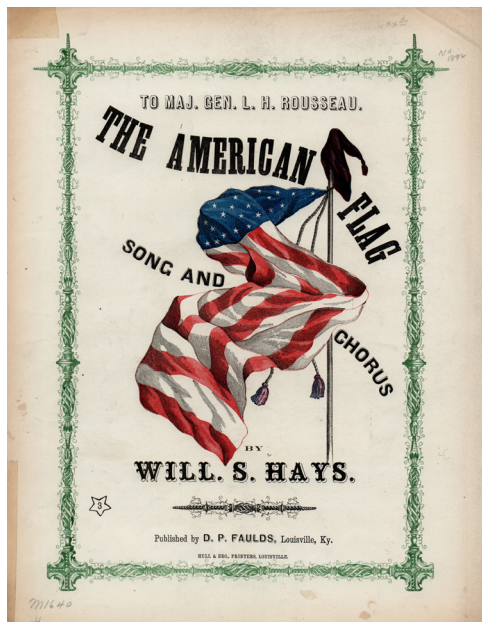


LONG MAY SHE WAVE

HISTORY & ETIQUETTE
OF THE AMERICAN FLAG



HISTORY OF THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE



The American Flag, 1863
D.P. Faulds
Library of Congress

The original pledge was created in 1892 for the opening ceremonies of the Columbian Exposition. The Exposition celebrated the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus's discovery of America. On October 12, 1892, public school students said the pledge to celebrate Columbus Day.

The Pledge of Allegiance first appeared in the September 1892 issue of *The Youth's Companion* family magazine with half a million readers. The magazine's

staff wanted to promote the ceremonies by creating a new salute to the flag for school children to recite in unison.

The Youth's Companion reprinted the Pledge of Allegiance in leaflet form and distributed thousands to schools across the nation.

Francis Bellamy, the Pledge's author and an ordained minister, worked in the magazine's promotion department. He successfully persuaded Congress to create a rule supporting the school ceremony and convinced President Benjamin Harrison* to proclaim Columbus Day a national holiday. Bellamy said he heard the Pledge of Allegiance recited for the first time when "4,000 high school boys in Boston roared it out together."

In the beginning, the first pledge stated "my flag" instead of "the flag of the United States." On June 14, 1923, the first National Flag Conference approved the change, and in 1924 added "of America" to clearly state the country it represented. It was not until 1942 upon the Pledge of Allegiance's 50th anniversary that Congress adopted it as part of a national flag code. The last change to the Pledge of Allegiance was made on June 14, 1954, when Congress approved the addition of the words "under God" and President Dwight D. Eisenhower * signed the bill into law.



THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

*I 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.*



WHEN DISPLAYING THE FLAG...



In a group of other flags of states or localities, the U.S. flag should be at the center and at the greatest height.



With multiple nation flags, they are all to be flown at the same height.



THE FLAG SHOULD...



Be placed with the union at the head and over the left shoulder when covering a casket.

President George H.W. Bush* lies in state at the U.S. Capitol, 2018
Official White House Photo by Joyce N. Boghosian



Be on the right (the flag's right) with its staff in the front when displayed with another flag with staffs crossed.

*U.S. President is an SAR member



WHEN THE U.S. FLAG IS...



Carried in a procession, the U.S. flag should be on the marching right or if there is a line of other flags, front of center of the line.

National Headquarters of the National Society of the
Sons of the American Revolution, Louisville, KY



Displayed from a staff from the window sill, balcony or front of a building, the union should be at the peak of the staff, unless being flown at half-staff.

Lexington Patriot's Day Parade
Photo courtesy of *The SAR Colorguardsman*



WHEN THE U.S. FLAG IS...



Near a podium, the flag should be displayed on the speaker's right when facing the audience.



Flying at half-staff, the flag should first be hoisted to the top for an instant then lowered to half the distance between the top and bottom of the staff. Before it is lowered at the end of the day, it should again be raised to the top for an instant, then lowered for the day.

-U.S. Flag Code, est. 1942

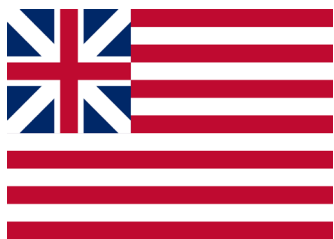
HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN FLAG



Lieut. Smythe, 1919
Library of Congress

When the Continental Congress established the official U.S. Flag on June 14, 1777, it was the beginning of America's rich tradition of displaying patriotism through flying the flag. The resolution, or law, passed by Congress states: "Resolved, that the flag of the United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation." The resolution did not specify the arrangement of the stars, and throughout the early years they tried various patterns. But how did this design we recognize as the American flag come to be?

