute to the United States. According to Stephen Decatur, Naval Commander during the American Revolution and War of 1812, "Our country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right, but it is still our country, right or wrong."
6. The sixth fold symbolizes where people's hearts lie in keeping with the words of our pledge of 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.
7. The seventh fold pays tribute to the armed forces. After all, through our armed forces, the United States is protected against all enemies.
8. The eighth fold is a tribute to those who died, and as Psalm 23 states, "entered into the valley of the shadow of death."
9. The ninth fold honors mothers.
10. The tenth fold is a tribute to fathers.
11. The eleventh fold represents the lower portion of the seal of Kings David and Solomon and glorifies, in Judaism, the God of Abraham, Isaac & Jacob.
12. The twelfth fold represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in the eyes of Christians, God the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit.
13. The thirteenth and last fold completes the triangular "pillow" with the blue field with white stars covering the red and white stripes reminding us of our national motto, "In God We Trust."

