

National Sojourners, Incorporated



Historic Flag Presentation

16 July 2017

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	2
Type of Program	4
Program Description and Background Information	4
Origin of a Historic Flag Presentation	4
What is a Historic Flag Presentation?	4
Intended Audience of a Historic Flag Presentation	4
Number required to present a Historic Flag Presentation	5
Presentation Attire	5
List of Props Needed and Where Can Props Be Obtained	5
List of Support Equipment (computer, projector, screen, etc.)	5
Special Information	5
Script for an Historic Flag Presentation	6-20
Purpose	6
General Flag Overview	6
Bedford Flag—April 1775	6
Rhode Island Regiment Flag—May 1775	8
Bunker Hill Flag—June 1775	8
Washington’s Cruisers Flag—October 1775	8
Gadsden Flag—December 1775	8
Grand Union Flag—January 1776	9
First Navy Jack—January 1776	9
First Continental Regiment Flag—March 1776	9
Betsy Ross Flag—May 1776	9
Moultrie Flag—June 1776	9
Independence Day History	9
13-Star Flag—June 1777	10
Bennington Flag—August 1777	10
Battle of Yorktown	10
Articles of Confederation	10
15-Star Flag (Star-Spangled Banner)—May 1895	11
20-Star Flag—April 1818	11
Third Republic of Texas Flag—1839-1845	11
Confederate Flag—1861-1865	12
The Pledge to the Flag	11
1909	12
48-Star Flag—September 1912-1959	13

World War I	12
Between the Wars	13
World War II	13
Battle of Iwo Jima	13
End of World War II	13
Flag Day	14
Korean War	14
50-Star Flag—July 1960-Present	14
Toast to the Flag	15
Old Glory Speaks	16
That Ragged Old Flag	17

Type of Program

The Historic Flag Presentation is both a patriotic and an educational program depending on the audience. It is intended to gather together Masons and non-Masons and their ladies for a patriotic presentation in support of our Purposes, specifically “to support all patriotic aims and activities in Masonry and to develop true Patriotism and Americanism throughout the Nation.”

Program Description and Background Information

Origin of the Historic Flag Presentation

The original Historic Flag Presentation was developed by Nebraska Past Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Byron Jenkins, around 1992. His original presentation included reproductions of 15 historic flags, described each flag, and identified its period of use. Brother Colonel Edward Nolte modified and expanded that original presentation to include key battles and key historic events involving the flags, leaders during these events, and Masonic connection to the flags and events, if any. Also added were two significant flags missing in the original presentation—the 20-Star Flag and the 50-Star Flag. It also corrected the story of the Betsy Ross Flag. Also added were presentations of the Declaration of Independence, Articles of Confederation, history of the Battle of Fort McHenry, Battle of the Alamo, Battle of Iwo Jima, and updated information on the 50-star flag. The presentation includes the *Toast to the Flag, That Ragged Old Flag, and Old Glory Speaks*, the latter two being optional. The presentation is a work in progress and should be updated as significant events occur to make it more relevant to the current generation.

What is a Historic Flag Presentation?

The Historic Flag Presentation includes discussion of 18 significant flags from our Nation’s history:

1. Bedford Flag—April 1775
2. Rhode Island Regiment Flag—May 1775
3. Bunker Hill Flag—June 1775
4. Washington’s Cruisers Flag—October 1775
5. Gadsden Flag—December 1775
6. Grand Union Flag—January 1776
7. First Navy Jack—January 1776
8. First Continental Regiment Flag—March 1776
9. Betsy Ross Flag—May 1776
10. Moultrie Flag—June 1776
11. 13-Star Flag—June 1777 (Francis Hopkinson Flag—not included)
12. Bennington Flag—August 1777
13. 15-Star Flag (Star-Spangled Banner)—May 1895
14. 20-Star Flag—April 1818 (Third Flag Act—not included)
15. Texas Republic Flag—1839-1845
16. Confederate Flag—1861-1865
17. 48-Star Flag—September 1912-1959
18. 50-Star Flag—July 1960-Present (Provided by host organization)

Intended Audience of a Historic Flag Presentation

The Historic Flag Presentation may be delivered to Masonic and non-Masonic Groups. Due to the detailed content of the briefing, it is not designed to be delivered to grade school children, not that there is anything that they should not hear, but that they would not understand it. The setting may be in a Lodge Room, on a stage as a banquet presentation, or in a room with people on the same level with the presenter. Since it has a Masonic context and a Masonic presenter, it should only be given in settings appropriate to Masonry in that Grand Jurisdiction.

Number Required to Present a Historic Flag Presentation

The Historic Flag Presentation requires only one person to deliver to small groups of less than 60 people. The presenter holds each of the flags and displays them as he speaks. He places all flags in the proper order on a small table, removes the flags one at a time as he addresses them, and places them on a discard table. At the end of the presentation, all flags will have been taken from the original table, presented, and placed on a second table. As the audience size increases, the size of the room may dictate the need for a sound system. If that is the case, it is helpful to have a speaker and one or two flag presenters to free up the speaker's hands to hold a microphone. All members of the cast should be dressed in colonial uniform. Ladies dressed in colonial dresses may be included to help present the flags.