We don't know for sure who designed the American flag and arranged the stripes and stars we see today. Elements of the design had been around in other colonial flags for years, such as the Grand Union Flag and the Sons of Liberty Flag. While Betsy Ross is historically believed to have made the first flag, there is no concrete evidence to support that assertion. What is known is that she was a seamstress in Philadelphia in the mid-1700s who was paid by the government to sew flags. Many years later, her grandson stated that his grandmother made the first flag for George Washington. Legend has it she convinced Washington to make the stars five-pointed rather than six-pointed, although we have no way of knowing if this is true.



Grand Union Flag



Sons of Liberty Flag



Francis Hopkinson

The most likely candidate for taking Congress' unspecific resolution and turning it into the flag we are familiar with was Congressman Francis Hopkinson. In addition to serving in Congress, he was an artist who designed several materials for the U.S. Government. In 1780, he submitted a receipt to Congress for payment for the flag's design. However, Congress denied the claim that Hopkinson created the flag because as a government employee, he could not legally be paid for such work - although they did not deny that he had done such work.

The first change to the official design came when Congress passed the Second Flag Act on May 1, 1795. This law stated that when new states were admitted to the Union, a new star and stripe should be added for each state. This allowed for the addition of stripes for Vermont and Kentucky, which had been admitted in 1791 and 1792, respectively. By 1818, Congress realized that adding stripes for each state would

become challenging, and passed the third and last Flag Resolution to correct it on April 4, 1818. The third Flag Resolution stated that the number of stripes would remain 13 for the original colonies, and each state added to the Union would add a star to the canton on the July 4 following their admission.

On June 24, 1912, President Taft's* Executive Order required specific flag proportions and restrictions on star arrangement. Before this, there were a variety of ways in which flag makers could interpret the placement of stars, or the sizes of different parts of the flag. To date, there have been 27 national flags, and the flag has not changed since 1960, when we added a star for Hawaii. This has been the longest span in history without a change to the American flag.

*U.S. President is an SAR member

NATIONAL FLAG DAY



Following the clashes at Lexington and Concord in 1775, the Continental Congress authorized the enlistment of riflemen to serve the United Colonies. This was the birth of the U.S. Army, but unlike today's military, each regiment fought under its own flag. Seeing the need for a unifying symbol to represent the entire military on the battlefield, General George Washington pushed for the creation of a national flag.

On June 14, 1777, the second anniversary of the establishment of the U.S. Army, the Second Continental Congress passed a resolution to adopt the United States Flag. However, the public was slow to accept the American flag as a national symbol. It would take almost a century for June 14 to be recognized as a day to celebrate the flag.

Over time, however, numerous patriotic organizations and citizens sought a national observance designating "the 14th of June every year" as National Flag Day. Research points to 1861 when Jonathan Flynt Morris, a founding member of the Sons of the American Revolution's Connecticut Society, as having first proposed a national recognition of Flag Day. Morris spoke to Charles Dudley Warner, editor of the Hartford Evening Press, about observing the anniversary of the flag and celebrating the United States Constitution. Warner agreed and published an editorial in the Press calling for the establishment of the 14th of June, Flag Day, and the 17th of September, Constitution Day, as national holidays.

"This flag which we honor and under which we serve 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. The choices are ours."

June 14, 1917

*Woodrow Wilson, 28th United States President
SAR Compatriot U. S. President*

One year later, Jonathan Flynt Morris wrote to Connecticut Congressman Dwight Loomis “asking him to introduce in Congress a resolution for the observance of Flag Day as a national holiday, to embrace Constitution Day also.” Congressman Loomis agreed and presented the resolution on June 12, only for it to be tabled by the House of Representatives on June 13 due to the majority’s assumption that the United States did not need another holiday.

It would take several more decades for these early celebrations to become an official national holiday. The signatures

of three United States Presidents served to achieve its national status. Proclamations endorsing June 14 as National Flag Day were issued by both President Woodrow Wilson* in 1916 and President Calvin Coolidge* in 1927. Then on August 3, 1949, an Act of Congress approved the Flag Day Resolution and President Harry Truman* signed it into law.

“Then on August 3, 1949, an Act of Congress approved the Flag Day Resolution and President Harry Truman* signed it into law.”



President Harry S. Truman* inspecting
American Flag, June 1949
Harry S. Truman Presidential Library & Museum

DESIGN OF THE FLAG



FLAG RESOLUTION 14 JUNE 1777



“Resolved, that the Flag of the United States be 13 stripes alternate red and white, that the Union be 13 stars white in a blue field representing a new constellation.”

