

The Pledge of Allegiance

"I pledge allegiance"

...I promise to be true

"to the flag"

...to the symbol of our country

"of the United States of America"

...each state that has joined to make our country

"and to the Republic"

...a republic is a country where the people choose others to make laws for them. The government is for the people

"for which it stands,"

...the flag means the country

"one Nation"

...a single country

"under God,"

...the people believe in a supreme being

"indivisible,"

...the country cannot be split into parts

"with liberty and justice"

...with freedom and fairness

"for all."

...for each person in the country...you and me!



The Star-Spangled Banner By Francis Scott Key (1814)

First verse -

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

Did you know this is one of only a few national anthems in the world dedicated to a flag?



Flag Facts



Courtesy
of the

Sons of Union Veterans Of The Civil War

<http://suvcw.org>

A Brief History of the United States Flag

The states are listed in order of admission to the United States with their date of statehood to the right. Typically, a new star was added to the flag on the 4th of July following the state's admission.



Several unofficial flags flew the first year in the history of the US. The most well known has 13 stars in a circle. (Often called the Betsy Ross Flag)

First Official Flag



Authorized June 14, 1777

It flew for 18 years before the next flag. We still celebrate June 14 as "Flag Day".

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Delaware | December 7, 1787 |
| 2 Pennsylvania | December 12, 1787 |
| 3 New Jersey | December 18, 1787 |
| 4 Georgia | January 2, 1788 |
| 5 Connecticut | January 9, 1788 |
| 6 Massachusetts | February 6, 1788 |
| 7 Maryland | April 28, 1788 |
| 8 South Carolina | May 23, 1788 |
| 9 New Hampshire | June 21, 1788 |
| 10 Virginia | June 25, 1788 |
| 11 New York | July 26, 1788 |
| 12 North Carolina | November 21, 1789 |
| 13 Rhode Island | May 29, 1790 |

Fifteen Stripes & Stars



The only U.S. flag to have more than 13 stripes. Also called the "Star Spangled Banner" - the flag immortalized by Francis Scott Key in 1814. Flew 23 years.

- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| 14 Vermont | March 4, 1791 |
| 15 Kentucky | June 1, 1792 |

20 Stars



Added 20 stars but went back to only 13 stripes as more practical. Flew only one year before the next star was added.

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| 16 Tennessee | June 1, 1796 |
| 17 Ohio | March 1, 1803 |
| 18 Louisiana | April 30, 1812 |
| 19 Indiana | December 11, 1816 |
| 20 Mississippi | December 10, 1817 |

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| 21 Illinois | December 3, 1818 |
| 22 Alabama | December 14, 1819 |
| 23 Maine | March 15, 1820 |
| 24 Missouri | August 10, 1821 |
| 25 Arkansas | June 15, 1836 |
| 26 Michigan | January 26, 1837 |
| 27 Florida | March 3, 1845 |
| 28 Texas | December 29, 1845 |
| 29 Iowa | December 28, 1846 |
| 30 Wisconsin | May 29, 1848 |
| 31 California | September 9, 1850 |
| 32 Minnesota | May 11, 1858 |
| 33 Oregon | February 14, 1859 |

Civil War Flags (34 Stars and 35 Stars)

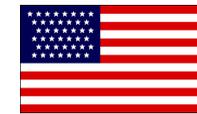


President Lincoln did not remove the stars for the Southern states. He wanted to preserve the Union.

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 34 Kansas | January 29, 1861 |
| 35 West Virginia | June 20, 1863 |

- | | |
|-------------|------------------|
| 36 Nevada | October 31, 1864 |
| 37 Nebraska | March 1, 1867 |
| 38 Colorado | August 1 1876 |

43 Stars - added 5 stars at one time



But Wyoming's star waited one year to be added to the flag (missed by 6 days)

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 39 North Dakota | November 2, 1889 |
| 40 South Dakota | November 2, 1889 |
| 41 Montana | November 8, 1889 |
| 42 Washington | November 11, 1889 |
| 43 Idaho | July 3, 1890 |
| 44 Wyoming | July 10, 1890 |
| 45 Utah | January 4, 1896 |
| 46 Oklahoma | November 16, 1907 |
| 47 New Mexico | January 6, 1912 |

48 Stars



Flew for 47 years and lasted through two World Wars.