Presentation Attire

The proper attire for this presentation is a colonial uniform. Occasionally, civic groups may want a shorter program that only includes selected parts of this presentation. In that case, either in lieu of a colonial uniform, a business suit or blue blazer with National Sojourner and Heroes Medals would be appropriate.

List of Props Needed and Where Obtained

2 Card Tables or similar to hold flags—From the host organization
The National Sojourners 15-Flag kit—From National Sojourners Headquarters
Script—From this document
A 50-star U.S. Flag on a staff—From the organization sponsoring the presentation
A sound system—From the organization sponsoring the presentation
National Sojourners “Toast To The Flag,” if desired—Included in this script
“That Ragged Old Flag,” if desired—Included in this script
“Old Glory Speaks,” if desired—Included in this script

List of Support Equipment (computer, projector, screen, etc.)

None

Special Information

The Historic Flag Presentation is published as a National Sojourners/Heroes of '76 program. While this Presentation is given by Masons and perhaps supported by their ladies, it does not require approval of the Grand Jurisdiction for delivery to either Masonic or non-Masonic audiences.

The “set up” for the Presentation will vary. Generally, the speaker will be at the front of the room with the audience facing him. He may be on a stage (elevated) or at the same level as the audience.

Historic Flag Presentation

Purpose: This Flag Presentation is a Bridge of Light or educational path among all Masonic audiences, between Masonic and non-Masonic audiences, and between the past and the present. It will refresh some interesting lessons from your youth and increase your sense of patriotism by, hopefully, bringing a tear to your eye as you feel a renewed sense of patriotism build within your heart. This presentation honors our nation, its flags, and some of its significant historic events tied to those flags. Let us begin by defining what is a flag. What is a flag?

A moth-eaten rag on a worm-eaten pole,
It does not seem likely to stir a man's soul.
Tis' the deeds that were done
Neath that moth-eaten rag,
When the pole was a staff, and the rag was a flag.

General Flag Overview: People have used flags for more than 5,000 years. Originally called a vexilloid, from the latin word "to guide," the oldest is from Iran around 3,000 B.C. Initially, made of wood and later metal, about 2,000 years ago, pieces of fabric or material were draped on vexilloids for increased visibility and decoration. Eventually, these vexilloids took on more the appearance of flags we might recognize today.

They have been called banners, beauceants, burgees, colors, coronets, ensigns, flags, guidons, jacks, pennants, and standards. But regardless of the name, they distinguish one group of people from another, perhaps an army on the field of battle, athletes on the fields of friendly strife, or a church, civic group, or corporation.

From the Great Light of Masonry, the Holy Bible, in the Book of Numbers, Chapter 2, Verses 1 and 2, we read, "And the Lord spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying, every man of the children of Israel shall pitch by his own standard with the ensign of his father's house."

From the York Rite of Freemasonry, we learn that the Knights Templar protected pilgrims traveling to and from the Holy Lands during the Crusades and displayed a beauceant or battle flag, which was half white and half black signifying—the white—that those Christian warriors were fair and favorable to the friends of Christ, but—the black—dark and terrible to His enemies.

The beginning of our flag parallels the origin of our country. With a confident belief in divine providence, a freedom-loving people carved a democratic Nation out of an autocratic empire at a time when kings and despots ruled all nations. Many of the flags of these mighty kings and empires of that day have long since gone, but the stars and stripes remain. The flags I will present reflect the character of our founding fathers and those who proudly serve the flag today.

After the French and Indian War ended in 1763, the British were deep in debt, so they decided to raise taxes on the colonists as they were the primary beneficiaries of the war. In 1765, James Otis gave his famous "Taxation Without Representation" speech that John Adams, who would later become the second President of the United States, stated, "Then and there was the child independence born." Our first flags were not stars and stripes. Let me tell you about some of them.

1. The Bedford Flag—April 1775: The Bedford Flag is the oldest, complete flag known to exist in the United States. The Bedford Flag was made in England around 1710-1720 for the Bedford Militia. Today, this flag is in the Bedford Free Public Library in Bedford, Massachusetts. It is red with the right arm of a knight in armor holding a sword with cannon balls flying through the air and an inscription that reads "CONQUOR OR DIE" in Latin. Its squarish, rather than rectangular, shape was common to cavalry flags, known as cornets. Cornet was also a military rank, and Cornet Nathaniel Page had received this flag from his father and his grandfather before him, and it was his duty to get the flag to the battle and carry it there. He carried it on the morning of the 19th of April

1775. You remember what happened that day, don't you? Well perhaps, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's 1861 poem can help you with the date and the events.

Listen my children and you shall hear
Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere,
On the eighteenth of April in Seventy-five;
Hardly a man is now alive
Who remembers that famous day and year.

He said to his friend if the British march
By land or sea from the town tonight,
Hang a lantern aloft in the belfry arch
Of the North Church tower as a signal light,
One if by land and two if by sea;
And I on the opposite shore will be,
Ready to ride and spread the alarm
Through every Middlesex village and farm,
For the country folk to be up and to arm.

So he said "Good-night!" and with muffled oar
Silently rowed to the Charlestown shore,
Just as the moon rose over the bay,
Where swinging wide at her moorings lay
The Somerset, British man-of-war;
A phantom ship, with each mast and spar
Across the moon like a prison bar,
And a huge black hulk, that was magnified
By its own reflection in the tide.

