



ENHANCING THE CLUB EXPERIENCE.....

FLAG CEREMONY

The Flag Speaks

- PERSONNEL:** “Talking” American Flag and One Youth
- EQUIPMENT:** American Flag and if possible, two microphones connected to a PA system.
- ARRANGEMENT:** Place American flag on stage with microphone nearby. A young person acting as voice of flag is located off stage with a second microphone.

(Youth strolls on stage, passes by flag; as the Flag speaks, youth slowly turns to look at Flag)

FLAG: Hello, young lady(man).

YOUTH: (Acts surprised and looks around.) Who said that?

FLAG: I, the Flag of your country.

YOUTH: A talking Flag? That’s new.

FLAG: Of course I can talk. I’ve always been able to talk, but you couldn’t hear me.

YOUTH: Oh! What have you been trying to tell us?

FLAG: For one thing, how proud I am of my fifty states. What states added my last two stars?

YOUTH: Alaska and Hawaii.

FLAG: Right! History was made in your parent’s and grandparent’s time.



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Hello! Remember Me?

Some call me Old Glory, others call me the Stars and Stripes. I have also been referred to as the Star Spangled Banner. But, whatever they call me, I am your flag—the flag of the United States of America. There has been something that has been bothering me, so I thought that I might talk it over with you today.

I remember some time ago, (I think it was Memorial Day or was it Veterans Day?) that people were lined up on both sides of the street for the parade. A High School band was behind me—naturally, I was leading the parade. Folks used to be so attentive when I passed by and saluted just like a soldier! That made me very proud to see that kind of patriotic display as I went by.

But what has happened? Have some people forgotten what I stand for? I'm still the same old flag. But now, I don't feel as proud as I used to. When I come down your street some people just stand there with their hand in their pocket and give me a small glance and then look away. I see children running around and shouting. They don't seem to know who I am.

Have they forgotten all the battle fields where men have fought and died to keep this nation free? When you salute me, you are actually saluting them.

Well, it won't be long until another one like me will be coming down your street again. So, when you see it, stand straight, place your hand over your heart and you'll see it waving back—that's my salute to you. And then I'll know that you remember who I am.

YOUTH: What state was the forty-eighth star?

FLAG: That was Arizona in 1912.

YOUTH: Tell me more.

FLAG: What do you want me to tell you?

YOUTH: Tell me about your history.

FLAG: Okay. When the colonists came I was the Queen Ann Flag...all red with a Union Jack. Then I changed to the Grand Union Flag and my red changed to seven red stripes and six white stripes, making thirteen stripes; but I still had the Union Jack. I was first raised over General George Washington's headquarters in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in January, 1776, as the standard of the Continental Army.

After our country became a new nation, I changed to Old Glory and still had the thirteen stripes but added a circle of thirteen stars on a field of blue in place of the Union Jack.

From 1794 to 1818 I had fifteen stars and fifteen stripes and was called the Star Spangled Banner, when Francis Scott Key wrote our National Anthem. Then years rolled along and in 1818 the stripes were reduced to the thirteen and from then on a star was added for each new state that joined the Union, until there are fifty stars today.

YOUTH: What a wonderful story!

Please rise while we say the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of our country.



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Recipe For The American Flag

Ingredients:

- 1 large pot
- 1 American flag folded (in or beside pot)
- 1 cup each red, white, and blue pieces of paper
- 15-20 gold or silver stars cut out of paper or a sheet of gold or silver star stickers
- 1 stirring stick

Directions:

Place the American Flag in or beside the pot, folded so it can be picked up by the top corners. Sprinkle each color, at the appropriate time, into the pot. At "This is our flag..."- two participants lift the flag out of the pot and hold it high. All repeat the pledge to the flag.

Script:

- Reader 1: We are going to fix for you a treat that is really grand, and make for you a recipe-the greatest in the land.
- Reader 2: In first we will put a heaping cup of red for courage true.
- Reader 1: And then we will add for loyalty a dash of heavenly blue.
- Reader 2: For purity, we will now sift in a layer of snowy white.
- Reader 1: We will sprinkle in a pinch of stars to make it come out right.
- Reader 2: We will stir and stir and then you will see what we have made is "Old Glory."
- Reader 1: This is our flag, the most beautiful flag in the world, let us always be loyal to it. Please join us in the Pledge of Allegiance.



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FLAG CEREMONY

This Is Your Flag

This is your flag! It was first raised on June 14, 1777.
It is far more than a piece of cloth having a design of stars and stripes.
It symbolizes the greatest nation on earth.
It has been the refuge of millions of oppressed people from everywhere.
It has stood for freedom from want and fear .

Lifted high, it has ever been an emblem of inspiration.
For this flag the American patriots gave their lives and their fortunes.
Following this flag, our sons and brothers have marched into battle from Valley
Forge to the muddy swamps of Vietnam.

Underneath this flag came your silent, honored dead to their final resting place. This flag has flown in both peace and war, bitter
strife, and fruitful prosperity; For almost 200 years it has been loved and respected.

As "Old Glory" ripples from her standard, look at her with renewed allegiance. Honor her, respect her, and defend her - if need be,
with your lives and fortunes. Never let her enemies, from without or within, tear her down in shameful defeat, lest she never rise
again.

Kindle anew those fires of patriotism which are born of the spirit of democracy. Place God first and others second; Then our nation
will remain the bulwark of peace, freedom, and equal opportunity for all mankind.

This is YOUR flag. Let your heart salute her!

Kindle anew those fires of patriotism which are born of the spirit of democracy.
Place God



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FLAG CEREMONY

Honor The Red, White And Blue

The American Flag...the symbol of our Nation is one of the most recognized flags in the world. The flag represents freedom, honor and duty to our Country and is flown as a symbol of pride in our beliefs and privileges as Americans.

