

# *The Stars and Stripes*

The image features three American flags flying on tall, silver poles against a clear blue sky. The flags are arranged in a descending staircase pattern from top-left to bottom-right. Each flag is fully visible, showing the stars and stripes. The top flag is the largest, the middle one is slightly smaller, and the bottom one is the smallest. The flags are waving in the wind, creating a sense of movement and patriotism.

*An  
educational  
tribute  
to the  
American  
Flag*

*The Amboy  
News •  
Wednesday,  
June 10,  
2020*

## 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."

In classrooms across the country, millions of students partake in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

Unfortunately, many have merely memorized the words without understanding the significance it has to their country and freedom. If you are a parent or mentor, it's important to educate our youth about its significance.

### *A Brief History*

The Pledge of Allegiance gained its first major publicity through an official program called the National Public Schools Celebration of Columbus Day. It was September 8, 1892 when the prose was printed in the Youth's Companion leaflet and distributed to schools throughout the country.

While it has seen a few revisions since its original form was penned by Francis Bellamy, it became a staple in classrooms while remaining unrecognized by Congress. According to the American Legion, it wasn't until 1942, when the Pledge was officially included in the United States Flag Code and 1945 when the official name of the Pledge of Allegiance was adopted.

### *Its Importance*

When discussing the Pledge of Allegiance with younger children, explain that it is an opportunity to display their loyalty as a citizen to our country. It should be considered an act of unity for students to stand together and pay their respect to America's banner.

Children should be encouraged to learn more about the meaning of the Pledge, rather than only recite the words. It is intended to inspire curiosity about the country's history and help build a stronger sense of patriotism.

### *Proper Etiquette*

Much like the National Anthem, there is a proper way to show your respect to the flag during the Pledge. Here are the steps, from the U.S. Flag Code.

- The pledge is to be recited by standing at attention;
- Face the flag and place the right hand over the heart;
- People in uniform must face the flag, remain silent and take the military salute; and
- Those not in uniform must remove any non-religious headdress with their right hand, place it on their left shoulder, in such a way that their right hand is over the heart.



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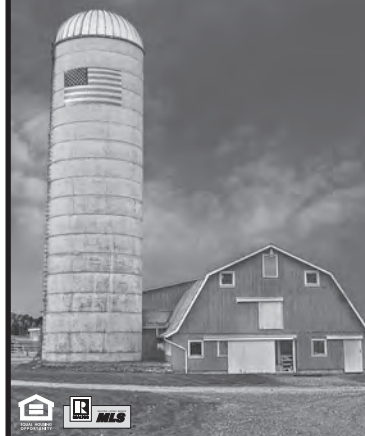
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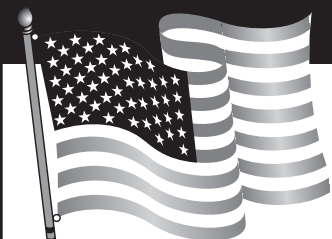
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# FLYING THE FLAG AT NIGHT

According to the United States Flag Code, American flags should be flown from sunrise to sunset.

Lowering the banner at night is considered another way to show our utmost respect to the symbol and those who served. However, with enough illumination, it is perfectly acceptable to represent your patriotism throughout the night.

The flag may be displayed 24 hours a day if well-lit during the hours of darkness. The Congressional Research Service reports that the dignity accorded to the banner is preserved by lighting that prevents its being enveloped in darkness.

If you feel your flag should wave during nighttime hours, it's important to have a sufficient light source to display its recognizable stars and stripes. Here are some ideas to consider when creating a patriotic display.

**Create a Light Source**  
If you're flagpole is

not around an electrical source, you have a few different options to provide light. Remember your budget when you decide which avenue is the best for your yard.

- **Extension cord:** One way to achieve a beam of light is investing in a light bulb rated for outdoor use. Check your local hardware store for a spike-mounted beam so you can easily transport it out of your way during daytime hours. You also could choose a heavy-duty extension cord designed to handle the electricity required for extended periods of time.

- **Outdoor outlet:** If you would rather have a permanent light fixture in your yard to display Old Glory, assistance from a licensed electrician is a must. They can tap into your home's current electrical source and install an approved outdoor outlet.

- **Solar lights:** Modern

solar power is incredibly efficient as a light source; just be sure it has the power and durability to maintain its shine overnight.

