

Ode To

OLD GLORY

HISTORY OF THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

So we know that Flag Day was created to honor Old Glory. Celebrated on June 14, it commemorates the adoption of the flag to represent the union.

The flag today has 13 stripes (seven red and six white) and 50 stars on a blue field (five rows of six and four rows of five). The stripes represent the 13 original colonies, and the stars represent each state.

Today's version is the end product of many versions before it. In the beginning, an English flag — the Red Ensign — waved over the 13 colonies from 1707 to the Revolution.

The first flag was known as the "Grand Union" flag. It retained the union of the English flag — six white and seven red stripes broke the red field into 13 stripes.

The first official American flag was 13 stripes of red and white in a blue field.

The flag that flew over Fort McHenry in 1814 was a 15-star and 15-stripe flag. It became the famous Star Spangled Banner.

By 1818, the flag had 13 stripes (from 15), but now had 20 stars.



Here are the stars and their number designated on the field of blue:

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Delaware - 1787 | 11. New York - 1788 | 21. Illinois - 1818 | 31. California - 1850 | 41. Montana - 1889 |
| 2. Pennsylvania - 1787 | 12. North Carolina - 1789 | 22. Alabama - 1819 | 32. Minnesota - 1858 | 42. Washington - 1889 |
| 3. New Jersey - 1787 | 13. Rhode Island - 1790 | 23. Maine - 1820 | 33. Oregon - 1859 | 43. Idaho - 1890 |
| 4. Georgia - 1788 | 14. Vermont - 1791 | 24. Missouri - 1821 | 34. Kansas - 1861 | 44. Wyoming - 1890 |
| 5. Connecticut - 1788 | 15. Kentucky - 1792 | 25. Arkansas - 1836 | 35. West Virginia - 1863 | 45. Utah - 1896 |
| 6. Massachusetts - 1788 | 16. Tennessee - 1796 | 26. Michigan - 1837 | 36. Nevada - 1864 | 46. Oklahoma - 1907 |
| 7. Maryland - 1788 | 17. Ohio - 1803 | 27. Florida - 1845 | 37. Nebraska - 1867 | 47. New Mexico - 1912 |
| 8. South Carolina - 1788 | 18. Louisiana - 1812 | 28. Texas - 1845 | 38. Colorado - 1876 | 48. Arizona - 1912 |
| 9. New Hampshire - 1788 | 19. Indiana - 1816 | 29. Iowa - 1846 | 39. North Dakota - 1889 | 49. Alaska - 1959 |
| 10. Virginia - 1788 | 20. Mississippi - 1817 | 30. Wisconsin - 1848 | 40. South Dakota - 1889 | 50. Hawaii - 1959 |

RAISING AND LOWERING THE FLAG



RESPECT FOR OLD GLORY

No disrespect should be shown to the flag of the United States of America; the flag should not be dipped to any person or thing. Regimental colors, state flags and organization or institutional flags are to be dipped as a mark of honor.

- 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.
- The flag should never be used as a covering for someone's ceiling.
- The flag should never be used as a receptacle for receiving, holding, carrying or delivering anything.
- No part of the flag should ever be used as a costume or athletic uniform.

FOLDING THE FLAG – PROPERLY

STEP 1 — Have two people stand on either end of the flag, holding a corner in each hand, waist-high, with the surface parallel to the ground.



STEP 2 — Fold the flag in half twice, width-wise. Be sure to keep the stars on the outside. If done properly, this will ensure the field of stars will be facing up when you complete the folding process.



STEP 3 — Beginning at the striped end, fold one corner into the opposite side of the flag, forming a triangle.



STEP 4 — Repeat this triangular folding until only a small strip of the star field shows.



STEP 5 — Tuck this strip into the triangle.



DID YOU KNOW?

Here are some little known facts about our beloved Old Glory:

- There is a very special ceremony for retiring the flag — by flame. It's actually a noble ceremony, performed by local Boy Scout groups.
- Famous people have been linked to the flag. Betsy Ross was the seamstress who made the first flag, while Francis Scott Key penned the lyrics to our national anthem that highlighted the flag.
- A person who studies flags is called a Vexillologist.
- Flying at half-staff can only be done upon the death of principal government figures, and only by Presidential orders, for 30 days (president or 10 days vice president, etc).
- There are eight places on American soil where the American flag must be flown at all time, day and night. They include such diverse places such as the White House, the United States Marine Corp Memorial in Virginia, and the town of Lexington, Mass.
- Soldiers wear the flag patch backwards, with the blue field forward, to achieve the effect of the flag "flying in the breeze" as the soldier moves forward.
- Pennsylvania became the first (and only) U.S. state to celebrate Flag Day as a state holiday.
- The largest Flag Day parade is held annually in Troy, N.Y.