-Journal of the Continental Congress



The flag of the United States shall have thirteen horizontal stripes, alternate red and white, and a union consisting of white stars on a field of blue.

-U.S. Flag Code

Red - symbolizes heartiness and valor

White - symbolizes innocence and purity

Blue - symbolizes vigilance, perseverance, and justice

13 Stripes - represent the 13 original colonies

50 Stars - represent each state in the union

FLAGS OF COLONIAL AMERICA



LIBERTY AND UNION

TAUNTON FLAG

The Taunton Flag, also known as the Liberty & Union Flag, was first raised on Oct. 21, 1774, in Taunton, Massachusetts. It symbolized the early colonists' revolt against British oppression.

PINE TREE FLAG

The pine tree symbolized liberty and appeared on early New England flags. In 1775, the Pine Tree Flag was suggested to George Washington by his secretary Colonel Joseph Reed. To identify ships commissioned by Washington, the motto “An Appeal To Heaven” was added in 1776 and referred to as the flag of “Washington’s Cruisers.” This motto was removed in 1971 when Massachusetts adopted it as the Commonwealth’s naval flag.



MOULTRIE FLAG

The Moultrie Flag was created in 1775 by Colonel William Moultrie and flew over Fort Johnson in South Carolina to show the British that they possessed the fort. It displays the crescent as a symbol of resistance to tyrannical rule. This was the first American flag displayed in the South and became the flag of the South Carolina Minutemen.



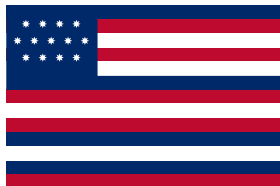
GEORGE ROGERS CLARK FLAG

Associated with Lieutenant Colonel George Rogers Clark, it was one of the first American flags flown in Indiana. George Rogers Clark marched under many banners, but the George Rogers Clark Flag is the only one historically documented. It flew over Fort Sackville, whose capture resulted in America’s claims to almost 270,000 square miles of frontier land north of the Ohio River.



SERAPIS FLAG

The Serapis Flag was made famous by Captain John Paul Jones during the sea battle between the Serapis and Bonhomme Richard. Endorsed by Benjamin Franklin and recognized by the Dutch government prior to an official national flag, it is also referred to as The Franklin Flag. It was one of the first recognized symbols of the United States before the national flag was established under the Flag Resolution of 1777.

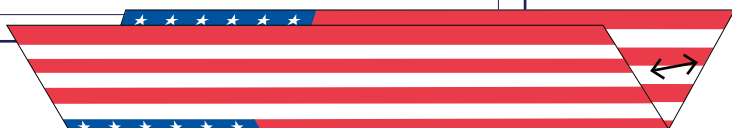


6 STEPS FOR FOLDING THE AMERICAN FLAG



1

Fold the flag in half lengthwise with the lower striped section over the blue field.



2

Fold in half again lengthwise with the folded edge meeting the open edge.



3

Make a triangular fold by bringing the striped corner over the folded edge to the open edge.



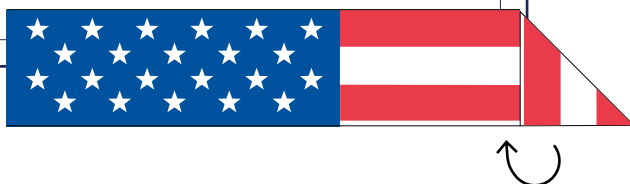
4

Turn the pointed part inward to form another triangular fold.



5

Continue this triangular fold pattern until the entire flag is folded.



6

After the flag has been folded, it should be in the shape of a triangle, resembling a tricorne hat, similar to the ones worn during the Revolutionary War.



FUN FLAG FACTS



A pair of fragments from the original Star-Spangled Banner flag sold for **\$65,725** in 2011.

There have been **six** American Flags planted on the moon.

The designer of the 50-star flag was a high school student named Bob Heft, who won a competition launched by President Dwight D. Eisenhower* to design the new flag. However, he received only a B-minus from his sewing teacher for the project.

Legendary Marine, a boat dealership in Destin, FL, is home to the **world's largest American flag mural, measuring 554 feet by 299 feet**, according to Guinness World Records.