Now this poem, called "Paul Revere's Ride," goes on for another 10 stanzas to describe how Paul Revere rode from Medford to Lexington to Concord to alarm the colonial patriots that the British were looking for their weapons and supplies. Brother Paul Revere was the Grand Senior Deacon of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts at the time, and Brother Robert Newman held two lanterns in the belfry arch of the "Old North Church." On the morning after Brother Paul Revere's ride, 19 April 1775, just as the sun was rising, 75 Bedford Minutemen met 700 British Grenadiers and Light Infantry on Lexington Green. Seventy-five rag-tag militia led by Captain John Parker against 700 of his majesty's finest troops led by Major John Pitcairn. Major Pitcairn challenged the Colonial Patriots, "Disperse you scoundrels. Lay down your arms. Disperse you rebels. Disperse." Captain Parker challenged his men, "Stand your ground. Do not fire unless fired upon, but if they want a war, let it begin here." A shot rang out, another, another. Soon seven Bedford Minutemen lay dead on Lexington Green. The militamen withdrew, but they did not retreat. They withdrew behind buildings, rock fences, trees, and wagons, and continued their resistance. They withdrew to Concord bridge, where 450 more Minutemen joined them, and suddenly the odds were becoming more even. Minister Isaac Davis stood on the bridge and said, "I have not a man who is afraid to go." The British shot him dead, and the battle continued. The British withdrew to Charlestown that night, and they counted 73 dead, 174 wounded, and 26 missing. The militiamen suffered 49 killed and 39 injured.

Does that mean that the Colonial Patriots won the battle that day? No, but it signified that the time for writing letters to the king and for peaceful protest was over, and the time for armed resistance had begun. Perhaps Ralph Waldo Emerson said it best:

"By the rude bridge that arched the flood,
their flag to April's breeze unfurled.

Here once the embattled farmer stood,
and fired the Shot Heard Round the World.”

The Revolutionary War had just begun.

2. The Rhode Island Regiment Flag—May 1775: The flag of the Second Rhode Island Regiment in the Continental Army combined a state symbol—“the anchor” and motto—the word “HOPE” with a national symbol—13 gold stars on a field of white. The original of this flag is maintained in Providence, Rhode Island. The anchor with the motto “HOPE” has long been used as a Masonic emblem. The star layout on this flag is the same as Brother Francis Hopkinson would use in his design in the First Flag Act in 1777.

3. The Bunker Hill Flag—June 1775: The Bunker Hill Flag is red with a pine tree in the white canton, symbol of the hardy New England Patriots. Although the continental forces lost the battle of Bunker Hill on 17 June 1775, they proved that Minutemen could hold their own against British Regulars. His Majesty’s Army lost a higher percentage of its officers at the Battle of Bunker Hill than in any battle the British have fought before or since. Most Worshipful Brother Joseph Warren, the Grand Master of Masons of Massachusetts, led the troops and lost his life that day.

Ah, many a noble heart was hushed in the battle’s din that day,
And many a long life’s hope was crushed in that dark and sad array.
But never a heart more brave and true than the martyrd heroes who fell,
The first in the cause of liberty on the heights of Bunker Hill.
It swept the country like a funeral knell, the sorrowful tidings how Warren fell.

In addition, Major John Pitcairn of the Battle of Lexington and Concord was killed. Interestingly, he is buried at the Old North Church.

4. The Washington’s Cruisers Flag—October 1775: In addition to being the Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army and later the first President of the U.S., Brother General George Washington purchased and commissioned the first vessels for the American Fleet. These ships sailed up and down the Charles River in 1775 and early 1776 and eventually would be seen on the high seas. They flew a Pine Tree Flag with the motto, “An Appeal to Heaven,” indicating that these New England Colonial Patriots were hearty—the pine tree, their cause was pure—the white, and their cause was justified by a higher power than King George—the motto.

5. The Gadsden Flag—December 1775: Commodore Esek Hopkins of Rhode Island was the first Commander-in-Chief of the American Fleet. Rattlesnake flags were quite common in New England, so it is not surprising that he chose a coiled snake with the defiant motto, “DON’T TREAD ON ME” for his personal flag of rank. The flag warned that danger lurked for those that would deny the people their inherent right of freedom from oppression. Colonel Christopher Gadsden, a member of the Continental Congress from South Carolina, designed the flag used by Commodore Hopkins, and Colonel Gadsden had a copy made for the legislature of his own state. Commodore Hopkins would later be dismissed for incompetence, but Brothers Joshua Barney, Edward Preble, Samuel Tucker, Abraham Whipple, Jeremiah O’Brian, and John Paul Jones would help make the American Navy into a proud fighting force.

6. The Grand Union Flag—1 January 1776: British merchant and war ships flew a solid red flag with the famous Union Jack in the canton. It was this design that the Colonial Patriots modified to show our defiance of the British. The Grand Union Flag added six white stripes to the solid red flag and Union Jack to symbolize the 13 colonies, which were not yet demanding independence, but defied British taxation and rule without a voice. On 1 January 1776, Brother General George Washington, having achieved a semblance of military order with a limited number of troops, proclaimed the formation of the Continental Army at his headquarters on Prospect Hill in Somerville, Massachusetts, and hoisted this flag on a 76-foot pole in defiance of the British.