- | | |
|------------|-------------------|
| 48 Arizona | February 14, 1912 |
| 49 Alaska | January 3, 1959 |

Present Day Flag



27th Official Flag of the United States since July 4, 1960

- | | |
|-----------|-----------------|
| 50 Hawaii | August 21, 1959 |
|-----------|-----------------|

Flag History

The thirteen colonies became the United States on July 4, 1776. The American flag was officially created on June 14, 1777, when the Second Continental Congress passed the following resolution: "That the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternately red and white, that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation."

Why the colors of red, white and blue? As for the first flag in 1777, the colors had no meaning. But the colors of red, white and blue did mean something for the Great Seal of the United States of America which was created in 1782 - "The colors of the pales (the vertical stripes) are those used in the flag of the United States of America; White signifies purity and innocence, Red, hardiness & valor, and Blue, the color of the Chief (the broad band above the stripes) signifies vigilance, perseverance & justice."

The original flag went through many different changes over the years until an Executive Order of President William Howard Taft in 1912 established proportions for the flag and regulated the ordering of the stars into rows. Before that, the stars could be in a circle, in a square, or in an oval-shaped design.

From 1777 until 1861, the United States had just one flag as a symbol of our country. Then in 1861, the Civil War, the War Between the States began. Soon, there were two flags in the United States, because all of the States weren't united. It was a war between the States in the North, like Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, New York, and Michigan fighting against states in the South like Georgia, South Carolina and Texas.

The soldiers in the North fought to keep the United States together, or to preserve or save the Union and carried the United States flag with them. The soldiers in the Southern army fought under a different flag, which was also red, white and blue and for the Confederate States who wanted to become their own country. To this day, the reasons for the war can bring about strong debate.

This Civil War went on for four long and very bloody years. Millions of men fought on both sides and thousands and thousands died or were wounded. At the end of the four years, the North, the men who wore the blue uniforms, won the war and all the States were put back together. We then had one flag again, the United States flag.

Today, we still have one flag. Oh it's been called a banner, a standard, a flag, "Old Glory," the "Star-Spangled Banner," and more, but it's meaning has never changed and that's why we celebrate Flag Day every June 14.

Our National Motto

The national motto of the United States is declared to be:

'In God we trust.'

Flag Day

The first Flag Day celebrations took place in the mid-1880s and by 1894, Flag Day drew some 300,000 people to city parks in Chicago alone. A Proclamation by President Woodrow Wilson on May 30, 1916 officially established Flag Day, but it was not until August 3, 1949, when President Harry Truman signed an Act of Congress, that June 14th of each year became National Flag Day.

The Story About "Old Glory"

This famous name was coined by Captain Stephen Driver, a shipmaster of Salem, Massachusetts, in 1831. As he was leaving on one of his many voyages aboard the brig *CHARLES DOGGETT* - and this one would climax with the rescue of the mutineers of the **BOUNTY** - some friends presented him with a beautiful flag of twenty four stars. As the banner opened to the ocean breeze for the first time, he exclaimed "Old Glory!"

He retired to Nashville in 1837, taking his treasured flag from his sea days with him. By the time the Civil War erupted, most everyone in and around Nashville recognized Captain Driver's "Old Glory." When Tennessee seceded from the Union, Rebels were determined to destroy his flag, but repeated searches revealed no trace of the hated banner.

Then on February 25th, 1862, Union forces captured Nashville and raised the American flag over the capitol. It was a rather small ensign and immediately folks began asking Captain Driver if "Old Glory" still existed. Captain Driver went home with some soldiers of the 6th Ohio Regiment and removed the seams of his bedcover. As the stitches holding the quilt-top to the batting unraveled, the onlookers saw the 24-starred original "Old Glory"!

Captain Driver gently gathered up the flag and returned to the capitol. Though he was sixty years old, the Captain climbed up to the tower to replace the smaller banner with his beloved flag. The Sixth Ohio Regiment cheered and saluted - and later adopted the nickname "Old Glory" as their own, telling and re-telling the story of Captain Driver's devotion to the flag we honor yet today.