There is great symbolism in the colors that were selected for the American flag. The Red Stripes symbolize hardiness and courage: the hardiness of the early pioneers; the courage of the common working man. Through the blood, sweat and tears of the early settlers, our nation came to be a strong presence during a time when there was much turmoil in the world. Honor the color red through your personal commitment to fighting for the rights of all Americans.

The White Stripes signify purity and innocence - the purity of the idealists who believe that each person is a Child of God, and the innocence that strives for his right to be here. Every person comes into this world with pure ideals. Honor the color white by working to stand behind the pure ideals on which our Country was founded.

The Blue Field represents vigilance, perseverance, and justice - the vigilance to protect mans' freedoms, the perseverance that rejects all defeat, and justice, the goal of free men everywhere. Honor the color blue by committing yourself to being vigilant in defending our freedom, and persevere as you fight for justice on a daily basis.

The Stars Unified on the field of blue embrace the fifty stars as one...unified for the good of mankind and country . The fifty stars represent our fifty states and the unity under which our country is founded. Honor the blue field and fifty stars by standing united as a proud American under our flag.

Red, white and blue...honor her, defend her and celebrate her and the freedom she represents.



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FLAG CEREMONY

United States Flag

I am the flag of the United States of America. I am whatever you make me, nothing more. I am your belief in yourself, your dream of what a people may become.

I live a challenging life, a life of moods and passions of heartbreaks and tired muscles. Sometimes I'm strong with pride, when workmen do an honest piece of work. Sometimes I droop, for then, purpose has gone from me, and cynically I play the coward.

But always, I am all that you hope to be and have the courage to try for. I am strength and fear, struggle and panic, and enabling hope. I am the battle of yesterday, and the mistake of tomorrow. I am the mystery of the men who do without knowing why.

I am no more than what you believe me to be, and I am all that you believe I can be. I am what you make me, nothing more. I wave before your eyes as a bright gleam of color, a symbol of yourself, the pictured suggestion of all that makes this nation great.

My stars and stripes are the dream of your labors. They are bright with cheer, brilliant with courage, and firm with faith - because you have made them so, out of your hearts.

As long as men cherish liberty more than life itself, I shall continue to be the enduring banner of the United States of America.



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FLAG CEREMONY

I Am The Flag Of The United States Of America

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 institutions of learning. I stand guard with 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 a little truer. I bow to no one! I am recognized all over the world.

I have fought in every battle of every war for more than 200 years. I was flown at Valley Forge, Gettysburg, and Shiloh. I was there at San Juan Hill, the trenches of France, Rome and the beaches of Normandy, Guam, and Okinawa. The people of Korea, Vietnam and Kuwait know me as a banner of freedom.

I was there. I led my troops. I was dirty, battle worn and tired, but my soldiers cheered me and I was proud. I have been burned, torn and trampled on the streets of countries I have helped set free. It does not hurt, for I am invincible.

I have slipped the bonds of Earth and stood watch over the uncharted frontiers of space from my vantage point on the moon. I have borne silent witness to all of America's finest hours, but my finest hours are yet to come.

When I am torn into strips and used as bandages for my wounded comrades on the battlefield, when I am flown at half-mast to honor my countrymen, when I lie in the trembling arms of a grieving parent at the grave of their fallen son or daughter, know that I embrace them with compassion and honor as I pay tribute to their service to America.

My name is Old Glory. Long may I wave.



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FLAG CEREMONY

Ragged Old Flag

- I walked through a county courthouse square,
 - On a park bench an old man was sitting there.
 - I said, "Your old courthouse is kinda run down."
 - He said, "Naw, it'll do for our little town."
 - I said, "Your flagpole has leaned a little bit,
 - And that's a Ragged Old Flag you got hanging on it.
-
- He said, "Have a seat", and I sat down.
 - "Is this the first time you've been to our little town?"
 - I said, "I think it is." He said, "I don't like to brag,
 - But we're kinda proud of that Ragged Old Flag."
 - "You see, we got a little hole in that flag there
 - When Washington took it across the Delaware.
-
- And it got powder-burned the night Francis Scott Key
 - Sat watching it writing _Oh Say Can You See_.
 - And it got a bad rip in New Orleans
 - With Packingham and Jackson tuggin' at its seams."
 - "And it almost fell at the Alamo
 - Beside the Texas flag, but she waved on through.
-
- She got cut with a sword at Chancellorsville
 - And she got cut again at Shiloh Hill.
 - There was Robert E. Lee, Beauregard, and Bragg,
 - And the south wind blew hard on that Ragged Old Flag."
 - "On Flanders Field in World War I
 - She got a big hole from a Bertha gun.
-
- She turned blood red in World War II
 - She hung limp and low by the time it was through.
 - She was in Korea and Vietnam.
 - She went where she was sent by her Uncle Sam."
 - "She waved from our ships upon the briny foam,
-
- And now they've about quit waving her back here at home.
 - In her own good land she's been abused --
 - She's been burned, dishonored, denied and refused."
 - "And the government for which she stands
 - Is scandalized throughout the land.
 - And she's getting threadbare and wearing thin,
 - But she's in good shape for the shape she's in.
-
- 'Cause she's been through the fire before
 - And I believe she can take a whole lot more."
 - "So we raise her up every morning, take her down every night.
 - We don't let her touch the ground and we fold her up right.
 - On second thought I DO like to brag,
 - 'Cause I'm mighty proud of that Ragged Old Flag."Text

~Written by Johnny Cash