7. The First Navy Jack—8 January 1776: The U.S. Navy Jack is a small flag flown on the bow of a ship and containing a part of the national ensign. Our first Navy Jack, ordered by Commodore Esek Hopkins, had 13 stripes, 7 white and 6 red, and stretched across the it was a rattlesnake with the words, “DON’T TREAD ON ME.” The rattlesnake was first used by Most Worshipful Brother Benjamin Franklin in newspaper political cartoons—it was a popular protest against British injustice. Its rattle is believed to have contained 13 rattles. Brother Commodore John Paul Jones was one of many to sail under this flag. Many quotes are attributed to Commodore John Paul Jones including, “I have not yet begun to fight” and “I wish to have no connection with any ship that does not sail fast because I intend to go in harm’s way.” Today, by order of the Chief of Naval Operations, U.S. Navy ships fly the First Navy Jack in what was formerly known as the War on Terror, and its meaning is still as relevant today as it was then.

8. The First Continental Regiment Flag—March 1776: In the early days, each military unit chose its own flags. More uniform patterns would come later. The banner of the First Continental Regiment, composed of the Pennsylvania Militia, is one of the earliest in use. It was displayed in the summer of 1776 and carried until the Battle of Yorktown in 1781. The design shows a colonial soldier throwing a net over a lion representing the British. The soldier, dressed in blue, represents the colonists. The lion represents the British. You notice that the soldier is not trying to shoot or kill the lion, but rather to control it. This is significant in that in the early years of the Revolutionary Period, most colonists, British citizens themselves, did not want independence, but control over taxes and conditions. In fact, there were at least four groups of people in the colonies: 1) the British soldiers, 2) Tories totally loyal to the British, 3) those wanting some relief from restrictions and taxes, and 4) those wanting independence. The motto on the flag and written in latin reads, “I REFUSE TO BE DOMINATED.” The original flag is preserved in Harrisburg, PA.

9. The Betsy Ross Flag—May 1776: The story of the Betsy Ross Flag has enormous popularity, but the facts do not substantiate it. Careful historians do not accept the legend, and neither should we. President Woodrow Wilson said it best, “Would that it were true.” The Betsy Ross Flag has a circle of 13 stars in a blue canton with 13 red and white stripes. Nearly all Americans know this flag today, but surprisingly at the time and until 1870, it was hardly known. Legend has it that George Washington visited Betsy Ross in May 1776 and asked her to make a flag for him. William Canby, Betsy Ross’ grandson was 9 years old when Betsy died in 1836. In 1870, he related the story told by her of how George Washington came to his grandmother’s house to order a flag in May 1776. However, George Washington did not write about it, the Continental Congress did not fund it, and Betsy’s records did not have anything about it. How did the story originate? At the time of William Canby’s story, America was getting ready to celebrate the Centennial of the Revolutionary War in the 1870s and this story sold dime novels. No remnants of any Betsy Ross Flags have been found that date to the 1775-1780 period. Pictures reflecting George Washington crossing the Delaware with this flag are fictitious.

10. The Moultrie Flag—June 1776: James Moultrie, a South Carolina Mason, was a physician and member of a prominent family. Fort Moultrie, named for him, stood in Charleston Harbor during the Revolutionary War. The troops’ blue uniforms and caps with a silver crescent and the word “LIBERTY” was the basis for the flag. The troops under this flag defeated the British attack on 28 June 1776 so soundly that the British did not attack in the South for two years. Today, “LIBERTY” is removed in the South Carolina State Flag, but a white palmetto tree appears in the center of the flag. Palmetto logs were used in the ramparts of Fort Moultrie in 1776.

Independence Day, 4 July 1776: The Declaration of Independence was published in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and was signed by 56 Patriots, 9 of whom were Masons. These 56 men suffered greatly for our freedom. Five were captured as traitors, tortured, and killed. Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned. Two lost sons in the Continental Army. Nine fought and died in the Revolutionary War. Who were they? Twenty-four were lawyers and jurists; 11 were

merchants; 9 were farmers and plantation owners—men of means and education, but they signed knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured. Then, as now, freedom is never free.

11. The Official 13-Star Flag—June 1777: The First Flag Act stated: “Resolved that the flag of the U.S. be 13 stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be 13 stars, white in a blue field, representing the new constellation.” Notice that the First Flag Act did not specify the length-to-width proportions of the flag; the shades of red, white, or blue; the size of the canton area; how the stars were arranged; or the number of points on the stars—they varied from 4 to 8. The stars represent CT, MA, NH, RI, NY, NJ, PA, DE, VA, MD, NC, SC, and GA—the original 13 colonies. The flag was designed by Brother Frances Hopkinson and had five rows of stars arranged in a staggered pattern with 3-2-3-2-3 stars in each row. Each star AND stripe represented one of the original 13 colonies united nearly a year earlier by the Declaration of Independence.