National Holidays Flag Should Be Flown

The flag could be displayed on all days, but especially on:

JANUARY	JUNE
1—New Year's Day	14—Flag Day
20—Inauguration Day	JULY 4—INDEPENDENCE DAY
3rd Mon.—Martin Luther King, Jr (Birthday)	
FEBRUARY	SEPTEMBER
12—Abraham Lincoln (Birthday)	1st Mon.—Labor Day
3rd Mon.—Presidents Day	11—Patriots Day
22—George Washington (Birthday)	17—Constitution Day
MAY	3rd Fri.—POW/MIA Recognition Day
1—Loyalty Day	OCTOBER
2nd Sun.—Mothers Day	2nd Mon.—Columbus Day
3rd Sat. —Armed Forces Day	NOVEMBER
30— TRUE MEMORIAL DAY	11—Veterans Day
Last Mon.—Federal Memorial Day	4th Thurs.—Thanksgiving
(flies at half staff sunrise until noon)	DECEMBER 25—Christmas Day

On all Election days; Birthdays of States (date of admission); State holidays and any other days as may be proclaimed by the President of the United States

U.S. Flag Code

Previous to Flag Day, June 14, 1923 there were no federal or state regulations governing display of the United States Flag. It was on this date that the National Flag Code was adopted by the National Flag Conference which was attended by representatives of the Army and Navy which had evolved their own procedures, and some 66 other national groups. This purpose of providing guidance based on the Army and Navy procedures relating to display and associated questions about the U. S. Flag was adopted by all organizations in attendance.

A few minor changes were made a year later during the Flag Day 1924 Conference, It was not until June 22, 1942 that Congress passed a joint resolution which was amended on December 22, 1942 to become Public Law 829; Chapter 806, 77th Congress, 2nd session. *Exact rules for use and display of the flag (36 U.S.C. 173-178) as well as associated sections (36 U.S.C. 171) Conduct during Playing of the National Anthem, (36 U.S.C. 172) the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, and Manner of Delivery were included.*

**For the complete U.S. Flag Code, see:
www.suvcw.org/flag.htm**

Important Code Facts

Conduct during playing of the national anthem

The flag is flown during the National anthem. Everyone who is present should stand to show respect to our flag by placing their right hand over their heart. Men who are not in uniform must remove their hats with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Persons in uniform will give a military salute from the first note to the end.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag; manner of delivery

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, should be rendered by standing at attention facing the flag with the right hand over the heart. When not in uniform men should remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Persons in uniform should remain silent, face the flag, and render the military salute.

Saluting the flag

During the ceremony of hoisting or lowering the flag or when the flag is passing in a parade or in review, all persons present except those in uniform should face the flag and stand at attention with the right hand over the heart. Those in uniform should render the military salute. When not in uniform, men should remove their hats with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. The salute to the flag in a moving column should be rendered at the moment the flag passes.

Position or place of the flag—Is it on the right or left?

The United States flag is always on the speaker's right as he faces the audience. Any other flags will be on his left. When hanging vertically over a street the union (stars) should be to the north or to the east. If hanging vertically or horizontally against a wall the union will always be in the upper left.

See Flag Code, Chapter 10, Section 175

General Guidelines Showing Respect to Our Flag

The flag should never touch the ground. It should always be handled with respect. It is be cleaned and mended properly.

The flag should be lighted at all times. If it is flown 24 hours a day then it must have a spotlight on it at night.

The flag can fly at all times if it is made of "all-weather" fabric.

The Flag must not be used as decoration. Red, white and blue striped bunting should be used for that purpose.

A flag should not be used as part of clothing or costume; a flag patch is allowed on the uniforms of military personnel, police officers, firefighters, and members of patriotic organizations.

We must never use the flag to wrap around or carry anything.

The flag should only be flown upside-down as a distress signal.

If the flag is no longer in presentable condition to serve as a symbol of our country then it should retired properly by burying or burning in a dignified manner. (Many Boy Scout Troops, V.F.W. Posts and American Legion Posts have annual ceremonies for retiring old flags.) Please DO NOT THROW AWAY.

Raising and Lowering the Flag

The flag should be raised quickly but lowered slowly or ceremoniously into waiting hands and arms. It should never touch the ground. The United States Flag should always be saluted as it is raised or lowered. The salute is held until the flag is unsnapped from the halyard or until the last note of music is played. The flag should be folded to be stored. (For proper folding technique see www.usflag.org/fold.flag.html)

Parading and Saluting the Flag

The U.S. flag should be to the right of the marchers. If there are other flags, the U.S. flag may be carried to the far right of the row of flags or in the center ahead of the row of flags. When watching a parade it is proper to salute the flag as it passes by. (Begin salute six paces before it reaches you until six paces past you.)

The Flag and Mourning

To display a flag at half-staff it should be hoisted to the top of the pole for moment and then lowered to half-staff. On Memorial Day, the flag flies at half-staff until noon then back to full-staff.