**All-Weather Flag**

If you intend to wave your flag 24 hours, it's crucial to have a banner that can withstand the extended use and inclement-outdoor elements. According to the U.S. Flag Code, "The flag should not be displayed on days when the weather is inclement, except when an all-weather flag is displayed." An all-weather flag provides you with a banner that is made of high-quality materials while being able to flow in the breeze.

During your search, look for flags made from a nylon material for extra-long use or heavyweight cotton to maintain a traditional appearance while boosting durability.



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**FUN FLAG FACTS**

**W**hether you're an educator yourself or a parent who loves their country (and its flag), impress the kiddos in your life with these fun facts about the history of Old Glory.

- The colors of the United States flag are no accident. Red stands for bravery, valor and zeal; white symbolizes purity and innocence; blue for loyalty, devotion, vigilance, perseverance and justice of our ancestors.
- Nicknames for the flag include: the Stars and Stripes, Old Glory and the Star-Spangled Banner.
- The blue union holds 50 stars to represent the states that make up the United States, the stripes symbolize the 13 original states
- The flag was created to celebrate the independence of the 13 American colonies from Britain.
- On June 14, (now Flag Day) 1777, the Continental Congress passed the first Flag Act which ultimately established the new flag for America.
- The first official flag featured its signature red and white stripes but had a bare blue union. Stars were added later to signify the different states as they entered the union.
- The United States banner has similarities in color and design of other countries, such as Liberia, Malaysia, Puerto Rico and Chile.
- The current design of the flag has been the same since 1960, when Hawaii joined the union.
- The United States flag should always be on top of a staff if multiple flags are flown.



**2020 Patriotic  
Decorating Contest**

*Show your patriotism, your good taste, your decorating prowess or just have fun by entering the Fourth of July Home Decorating Contest, sponsored by The Amboy News, The City of Amboy and Amboy Food and Liquor. More information is available on our website - [www.AmboyNews.com](http://www.AmboyNews.com)*

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# RESPECT FOR THE FLAG

The Flag Code was adopted to protect our nation's symbol of freedom and accomplishment of those who have served. If you are unfamiliar with the rules of the banner, it's possible to be unintentionally disrespectful.

Learn the basics from Chapter 4 U.S.C 8, to understand how to honor the flag, per the Government Publishing Office.

- The flag should never be displayed with the union down, except as a signal of dire distress in instances of extreme danger to life or property.
- The flag should never touch anything beneath it, such as the ground, the floor, water or merchandise.
- The flag should never be carried flat or horizontally, but always aloft and free.
- The flag should never be used as wearing apparel, bedding or drapery.
- The flag should never be fastened, displayed, used or stored in such a manner as to permit it to be easily torn, soiled or damaged in any way.
- The flag should never be used as a covering for a ceiling.
- The flag should never have placed upon it, nor on any part of it, nor attached to it any mark, insignia, word, figure, design, picture or any drawing of any nature.



be used as a receptacle for receiving, holding, carrying or delivering anything.

- The flag should never be used for advertising

purposes in any manner whatsoever. It should not be embroidered on such articles as cushions or handkerchiefs and the like.

- No part of the flag should ever be used as a costume or athletic uniform. However, a patch may be affixed to the uni-

form of military personnel, firemen, policemen and members of patriotic organizations.

- The flag, when it is

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

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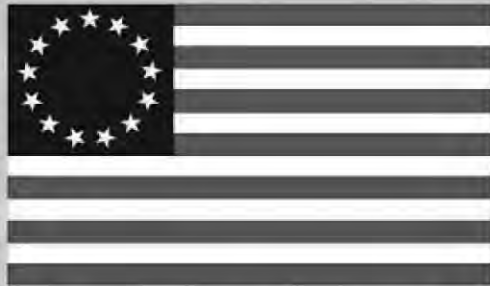
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## A Historical Look at the American Flag



### Elizabeth Griscom Ross "Betsy" Ross 1752-1836

This Betsy Ross flag is well known and well-loved in America and around the world as the first American flag. Her descendants claimed she made (not designed) the first U.S. flag, using a circular arrangement of five-pointed stars. Evidence shows that a congressman, Francis Hopkinson, is the person responsible for its design.