12. The Bennington Flag—August 1777: The oldest, complete stars and stripes in existence flew at the Battle of Bennington on 16 August 1777 by the Vermont Militia, and is the oldest stars and stripes to lead troops on land. It was made of homespun linen and handsewn. Brother Colonel John Stark, a hero of the Battle of Bunker Hill, when facing the Hessians that day was known to say, “the American flag flies over yonder hill tonight or Molly Stark sleeps a widow.” A regiment of Brother Ethan Allen’s Green Mountain Boys helped win the victory and nearly annihilated the British Regulars and led to the British defeat at the Battle of Saratoga, New York on 7 October 1777, a death blow to the British. Because the First Flag Act did not specify the exact colors or designs, only the number of stars and stripes, the stars were arranged in a semi-circle with two stars in the top corners. Each star has seven points, the canton includes the number 76, and the stripes are reversed. This flag is preserved in the museum at Bennington, Vermont.

The Battle of Yorktown, 19 October 1781: Brother General George Washington, Brother General Lafayette, and French General Rochambeau defeated British Brother General Lord Cornwallis to end the Revolutionary War. The Revolutionary War lasted for six and a half years and claimed 8,000 combat dead and 25,000 from all causes.

The Articles of Confederation, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights: The Articles of Confederation was the first written constitution of the United States. Stemming from wartime urgency, its progress was slowed by fears of central authority and extensive land claims by states before it was ratified on 1 March 1781. For ten years, the United States would govern under the Articles of Confederation. Each state remained sovereign and independent, with Congress serving as the last resort on appeal of disputes. Congress was given authority to make treaties and alliances, maintain armed forces and coin money. However, the central government lacked authority to levy taxes and regulate commerce, issues that led to the Constitutional Convention in 1787 for the creation of new federal laws, which led to the new Constitution and Bill of Rights. On 25 September 1789, the Congress transmitted to the state Legislatures twelve proposed amendments to the Constitution. Numbers three through twelve were adopted by the states to become the U.S. Bill of Rights, effective 15 December 1791. A1: Freedom of religion, speech, and press and rights of assembly and petition. A2: Right to bear arms. A3: Housing of soldiers. A4: Search and arrest warrants—illegal search and seizure. A5: Rights in criminal cases. A6: Right to a fair trial. A7: Rights in civil cases. A8: Bails, fines, and punishments. A9: Rights retained by the people. A10: Powers retained by the states and the people. The two amendments that were not approved involved representation in the House of Representatives to ensure the smallest district was recognized and prohibiting Congress from giving itself a pay raise. The first unapproved Amendment is part of the Constitution itself and subsequent federal statute. The second unapproved Amendment later became the 27th and last Amendment to the Constitution.

13. The 15-Star Flag—May 1795: The Second Flag Act of 1794, signed by Brother President George Washington, added two stars and two stripes to the flag for the addition of Vermont in

1791 and Kentucky in 1792 into the Union and was the only U.S. flag with more than 13 stripes. Known as the Star-Spangled Banner, its stars were arranged in 5 staggered rows of 3 stars each, and the stars tilted toward the left and right in alternate rows. A 30- by 42-foot version of this flag flew over Fort McHenry on the night of September 13, 1814, when the British attacked in the War of 1812. On the following morning, by “Dawn’s Early Light,” this flag was seen by Francis Scott Key. He was onboard a ship in Baltimore Harbor negotiating the release of Dr. Bean, who was being held prisoner. The event and the sight inspired him to write the Defense of Fort McHenry, better known as the Star-Spangled Banner. It was put to the tune of “Anacreon to Heaven,” written in 1780, and sheet music was available in 1815. The War of 1812 lasted from 1812 to 1815 and claimed the lives of 2,260 combat soldiers and 15,000 total.

14. The 20-Star Flag—April 1818: The Third Flag Act, 4 April 1818 eliminated a problem after the Second Flag Act. Between the Second Flag Act in 1794 and the Third Flag Act in 1818, a period of 24 years, no stars or stripes were added to the U.S. Flag. However, Tennessee entered the Union in 1796, Ohio in 1803, Louisiana in 1812, Indiana in 1816, and Mississippi in 1817, but these states did not get their stars on the U.S. Flag until 1818, when the flag went from 15 stars and 15 stripes to 20 stars and 13 stripes. The Third Flag Act, in addition to adding 5 stars and reducing the number of stripes to 13 and set July 4th following a state’s admission into the Union as the date for adding a star to the flag.

15. The Third Flag of the Republic of Texas, 1839-1846: No, this flag is not the flag of the Texas football team—well, it is, but that is not why it is in this collection. No, this flag is not the State Flag of the Texas—well, yes it is, but that is not why it is in this collection. This flag is the Third Flag of the Republic of Texas, when Texas was an independent country and not yet a part of the United States. The first Republic of Texas Flag was blue with a white star in the middle with the word of “TEXAS” in white letters between each of the five points of the star. The second Republic of Texas Flag had a gold star minus the lettering. None of these flags was at the battle of the Alamo. Various stories, legends and myths surround the flag or flags flown at the Alamo. One says it was a “defaced Mexican green, white, and red flag with the numbers “1824” for the Constitution of 1824. Another is that Jim Bowie’s “Come and Take It” flag containing those words, a silhouette of a cannon, and a star was present. Also, present is Brother David Crockett’s journal entry about a 13-red-and-white-striped flag with a single white star in a blue field and the word TEXAS between the star-points. On 23 February 1836, 189 Texians and Tejanos, to include 27 Masons, assembled in at Mission San Antonio de Valero or El Alamo. For 13 days the Mexican Army laid siege to the Alamo, and on 6 March 1836, they attacked and killed nearly every man, woman, and child in the mission to include Brothers David Crockett, Jim Bowie, and Colonel William Travis.