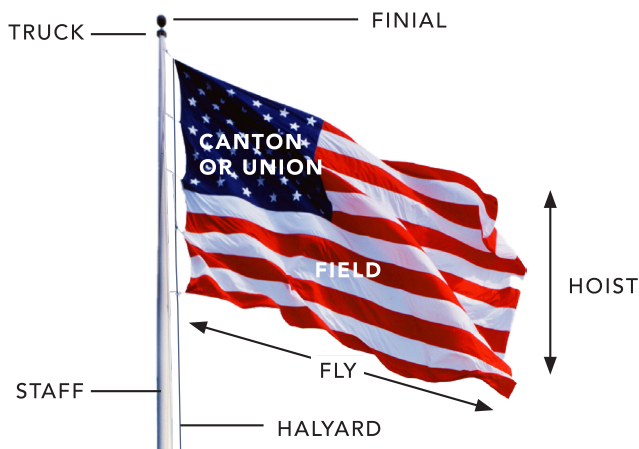
The U.S. flag is flown all day, every day at eight locations by order of Presidential Proclamations and public law. It is flown on the moon!

Contrary to military legends about flag protection, there is no rule stating that a pair of scissors must be hidden in the flag finial or that a loaded firearm must be buried six paces from the flagpole.

June 14, 1877, was the first national observance of Flag Day on the centennial (100th anniversary) of the original Flag Resolution.

According to Flag Code 176b, the flag should not touch the ground, however one is not required to destroy it if it happens as long as it is still suitable for display.

PARTS OF THE FLAG & FLAG GLOSSARY



Bunting

Lightweight fabric in the form of draperies or wide streamers in the colors of the US flag used for flags and festive decorations.

Canton or Union

Found in the upper left hand side and measures a quarter of the flag's field. It can contain national symbols such as the US flag's blue field with white stars.

Field

The background of a flag.

Finial

A decorative shape often an eagle, spear, or ball mounted to the top of a stationary flagpole.

Flag Retirement

A term used to identify the proper, dignified way of destroying U.S. flags that are no longer in condition to represent the nation.

Fly

The fly refers to the length of the flag.

Half staff

The act of lowering a flag from the top of the staff as a sign of mourning.

Halyard

Also called a hoist rope, it is used to raise the flag.

Hoist

The hoist refers to the width of the flag and the process of raising the flag to the top of the staff.

Pennant

A piece of cloth flown from a pole, mast, rope, or string that differs from a flag due to the ends that can be pointed or V-shaped.

Staff

A flag pole. On a ship it may be referred to as a mast.

Truck

Covers the top of an in-ground flagpole, holds the finial in place and includes the pulley that operates the halyard.

FLAG RETIREMENT



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

-U.S. Flag Code, est. 1942

When flags become worn, torn, and faded, they should be looked at closely by a professional to see if they are still serviceable, or usable. When deemed unserviceable, it is recommended that they be permanently retired. Unserviceable flags should not be reused or recycled, but destroyed in a dignified manner.

The Sons of the American Revolution sponsors many local flag retirement ceremonies throughout the year, most notably on Flag Day, June 14. These ceremonies often consist of uniformed color guards, colonial music, and collaborations with other organizations, such as scouts.

To have your worn flag correctly retired, please contact your local SAR chapter or visit www.sar.org.

“One flag, one land, one heart, one hand. One Nation evermore.”

- Oliver Wendell Holmes



"THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER"



Beginning in the 1890s, "The Star-Spangled Banner" was slowly embraced as the U.S. national anthem. First used by the military, the song was required to play when raising and lowering the flags. In 1917, both the Army and Navy saluted the "national anthem" at ceremonial events. Soon, many people wanted Congress to make the song the U.S. national anthem, and on March 3, 1931, President Herbert Hoover* signed a law stating that "The Star-Spangled Banner" was our national anthem.

Over a century earlier, Francis Scott Key wrote his thoughts on our nation in the form of a poem. He created the beginning of the anthem's lyrics while on board an American sailboat floating behind a 50-ship British fleet in Chesapeake Bay. Caught up in the British bombardment of Fort McHenry, he was stopped by the British along with U. S. government agent John S. Skinner and civilian prisoner Dr. William Beanes. Key was a lawyer, and

successfully arranged for the release of Beanes but spent the rain-soaked night witnessing the attack of Fort McHenry during the Battle of Baltimore in the War of 1812. The next morning "by the dawn's early light" Key saw "The Star-Spangled Banner" flying over the Fort and put to paper his emotions upon seeing this signal of an American victory.