### The First Official United States Flag June 14, 1777

The 13-star flag became official as a result of the congressional action that took place on June 14, 1777. Evidence exists pointing to Congressman Francis Hopkinson to be responsible for its design. Each star and stripe represented a Colony of which there were thirteen, (in order of ratification: Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, South Carolina, New Hampshire, Maine, Virginia, New York, North Carolina), united nearly one year earlier by the Declaration of Independence. The only president to serve under this flag was George Washington (1789-1797).

### The Star Spangled Banner 2nd Official U.S. Flag May 1, 1795

The 15-star flag became official when Vermont and Kentucky were admitted into the union. The 15-star, 15-stripe flag was authorized by the Flag Act of Jan. 13, 1794, adding two stars and two stripes. This was the only official flag to have 15 stripes. The stars were slightly tilted. The five presidents who served under this flag were George Washington (1789-1797), John Adams (1797-1801), Thomas Jefferson (1801-1809), James

Madison (1809-1817) and James Monroe (1817-1825).

### 20 Star Flag 3rd Official U.S. Flag April 13, 1818

Congress realized that adding another star and stripe for each new state was impractical. So they passed the Flag Act of 1818, which returned the flag design to 13 stripes. This 20-star flag became the official United States flag in April 13, 1818. The five stars were added for the admission of Tennessee, Ohio, Louisiana, Indiana and Mississippi. There was only one president to serve under this flag, James Monroe (1817-1825).

### 21 Star Flag 4th Official U.S. Flag July 4, 1819

One star was added for the admission of Illinois and lasted for one year. The only president to serve under this flag was James Monroe (1817-1825).

### 23 Star Flag 5th Official U.S. Flag July 4, 1820

The 23-star flag became the official U.S. flag on July 4, 1820. Two stars were added for the admission of Alabama (the 22nd state on Dec. 14, 1819) and Maine (the 23rd state on March 15, 1820), and was to last for two years. The only president to serve under this flag was James Monroe (1817-1825).

### 24 Star Flag 6th Official U.S. Flag July 4, 1822

The 24-star flag became the official U.S. flag on July 4, 1822. A star was added for the admission of Missouri (Aug. 10, 1821) and was to last for 14 years. The presidents who served under this flag included James Monroe (1817-1825), John Quincy Adams (1825-1829) and Andrew Jackson (1829-1837).

### 25 Star Flag 7th Official U.S. Flag July 4, 1836

The 25-star flag became the official U.S. flag on July 4, 1836. A star was added for the admission of Arkansas (June 15, 1836) and was to last for just one year. The two presidents to serve under this flag were Andrew Jackson (1829-1837) and Martin Van Buren (1837-1841).

### 26 Star Flag 8th Official U.S. Flag July 4, 1837

The 26-star flag became the official U.S. flag on July 4, 1837. A star was added for the admission of Michigan (Jan. 26, 1837) and was to last for eight years. The four presidents to serve under this flag were Martin Van Buren (1837-1841), William Henry Harrison (1841), John Tyler (1841-1845) and James Polk (1845-1849).

### 27 Star Flag 9th Official U.S. Flag July 4, 1845

The 27-star flag became the official U.S. flag on July 4, 1845. A star was added for the admission of Florida and was to last for only one year. The only president to serve under this flag was James Polk (1845-1849).

### 28 Star Flag 10th Official U.S. Flag July 4, 1846

The 28-star flag became the official U.S. flag on July 4, 1846. A star was added for the admission of Texas (Dec. 29, 1845) and was to last only one year. The only president to serve under this flag was James Polk (1845-1849).

### 29 Star Flag 11th Official U.S. Flag July 4, 1847

The 29-star flag became the official U.S. flag on July 4, 1847. A star was added for the admission of Iowa (Dec. 28, 1846) and was to last for only one year. The only president to serve under this flag was James Polk (1845-1849).

### 30 Star Flag 12th Official U.S. Flag July 4, 1848

The 30-star flag became the official U.S. flag on July 4, 1848, and was added for the admission of Wisconsin (May 29, 1848). It was to last three years. The three presidents to serve under this flag were James Polk (1845-1849), Zachary Taylor (1849-1850) and Millard Fillmore (1850-1853).