The massacre was avenged 45 days later, on 21 April 1836, at the Battle of San Jacinto by General Sam Houston’s Army. The battle lasted only 18 minutes with 700 mexican soldiers killed, 208 wounded, and 730 captured, while only 9 Texians were killed. As a result of that battle, the Texas Republic was free and became a part of the U.S. 10 years later, increasing the size of the continental U.S. by nearly one third. The Texas Republic included what is today Texas and parts of New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, Oklahoma, and Kansas. The War for Texas Independence lasted from 2 October 1835 to 21 April 1836. The Mexican-American War started when the U.S. admitted Texas into the Union in 1845, and ended with a U.S. attack on Mexico City led by General Winfield Scott. His victory resulted in the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo and General Scott being named as the Military Governor of Mexico City. The Wars for Texas Independence and the Mexican-American War claimed 2,500 combat soldiers and 15,000 total U.S. dead.

16. The Confederate Battle Flag, 1861-1865: This is probably the most controversial flag in this presentation, but it is here for historic purposes. During the trying years when brother sometimes literally fought brother, and the nation was torn asunder, the Southern Confederacy adopted

several flags, which this is but one example. The First National Flag of the Confederacy was called the Stars and Bars. It consisted of three horizontal red-white-red stripes with a blue canton with seven, nine, eleven, and eventually thirteen stars from March 1861 to May 1863. The Second National Flag of the Confederacy was created in May 1863 and was called the Stainless Banner. It consisted of a white flag with the Confederate Battle Flag as a square for the canton area. This flag was displayed from May 1863 to March 1865. Confederate leaders felt that the Stainless Banner was “too white,” and added a vertical red stripe to the foot of the flag. This flag was called the Blood-Stained Banner and was used from March 1865 to April 1865, the end of the Civil War. This flag is often referred to as the Confederate Battle Flag. It is similar to the Army of Northern Virginia Battle Flag, which was square. It is also similar to the battle flag of the Army of Tennessee, differing only in proportions. At the Battle of Fort Sumter, which marked the start of the Civil War, Brother Major Robert Anderson, commander of the fort displayed a 33-star U.S. Flag when he surrendered to Brother General P.G.T. Beauregard, a Confederate officer, who fought under the Bonnie Blue Flag, a solid blue flag with a white star at its center. Masonic principles were not forgotten when Grand Master of Masons of Iowa, a Federal Colonel, placed a guard around the Masonic Library of Brother Confederate General Albert Pike to prevent it from being ransacked and burned. There is also the familiar story of ladies of the Confederacy showing their husband’s Masonic Aprons and their farms and plantations were spared by Union forces. The war lasted for four years and claimed the lives of 620,000 Union and Confederate soldiers, more than in any other war in which the U.S. engaged.

The Pledge to the Flag: In 1892, the United States of America was preparing to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus’ discovery of the New World. Most of the wounds from the Civil War 30 years earlier were healed, and America was growing. The previous year a half million legal immigrants came through the Barge Office at Battery Park in New York, and on 1 January 1892, Ellis Island, the new Federal Bureau of Receiving’s Station opened. Two men interested in education and the Columbus Day celebration throughout the 44 states at the time worked to make the event successful. Brother Frances Bellamy wrote a 23-word lyric, which was published by Mr. James Upham in his “Youth’s Companion” magazine, the Reader’s Digest of the day, on 8 September 1892. One month later, on Columbus Day, 12 October 1892, the Pledge to the Flag was said for the first time by 12 million school children across the country. The original pledge to the flag went like this, please remain seated: “I pledge allegiance to my Flag and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation, indivisible with Liberty and Justice for all.” The Pledge to the Flag became a daily routine in public schools, but gained little attention elsewhere for 30 years. Then on Flag Day, 14 June 1923, the Pledge received major attention at the First National Flag Conference hosted by the American Legion. The conference noted that with the number of immigrants living in the U.S., there might be some confusion about the words “my Flag.” Therefore, they changed “my Flag” to “the Flag of the United States.” The following year, the words changed again to “the Flag of the United States of America” because we are more than a mere collection of states, we are a sovereign Nation of many sovereign states, a perfect Union, one and inseparable.

How we salute during the pledge gained attention at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, Germany. A young, black athlete by the name of James Cleveland Owens, better known as Jessie Owens, the world’s fastest man at the time, from the Ohio State University stood on the top step of the awards platform four times for winning an Olympic Gold Medal in the 100 meter dash, the 200 meter dash, the 400 meter relay, and the long jump. He thought that the salute to the flag looked a lot like the Nazi salute, and he knew that Adolph Hitler was in attendance. To avoid any inference of honors for the Nazis, he rendered a military salute for the duration of the Star Spangled Banner. The pledge would eventually gain heightened popularity among adults with the patriotic fervor created by World War II. However, it was still an unofficial pledge until 22 June 1942, when the U.S. Congress included the pledge to the flag in the U.S. Flag Code and made the official salute

the hand over the heart. This was the first official recognition of the pledge, and the very next year, the Supreme Court declared, “You cannot make school children say the Pledge of to the Flag as part of their daily routine.” In 1945, the Pledge to the Flag received its official title as “The Pledge of Allegiance.” The last change in the Pledge of Allegiance occurred on 14 June 1954, Flag Day, when the words “under God” were added after three years of lobbying by the Knights of Columbus. In adding the words United States, United States of America, and under God, the punctuation has never changed. There is no comma between “one nation” and “under God.” Why is this important? We are “one nation under God,” a single concept, not two independent thoughts as some would say and have us believe. There is no separation between our country and our God. When there are those, who would remove God from our Pledge of Allegiance, from our currency, from our public buildings, and from our lives, do not give them a place to drive their wedge.