RED, WHITE, BLUE — AND GRAY

American flags on the distant Moon

Kevin MCCLINTOCK
GateHouse Plus

The Stars and Stripes has flown on mountain peaks, amongst the carnage of countless battlefields, at the bottom of oceans and from the tops of high-flying balloons.

But most folks don't realize the "red, white and blue" can also be found atop the gray dust of the Moon. Six of them, in fact — 238,857 miles away.

They were planted there by Apollo astronauts between 1969 and 1972 — Apollo 11 through Apollo 17, and minus only the aborted Apollo 13 mission.

Of course, there is no wind on the Moon, so there were immediate problems with "flying" a flag inside an airless vacuum in the first place. NASA workers ultimately solved the problem by rigging the flag with a wire running along the top to make it "appear" as if it's waving ultimately solved the problem. Ironically, it's pictures of these artificially waving flags that fueled conspiracy theories over the legitimacy of America's multiple missions to the moon in the first place. Conspiracy theorists claim those famous snapshots of waving flags on the Moon, they claim, proved the NASA missions were frauds, since flags can only "wave" on Earth. Now we know, of course, that NASA intentionally constructed the flags to appear that way.

Five of the six American flags are presumed to still be standing at the spot they were left at. There isn't a magnifying instrument capable of seeing the flags from Earth. However, NASA now believes the first flag, planted by Neil Armstrong on the historic Apollo 11, was knocked to the dust by exhaust as the astronauts lifted off for their trip home.



RIDGECREST LIONS CLUB ANNUAL COMMUNITY FLAG PROGRAM



Ridgecrest Lions Charity Foundation Non-Profit Corporation # 27-3171052

Since 1966 (over 50 years) the Ridgecrest Lions Club has raised charitable funds through this holiday flag program. 100% of the funds raised are used to help people in need.

These local funds have helped provide: eye exams and eyeglasses, free glaucoma screenings, and helped the Lions purchase a Spot Vision Screening device for \$6,500 that we are using in our local schools for youth vision screenings; 1607 children screened in this school year alone!. The Lions also support a Statewide High School Student Speakers Contest, Burroughs Band, DART, Senior Programs and needs, Youth Chess Tournaments, Adopt-a-School, Holiday food and gift baskets, funding for hospital equipment, and many other things.

Support for the City of Hope, diabetes research, guide dogs, Lions Camp for the Deaf, Ear of the Lion, Southern California Lions Eye Institute, emergency relief funds for emergency services, and so much more are helped with these raised funds.

On June 30, 1925, Helen Keller asked of the Lions:

"Will you not help hasten the day when there shall be no preventable blindness; no deaf or blind little children untaught; no blind man or woman unaided. I appeal to you Lions, you who have your sight and your hearing, you who are strong and brave, and kind. Will you not constitute yourselves Knights of the Blind in this crusade against darkness?"

We ask you to join us simply by participating in this program. Help us continue our quest to do what is right and good within our community and throughout the world. The Flag Program is \$100 for the year and provides for a U.S. Flag to be displayed 11 times throughout the year, along with a Thank You Ad in the SwapSheet in the 4th quarter prior to Christmas.