### 31 Star Flag 13th Official U.S. Flag July 4, 1851

The 31-star flag became the official U.S. flag on July 4, 1851. A star was added for the admission of California (Sept. 9, 1850) and was to last for seven years. The three presidents who served under this flag were Millard Fillmore (1850-1853), Franklin Pierce (1853-1857) and James Buchanan (1857-1861).

### 32 Star Flag 14th Official U.S. Flag July 4, 1858

The 32-star flag became the official U.S. flag on July 4, 1858. A star was added for the admission of Minnesota (May 11, 1858) and was to last for just one year. The only president to serve under this flag was James Buchanan (1857-1861).

## A Historical Look at the American Flag

### 33 Star Flag 15th Official U.S. Flag July 4, 1859

The 33-star flag became the official U.S. flag on July 4, 1859. A star was added for the admission of Oregon (Feb. 14, 1859) and was to last for two years. The two presidents to serve under this flag were James Buchanan (1857-1861) and Abraham Lincoln (1861-1865).

### 34 Star Flag 16th Official U.S. Flag July 4, 1861

The 34-star flag became the official U.S. flag on July 4, 1861. A star was added for the admission of Kansas (Jan. 29, 1861) and was to last for two years. The only president to serve under this flag was Abraham Lincoln (1861-1865).

### 35 Star Flag 17th Official U.S. Flag July 4, 1863

The 35-star flag became the official U.S. flag on July 4, 1863. A star was added for the admission of West Virginia (June 20, 1863) and was to last for two years. The two presidents to serve under this flag were Abraham Lincoln (1861-1865) and Andrew Johnson (1865-1869).

### 36 Star Flag 18th Official U.S. Flag July 4, 1865

The 36-star flag became the official U.S. flag on July 4, 1865. A star was added for the admission of Nevada (Oct. 31, 1864) and was to last for two years. The only president to serve under this flag was Andrew Johnson (1865-1869).

### 37 Star Flag 19th Official U.S. Flag July 4, 1867

The 37-star flag became the official U.S. flag on July 4, 1867. A star was added for the admission of Nebraska (March 1, 1867) and was to last for 10 years. The three presidents who served under this flag were Andrew Johnson (1865-1869), Ulysses S. Grant (1869-1877) and Rutherford B. Hayes (1877-1881).

### 38 Star Flag 20th Official U.S. Flag July 4, 1877

The 38-star flag became the official U.S. flag on July 4, 1877. A star was added for the admission of Colorado (Aug. 1, 1876) and was to last for 13 years. The five presidents to serve under this flag were Rutherford B. Hayes (1877-1881), James A. Garfield (1881), Chester A. Arthur (1881-1885) Grover Cleveland (1885-1889) and Benjamin Harrison (1889-1893).

### 43 Star Flag 21st Official U.S. Flag July 4, 1890

The 43-star flag became the official U.S. flag on July 4, 1890. Five stars were added for the admission of North Dakota (the 39th state on Nov. 2, 1889), South Dakota (the 40th state on Nov. 2, 1889), Montana (the 41st state on Nov. 8, 1889), Washington (the 42nd state on Nov. 11, 1889) and Idaho (the 43rd state on July 3, 1890) and was to last for just one year. The only president to serve under this flag was Benjamin Harrison (1889-1893).

### 44 Star Flag 22nd Official U.S. Flag July 4, 1891

The 44-star flag became the official U.S. flag on July 4, 1891. A star was added for the admission of Wyoming (July 10, 1890) and was to last for five years. The presidents to serve under this flag were Benjamin Harrison (1889-1893) and Grover Cleveland (1893-1897).

### 45 Star Flag 23rd Official U.S. Flag July 4, 1896

The 45-star flag became the official U.S. flag on July 4, 1896. A star was added for the admission of Utah on Jan. 4, 1896, and was to last for 12 years. The presidents to serve under this flag were Grover Cleveland (1893-1897), William McKinley (1897-1901) and Theodore Roosevelt (1901-1909).

### 46 Star Flag 24th Official U.S. Flag July 4, 1908

On July 4, 1908, the U.S. flag grew to 46 stars with the addition to the Union of Oklahoma (Nov. 16, 1907). Theodore Roosevelt (1901-1909) and William H. Taft (1909-1913) served as president under this flag, which was the official flag for four years.