1909: Brother Admiral Robert Peary placed a 46-star flag his wife has sewn for him at the geographic North Pole.

17. The 48-Star U.S. Flag: The 48-star flag originated with an Executive Order on 24 June 1912 as a result of Brother President William Howard Taft’s Executive Order for the addition of Arizona and New Mexico to the Union. Brother President Taft, the only President of the U.S. to also be Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, created an Executive Order that provided the specific design of the stars, the ratio of length to depth, the shade of the colors, and the size of the canton area. Before this time, these details were left to the person making the flag. Prior to the current 50-star flag, this was the longest serving flag in U.S. history—1912 to 1959. It served through two World Wars, the Korean War, and the emergence of the U.S. as a superpower.

World War I: It was there at the Battle of St. Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne with Brother General and fellow Nebraskan John J. “Blackjack” Pershing and an Ohioan, Brother Captain Eddie Rickenbacker, America’s Ace of Aces, Commander of the 94th Pursuit “Hat in the Ring” Squadron, and recipient of the Medal of Honor in World War I. World War I would claim the lives of 116,516 U.S. troops.

Between the World Wars: This flag served as the basis in 1931 when the Star-spangled Banner officially became our National Anthem. In the 117 years before that date, the Star-Spangled Banner was a an unofficial patriotic song, somewhat like America the Beautiful is today.

World War II: From 1941 to 1945, it served with General Patton in North Africa, Sicily and Italy, with General Eisenhower on D-Day on Omaha Beach, and with Fleet Admiral William Leahy, the Chief of Staff to the Commander in Chief, the President of the United States, Brothers Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Harry S. Truman.

Battle of Iwo Jima: Perhaps the most famous and historic presence of this flag was at the Battle of Iwo Jima. On 16 February 1945, the U.S. Army Air Corps and the U.S. Navy began a continuous 72-hour bombardment of Iwo Jima. The U.S. Navy brought 880 ships to Iwo Jima, the largest armada invasion up to that time in the Pacific War, and Navy battleships and Army Air Corps bombers helped turn Iwo Jima into an inferno, but to no avail because the Japanese soldiers were beneath the island in volcanic lava caves and tunnels. Then, on 19 February 1945, 110,000 Marines, more Marines than in any other battle, invaded the island, and for 36 days, Iwo Jima was one of the most populated places in the world as they fought 22,000 Japanese soldiers on this 7.5 square mile island. With the Americans above and the Japanese below, we rarely saw a Japanese soldier, but the Japanese could see us perfectly. During that 36-day battle, 6821 Marines lost their lives, 25,000 were injured, and nearly all 22,000 Japanese soldiers were killed because they refused to surrender. More Medals of Honor were created at the Battle of Iwo Jima than in any other battle in American history.

The Iwo Jima Memorial in Washington, D.C., depicts the flag-raising ceremony on Mt. Suribachi by six Marines. Sergeant Mike Strank from Pennsylvania was the “old man of the group” at 25.

Private First Class Ira Hayes, a Pima Indian from Arizona was 22, Corporal Harlon Block from Texas was 21, Private First Class Rene Gagnon from New Hampshire was 20, Private First Class Frank Sousley from Kentucky was 19, and Corporal Harold Schultz from Michigan was also 19. Mr. Joe Rosenthal took the picture of the raising and just as he snapped the picture, he fell backward down a hill and did not know if the picture was good or not. That picture was excellent and became the most famous picture of WWII and the basis of the Marine Corps Memorial.

On the Memorial, 32-foot tall men raise a 60-foot flag pole while standing on a 6-foot rock base on top of a 10-foot granite base where a cloth flag flies 24 hours a day. The memorial is 78 feet tall, making it the largest bronze statue in the world. On the base are inscribed the names and dates of every principal engagement since the founding of the Corps, a quote by Admiral Chester Nimitz, "uncommon valor was a common virtue," and the dedication: "In honor and memory of the men of the United States Marine Corps who have given their lives to their country since November 10, 1775," the founding of the Corps.

In tribute, Brother John Wayne starred in the movie depicting the battle, "The Sands of Iwo Jima." Yes, John Wayne, every young boys' hero on the big screen and television, was a Mason. So, too, were Roy Rogers, Gene Autry, and Audie Murphy, the most decorated soldier in World War II.

End of World War II: On 15 August 1945 (14 August in the U.S.), 9 days after the Enola Gay bombed Hiroshima and 6 days after the Bockscar bombed Nagasaki, the Japanese surrendered. On that day, Brother President Harry Truman flew the flag over the White House that had flown over Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1941 when the Japanese had attacked. The surrender signing occurred on 2 September 1945 aboard the U.S.S. Missouri in Tokyo Harbor. World War II claimed the lives of 405,399 U.S. troops.