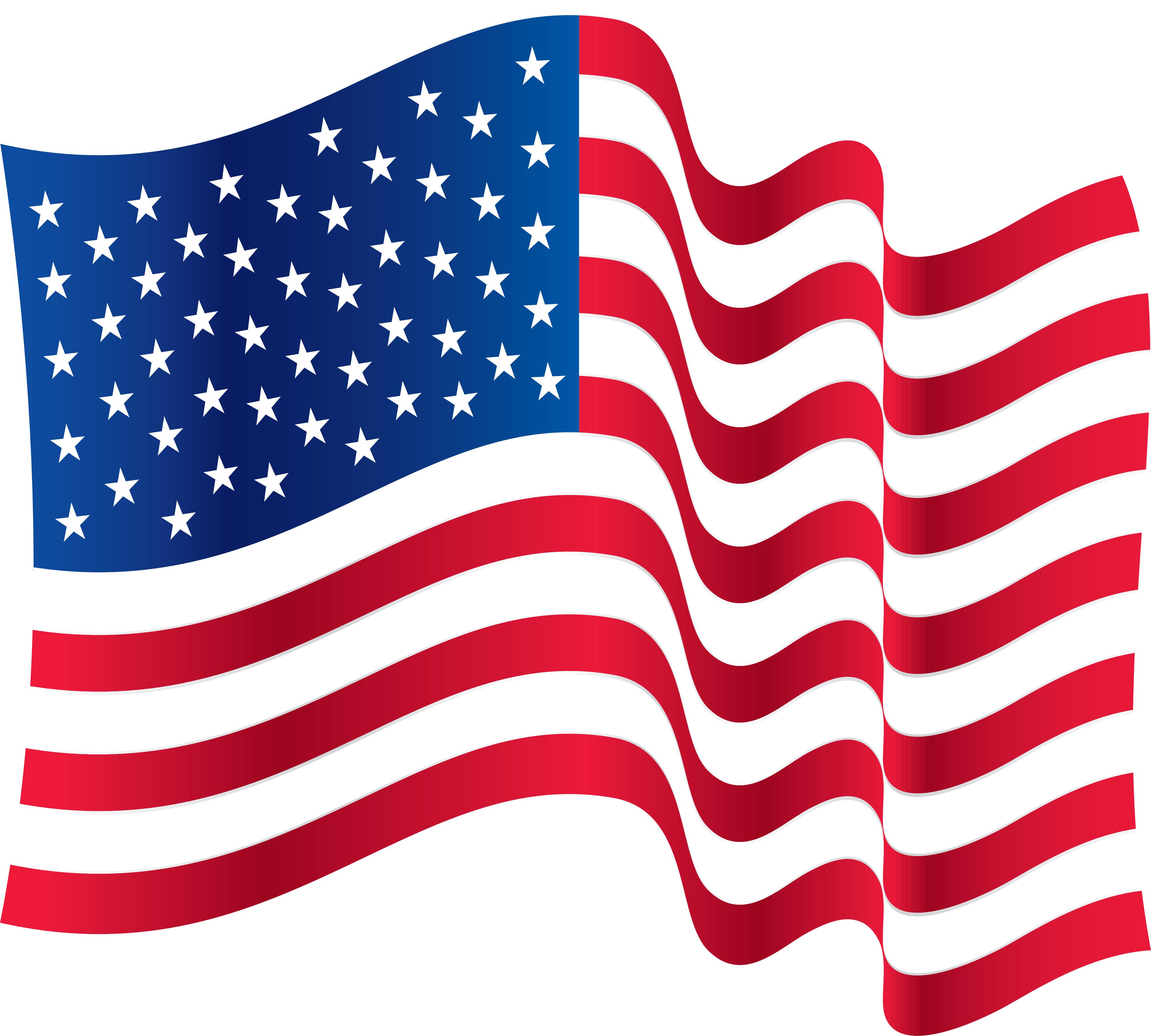
For questions on the Lions Holiday Flag Program, please do not hesitate to call at 375-2715 or 977-2600 (cell), or email: steven.morgan@mediacombb.net

Lion Steven Morgan
Chairman, Lions Holiday Flag Program

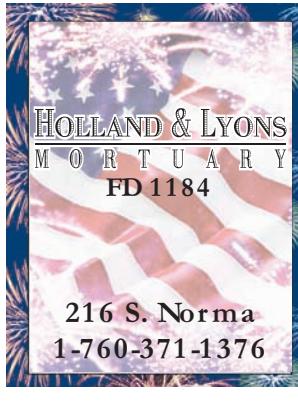
SPECIAL HOME FLAG PROGRAM:

FOR \$150 THE RIDGECREST LIONS CLUB WILL COME TO YOUR HOME AND PLACE A 3X5 FLAG ON A 5FT. POLE AT YOUR HOME. BRACKET INCLUDED IN PRICE, LOCATION AT HOMEOWNER'S DISCRETION. YOU KEEP IT ALL!!!!

CONTACT THE LIONS FOR MORE INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS ON THE SPECIAL HOME FLAG PROGRAM.



PROUD TO BE AN **AMERICAN**





“

Our flag is more than just a symbol of our pride, it represents the values our country was founded on:



*one nation, under God,
indivisible, with liberty
and justice for all.*

On this Flag Day, may we never forget the brave men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice to defend our flag and the freedoms we hold dear.”

Kevin McCarthy

★ KEVIN ★
McCARTHY
CONGRESS

www.McCarthyforCongress.com