### 48 Star Flag 25th Official U.S. Flag July 4, 1912

The U.S. flag grew to 48 stars on July 4, 1912, with the addition of New Mexico (Jan. 6, 1912) and Arizona (Feb. 14, 1912). Executive order of President Taft dated June 24, 1912, established the proportions of the flag

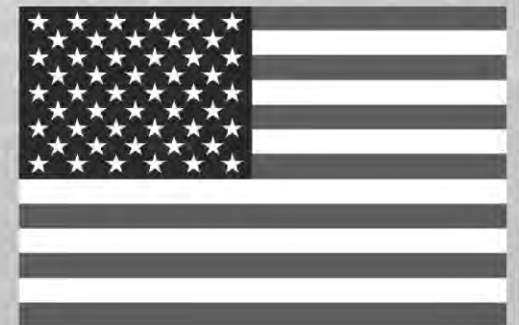
and provided for arrangement of the stars in six horizontal rows of eight each, a single point of each star to be upward. This flag was official for 47 years, longer than any other flag, through two World Wars and the emergence of the United States of America as the leading nation of the world. Eight presidents served under this flag, from William H. Taft (1909-1913) to Dwight D. Eisenhower (1953-1961).

### 49 Star Flag 26th Official U.S. Flag Jan. 3, 1959

The first 49-star flag was made in the Army Quartermaster Depot in Philadelphia and was used in the White House ceremony when President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the proclamation admitting Alaska to the Union. The 49-star flag was official for only one year, until July 4, 1960, when Hawaii achieved its statehood and the 50-star flag was born. President Eisenhower was the only president to serve under this flag.

### 50 Star Flag 27th Official U.S. Flag Aug. 21, 1959

Executive Order of President Eisenhower dated Aug. 21, 1959, provided for the arrangement of the stars in nine rows of stars staggered horizontally and 11 rows of stars staggered vertically. This is the current flag of the United States. Hawaii was admitted as the 50th state on Aug. 21, 1959. The 27th flag of the United States became the official flag on July 4, 1960. The presidents that have served under this flag are Dwight D. Eisenhower (1953-1961), John F. Kennedy (1961-1963), Lyndon B. Johnson (1963-1969), Richard M. Nixon (1969-1974), Gerald R. Ford (1974-1977), Jimmy Carter (1977-1981), Ronald W. Reagan (1981-1989), George Bush (1989-1993), William J. Clinton (1993-2001), George W. Bush (2001-2009), Barack Obama (2009-2017) and currently Donald Trump.



# RETIRING A BATTERED FLAG

When you deem a flag too battered to be displayed honorably, retirement requires a respectful ceremony.

Laying this symbol of America to rest is a humbling experience and should be done with care. The Flag Code expresses that the preferred way of disposal is through a dignified manner, preferably burning.

Do you know how to tell when your banner is ready for a respectful retirement?

Consider these factors to determine when and how to release Old Glory from its display.

## THE RIGHT TIME

Before assuming your flag is due for a replacement, it's important to inspect it carefully. Many times, exposure to outdoor elements takes a toll on a flag's cleanliness and can make it appear too weathered to continue to serve.

However, when its physical integrity is in tact, a simple washing can bring it back to life.

When analyzing the integrity of your flag's material, look beyond easily cleaned obstructions. You will know it is beyond repairable when you notice prominent holes or frayed edges that will alter its size and texture after mending.

## WHO IS AUTHO-



## RIZED TO RETIRE A FLAG?

The Flag Code doesn't restrict anyone from retiring a banner, so use your best judgment to choose someone who will take the responsibility seriously.

Here are some ideas to consider if you plan to conduct a ceremony, from the Independence Hall Association.

- One flag should be used in the ceremony to represent all banners included in the retirement service. The remainder of symbols should be collectively incinerated;

- The solemn service should be conducted outdoors, in conjunction with a campfire program;

- The ceremony should include two color guards, one representing the flag in use

and another for the banner to be retired; and

- A leader of the service should call the group to attention, order a salute, lead the Pledge of Allegiance, order the flag retired and remain at the scene until the fire is safely extinguished and ashes are burned.

## OTHER OPTIONS

Of course, the preferred

method of a dignified retirement is by burning. If the experience is out of your comfort zone, however, a good avenue to seek is your local Veterans of Foreign Wars club or American Legion. These knowledgeable experts can point you in the right direction of a flag-retirement service or host a ceremony to ensure it is done properly and respectfully.