Flag Day: On 14 June 1949, Brother President Truman signed the Bill for Flag Day, 172 years after the first flag act created the first American Flag.

Korean War: In 1950-1953, the 48-star Flag served with our troops at Pusan and Chosin Reservoir during the Korean War. The Korean War would claim the lives of 36,516 U.S. troops.

18. The 50-Star U.S. Flag: In honor of our country and the more than 240 years since our Declaration of Independence, we salute our current 50-star Flag. Did you know that this is the longest serving flag in U.S. history? Alaska became a State on 3 January 1959, and Hawaii became a State on 21 August 1959. Alaska received its star on 4 July 1959, and Hawaii on 4 July 1960. One might wonder what events have distinguished the 50-star flag? Nearly every one of you have been witness to all of these events. In 1963, Barry Bishop, the first American to climb Mount Everest, planted it on top of the world's highest mountain. On July 20, 1969, Mr. Neil Armstrong and Brother Buzz Aldrin planted this flag on the surface of the moon. Relative to military honors, it served with our troops in the Cuban Missile Crisis in the 1960s. In the ten years of the Viet Nam War from 1965 to 1975, it served with our troops and draped the caskets of 58,209 men and women. It served in a raid on Libya in the 1980s; in Kuwait, Iraq, and Bosnia in the 1990s; and Iraq and Afghanistan, today, where the U.S. has lost nearly 7,000 troops in an on-going operation. It stands for freedom, and it has a very distinguished history.

Toast to the Flag

What can I say to you, Old Flag,
You are so great in every fold.
So linked to mighty deeds of old,
So calm, so still, so firm so true,
My throat swells at the very sight of you, Old Flag.
And, there you stand with colors bright,
And I think tis only right,
That since you neither brag nor boast
We offer you this heart-felt toast.

Here's to the red of it,
There's not a thread of it,
No, nor a shred of it
In all the spread of it
From foot to held.
But heroes bled for it,
Faced steel and lead for it,
Precious blood shed for it,
Bathing it Red!

Here's to the white of it
Thrilled by the sight of it,
Who knows the right of it,
But feels the might of it
Through day and night?
Womanhood's care for it
Made manhood dare for it,
Purity's prayer for it
Keeps it so White!

Here's to the blue of it
Beauteous view of it,
Heavenly hue of it,
Star-spangled dew of it
Constant and true.
Diadems gleam for it,
States stand supreme for it,
Liberty's beam for it
Brightens the Blue!

Here's to the whole of it.
Stars, stripes, and pole of it,
Body and soul of it,
P, and the roll of it,
Sun shining through.
Hearts in accord for it,
Swear by the sword for it,
Thanking the Lord for it,
Red, White, and Blue!

Old Glory Speaks

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 great institutions of learning. I stand guard with the greatest military 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. I am recognized all over the world. I am worshipped – I am loved – and I am feared.

I have fought in every battle of every war for more than 230 years: Saratoga, Bennington, Yorktown, Shiloh, Fredericksburg, Vicksburg, Gettysburg, San Juan Hill, the Trenches of France, the Argonne Forest, Anzio, Rome, The Beaches of Normandy, Guam, Okinawa, Japan, Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf, Bosnia, Iraq, and Afghanistan. Along with scores of places long forgotten by all but those who were there with me. I WAS THERE!

I led my Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines. I followed them and watched over them. They LOVED me! I was on a small hill on Iwo Jima. I was dirty, battle-worn, and tired, but my Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines cheered me, and I WAS PROUD!

I have been soiled, burned, torn and trampled on the streets of countries that I helped to set free. It does not hurt, for I am invincible.

I have been soiled, burned, torn, and trampled on the streets of my own country, and when this happens to me by those whom I have served with in battle, it hurts tremendously!

But, I shall overcome – for I am strong! I have slipped the surly bonds of earth, danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings, and from my vantage point on surface of the moon, I stand watch over the uncharted new frontiers of space. I have been silent witness to all of America's finest hours.

But my finest hour comes when I am torn into strips to be used as bandages for my wounded comrades on the fields of battle – when I fly at half mast to honor my Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines – or when I lie folded in the trembling arms of a grieving mother, father, wife, son, daughter, or any loved one at the graveside of a fallen military member.

I am PROUD! My name is OLD GLORY—long may I wave. Dear God, long may I wave!!!

That Ragged Old Flag

I walked through a county courthouse square,
On a park bench, an old man was sittin' there.
I said, "Your courthouse is kinda run down."
He said, "Naw, it'll do for our little town."
I said, "Your old flag pole has leaned a little bit,
And that's a ragged old flag you've got hangin' 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 up watching it, writing "Oh, Say Can You See"
And it got a rip down in New Orleans
With Packingham and Jackson
tugging at its seams.

And, it almost fell at the Alamo
Beside the Texas Flag, but she waved on though.
She go 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 Viet Nam.
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 wavin' her back here at home.
In her own good land, she has been abused--
She's been burned, dishonored, denied, and refused.

And the very government for which she stands
Is scandalized throughout the land.
And she's getting threadbare and wearin' 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,
And we bring her down slow 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.