



ENHANCING THE CLUB EXPERIENCE.....

FLAG CEREMONY

The Great Flag

A thoughtful mind, when it sees a nation's flag, sees not this flag only, but the nation itself; and sees the government, the principles, the truths, the history which belongs to the nation that set it forth.

Sky-blue and true-blue, with stars to gleam aright - the gloried guide of the day; a shelter through the night. The one flag - the great flag -- the flag for me and you -- Glorified all else beside - the red and white and blue! Homeland and far-land and half the world around, Old Glory hears our hearts salute and ripples to the sound!



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FLAG CEREMONY

Our Flag

We are natives of all the world, gathered here under one flag in the name of liberty. May we always be grateful for democracy that we live in the land of the free and the home of the brave. And that we live in a land where there is freedom of speech and free opportunity for all.

Our flag....I love to see the starry flag that floats above my head. I love to see its waving fold with stripes of white and red. "Be brave" say the red stripes, "Be pure" say the bright stars, "And stand for the right."



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FLAG CEREMONY

Our Own Red, White And Blue

There are many flags in many lands,
There are flags of many hue,
But there is no flag however grand,
Like our own red, white and blue.

Say hurrah for our flag,
Our country's flag,
It's stripes and it's bright stars too.
But there is no flag however grand,
Like our own red, white and blue.



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FLAG CEREMONY

Your Land And My Land

Perhaps you know a road leading off from the main thoroughfare -a dusty, bumpy road, scarce wide enough for a car to pass, dipping and curving with the contour of the land. It seems to lead to another world, one crowded only with the memories of childhood days and dreams of brighter tomorrow. A place untouched by hustle and roar, where the works of generations past march hand in hand with the hopes of generations to come -this is your land and mine.

Come, travel this road and see how serene lie the hills ahead, how secure against man and time. The white clapboard cottage is a little island of shelter and warmth, isolated from interference, yet the land in which democracy took root and grew, was brought to flower by pioneering people, is still vigorously cultivated by their successors. Honest, hardworking, simple people, hospitable, keen -of eye and shrewd of wit, they love the land. And the land returns their love with fertility and abundant beauty all about which clothes it in a sense of perfect being.

There must be thousands of such roads scattered allover the United States, winding never hurriedly, through cottage-dotted countryside. Peace and stability are reflected in the quiet charm of each snug home, silent but tremendous powers which maintain the very basis of society, of unity, of respect.



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History Of The Pledge Of Allegiance

The original Pledge of Allegiance was written by Francis Bellamy. It was first given wide publicity through the official program of the National Public Schools Celebration of Columbus Day which was printed in *The Youth's Companion* of September 8, 1892, and at the same time sent out in leaflet form to schools throughout the country. School children first recited the Pledge of Allegiance this way:

"I pledge allegiance to my Flag and to the Republic for which it stands one Nation indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all."

"The flag of the United States" replaced the words "my Flag" in 1923 because some foreign-born people might have in mind the flag of the country of their birth instead of the United States flag. A year later, "of America" was added after "United States."

No form of the Pledge received official recognition by Congress until June 22, 1942, when the Pledge was formally included in the U.S. Flag Code. The official name of The Pledge of Allegiance was adopted in 1945. The last change in language came on Flag Day 1954, when Congress passed a law, which added the words "under God" after "one nation."

Originally, the pledge was said with the right hand in the so-called "Bellamy Salute," with the right hand resting first outward from the chest, then the arm extending out from the body. Once Hitler came to power in Europe, some Americans were concerned that this position of the arm and hand resembled the Nazi or Fascist salute. In 1942 Congress also established the current practice of rendering the pledge with the right hand over the heart.

The Flag Code specifies that any future changes to the pledge would have to be with the consent of the President.



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FLAG CEREMONY

O Beautiful Banner

O beautiful banner all splendid with stars,
That in the breeze is flying,
Proud emblem of the free!
My heart and hand salute you,
Dear flag of liberty.

From ocean to ocean you brighten our land,
O'er prairie, forest, mountain,
Superb against the sky.
Oh flag for which men labor!
Oh flag for which men die!



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The Maker Of Our Flag

In June 1776, brave Betsy was a widow struggling to run her own upholstery business. Upholsterers in colonial America not only worked on furniture but did all manner of sewing work, which for some included making flags. According to Betsy, General Washington showed her a rough design of the flag that included a six-pointed star. Betsy, a standout with the scissors, demonstrated how to cut a five-pointed star in a single snip. Impressed, the committee entrusted Betsy with making our first flag.

According to Betsy Ross's dates and sequence of events, in May the Congressional Committee called upon her at her shop. She finished the flag either in late May or early June 1776. In July, the Declaration of Independence was read aloud for the first time at Independence Hall. Amid celebration, the Liberty Bell tolled, heralding the birth of a new nation.

On June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress, seeking to promote national pride and unity, adopted the national flag. "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."



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Our Nation'S Leaders Speak On The Flag

We have room for but one flag, the American flag, and this excludes the red flag which symbolizes all wars against liberty and civilization just as much as it excludes any foreign flag of a nation to which we are hostile. We have room for but one language here and that is the English language, for we intend to see that the crucible turns our people out as Americans, of American nationality, and not as dwellers in a pollyglot [sic] boarding house; and we have room for but one, soul [sic] loyalty, and that loyalty is to the American people. **Theodore Roosevelt, January 3, 1919**

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. It floats in majestic silence above the hosts that execute those choices, whether in peace or in war. And yet, though silent, it speaks to us — speaks to us of the past, or the men and women who went before us, and of the records they wrote upon it. **Woodrow Wilson, 1917**

Americans revere their flag as a symbol of the Nation. Indeed, it is because of that reverence that the amendment is under consideration. Few countries in the world would think of amending their Constitution for the purpose of protecting such a symbol.... If they are destroying a flag that belongs to someone else, that's a prosecutable crime. If it is a flag they own, I really don't want to amend the Constitution to prosecute someone for foolishly desecrating their own property. We should condemn them and pity them instead. **Collin Powell, 1999**

"Patriotism comes from the heart. Patriotism is voluntary... A patriot shows their patriotism through their actions, by their choice."
Governor Jesse Ventura, 2002



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Flag Folding Ceremony

The flag folding ceremony described by the Uniformed Services is a dramatic and uplifting way to honor the flag on special days, like Memorial Day or Veterans Day, and is sometimes used at retirement ceremonies.

How to fold the Flag:

- Step 1 To properly fold the 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.

Typical sequence of the reading: Begin reading as Flag Detail is coming forward.

The flag folding ceremony represents the same religious principles on which our country was originally founded. The portion of the flag denoting honor is the canton of blue containing the stars representing the states our veterans served in uniform. The canton field of blue dresses from left to right and is inverted when draped as a pall on a casket of a veteran who has served our country in uniform.

In the Armed Forces of the United States, at the ceremony of retreat the flag is lowered, folded in a triangle fold and kept under watch throughout the night as a tribute to our nation's honored dead. The next morning it is brought out and, at the ceremony of reveille, run aloft as a symbol of our belief in the resurrection of the body.

(Wait for the Flag Detail to unravel and fold the flag into a quarter fold--resume reading when the Flag Detail is standing ready.)

- 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.



Flag Folding Ceremony, continued

- 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."

(Wait for the 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 who 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.

The Flag Folding Ceremony above is from the US Air Force Academy