Original Star Spangled Banner at the Smithsonian Institution

The Star-Spangled Banner served as the fort's garrison flag and at that time measured 30 x 42 feet. It required 11 men to hoist the flag in good weather. In bad weather a storm flag substituted the garrison flag, which could become soaked

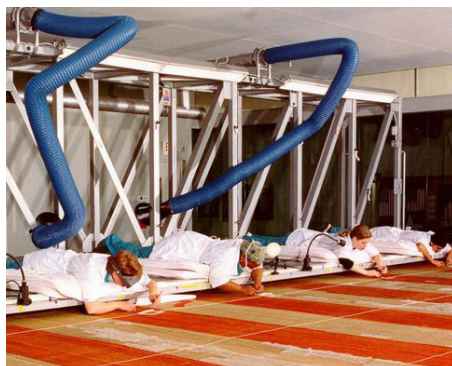
with water and weigh up to 500 pounds, potentially snapping the flag pole. Its 15 stars and 15 stripes, as agreed upon by Congress in the Second Flag Act on January 13, 1794, represented the addition of Vermont (1791) and Kentucky (1792).

*U.S. President is an SAR member

The four verses were set to music using the popular British melody “Anacreon in Heaven.” First published under the title of “The Defense of Fort M’Henry,” Key’s poem was given to people throughout the Baltimore area and to Fort McHenry soldiers. On October 19, 1814, the Baltimore Holliday Street Theatre presented the first public performance of Key’s words set to music. It soon became known under the title “The Star-Spangled Banner” when the combined words and music were published by a music store.

When the Star-Spangled Banner came to the Smithsonian Museum in 1907, it was old and torn. Thus began the careful conservation efforts that worked to prevent further deterioration and allow for its display. Amelia Fowler, a respected flag restorer, was hired by the Smithsonian in 1914 and began to “resuscitate,” or save, the flag. Fowler, along with 10 women skilled in sewing, attached new linen backing to the flag by sewing about 1.7 million interlocking stitches that formed a mesh over the flag’s surface.

Once completed, the flag was displayed in a glass case in the Smithsonian’s Arts & Industries Building for the next 50 years, with one exception. For two years during World War II, it was housed in a government warehouse to protect it from possible bombing raids on Washington, DC.



Star Spangled Banner undergoing conservation, ca. 2000
Smithsonian Institution

Efforts to protect and repair the Banner continued in the years ahead, ending in 1998 with the Millennium preservation project “Save America’s Treasures.” Conservators spent two years removing the stitching done by Fowler in order to see the flag’s true condition. Harmful materials were removed from the flag and a lightweight fabric was attached to one side for support so it could be reinstalled as a permanent exhibit in the National Museum of American History. Today it can be seen in a state-of-the-art flag chamber that will preserve it.

"THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER"



O say can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hail'd at the twilight's last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight
O'er the ramparts we watch'd were so gallantly streaming?
And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there,
O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

On the shore dimly seen through the mists of the deep
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,
What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,
As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,
In full glory reflected now shines in the stream,
'Tis the star-spangled banner - O long may it wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

And where is that band who so vauntingly swore,
That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion
A home and a Country should leave us no more?
Their blood has wash'd out their foul footsteps' pollution.
No refuge could save the hireling and slave
From the terror of flight or the gloom of the grave,
And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

O thus be it ever when freemen shall stand
Between their lov'd home and the war's desolation!
Blest with vict'ry and peace may the heav'n rescued land
Praise the power that hath made and preserv'd us a nation!
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
And this be our motto - "In God is our trust,"
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

-Francis Scott Key



THE FLAG SHOULD...

Not be dipped to any person or thing.



Never be hung upside down, except in times of distress.



Never touch the ground or anything beneath it.



Always be free, not carried flat or horizontally.



THE FLAG SHOULD...

Not be used as any type of garment, bedding, or drapery.



Not have marks, insignia, words, pictures, etc.



Never be used for advertising purposes.



Not be used as a costume or athletic uniform.

SPECIAL DAYS ON WHICH TO DISPLAY THE FLAG



January 1

New Year's Day

January 20

Inauguration Day

Third Monday in January

Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday Observed

February 12

Lincoln's Birthday

Third Monday in February

Washington's Birthday Observed

March 29

National Vietnam War Veterans Day

Easter Sunday

Second Sunday in May

Mother's Day

Third Saturday in May

Armed Forces Day

Last Monday in May

Memorial Day Observed
(half-staff until noon)

June 14

Flag Day

Third Sunday in June

Father's Day

July 4

Independence Day

July 27

National Korean War Veterans Armistice
Day

First Monday in September

Labor Day

September 17

Constitution Day

Second Monday in October

Columbus Day Observed

October 27

Navy Day

November 11

Veterans Day

Fourth Thursday in November

Thanksgiving Day

December 25

Christmas Day

*Other days as proclaimed by the President of
the United States, State birthdays, and State
holidays*



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