

II Cor. 3:17 -- "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is..."

LIBERTY

A Ministry of Grace Baptist Church, Pittsfield, Illinois - 217-285-5230

Pastor Randy Love

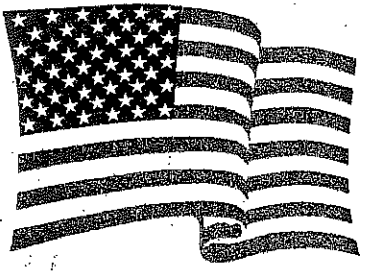
Leonard Dice, Editor

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Flag Day - June 14

"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."

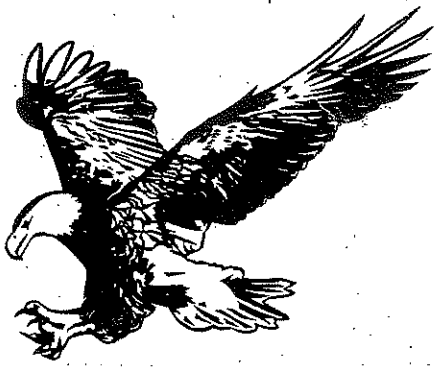


THE EMBLEM OF AMERICA

When God made the oyster, He guaranteed him absolute economic and social security. He built the oyster a house, a shell to protect him from his enemies. When hungry, the oyster simply opens his shell and food rushes in.

When God made the eagle, He said, "The blue sky is the limit. Go build your own house." And the eagle built it on the highest mountain crag where storms threaten him constantly. For food, the eagle must fly through miles of rain and snow and wind.

The eagle, and not the oyster, is used as the emblem of the United States of America.



- Kiamichi Nev

WHY THE AMERICAN FLAG IS FOLDED 13 TIMES

Have you ever noticed on TV or at a military funeral that the honor guard pays meticulous attention to correctly folding the American flag 13 times? We know the 21-gun salute was determined (adding the individual digits of 1776), but only recently learned why the flag was folded 13 times when it is lowered or when it is folded and handed to the widow at the burial of a veteran.

Here it is:

The first fold of our flag is a symbol of life.

The second fold is a symbol of our belief in eternal life.

The third fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing our ranks who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of our country to attain peace throughout the world.

The fourth fold represents our weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in time of war for His divine guidance.

The fifth fold is a tribute to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur. "Our Country, in dealing, with other countries, may she always be right; but is still our country, right or wrong."

The sixth fold is for where our hearts lie. It is with our heart that we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States Of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and Justice for all.

The seventh fold is a tribute to our Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that we protect our country and our flag against all our enemies, whether they be found within or without boundaries of our republic.

The eighth fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the

light of day, and to honor mother, for whom it flies on Mothers' Day's.

The ninth fold is tribute to womanhood; for it has been through their faith, their love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great and has been molded.

The tenth fold is a tribute to the father, for he, too, has given son's and daughter's for the defense of our country since they were first born.

The eleventh fold, in the eyes of a Hebrew citizen represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon, and glorifies in their eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

The twelfth fold, in the eyes of a Christian citizen, represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in their eyes, God the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit.

When the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost reminding us of our nation's motto, "In God We Trust". After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of soldiers who served under General George Washington, and the sailors and marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones, who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for us the rights, privileges, and freedoms we enjoy today. There are some traditions and ways of doing things, which have deep meaning. We have seen many flags folded in recent weeks, following the assault on America on September 11, 2001, and now we know why... **God Bless America!!**

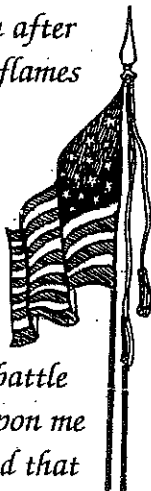
Earl Jeffries, Dan Ballard, David Simms

VETERAN'S COMMITTEE REPORT



I Am Old Glory

'I am Old Glory! For more than 200 years I have been the banner of hope and freedom for generation after generation of Americans. Born amid the first flames of America's fight for freedom, I am the symbol of a country that has grown from a little group of 13 colonies to a united nation of 50 sovereign states. Planted firmly on the high pinnacle of American Faith, my gently fluttering folds have proved an inspiration to untold millions. Men have followed me into battle with unwavering courage. They have looked upon me as a symbol of national unity. they have prayed that



they and their fellow citizens might continue to enjoy the life, liberty and pursuit of happiness which have been granted to every American as the heritage of free men. So long as men love liberty more than life, so long as they treasure the priceless privileges bought with the blood of our forefathers, so long as the principles of truth, justice and charity for all remain deeply rooted in human hearts, I shall continue to be the enduring banner of the United States of America.

*--Originally written by Marine Master
Sergeant Percy Webb (1879-1945)*

Miscellaneous.

Leonard R. Dice, Editor and Asst. Pastor

*STORIES
*EVENTS
*VIEWS
*NEWS



There Is a Solemn Duty in Christian Citizenship

It has been almost universally true in America that the greatest patriots were great Christians. Someone has said that the American Revolution was "a church revolution."

It is not wrong to be patriotic. Great men like Samuel Adams, John Adams, George Washington, Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson, Abraham Lincoln, Woodrow Wilson, William Jennings Bryan loved America better because they loved God, believed the Bible and had solid Christian character.

I have no sympathy with the idea that America should give up her autonomy to be ruled by the United Nations or to make the law of United Nations supersede American law and American courts.

In the army I took a solemn oath to defend my country and to be true to it. The currents of my soul ran deep when I took that vow. I feel the same today. Oh, for a revitalized patriotism in America!

Every man should thrill to the flag, to the National Anthem, to the American Hymn.

Here comes the flag,

Hail it!

Who dares to drag

Or trail it?

Give it hurrahs—

Three for the stars,

Three for the bars.

Uncover your head to it!

The soldiers who tread to it

Shout at the sight of it,

The justice and right of it,

The unsullied white of it,

The blue and the red of it,

And tyranny's dread of it!

Here comes the flag!

Cheer it!

Valley and crag

Shall hear it.

Fathers shall bless it,

Children caress it,

All shall maintain it,

No one shall stain it.

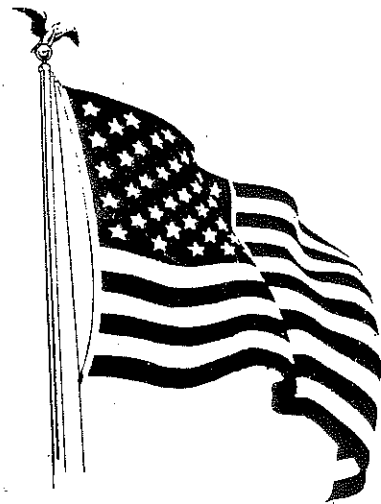
Cheers for the sailors that fought on the wave for it,

Cheers for the soldiers that always were brave for it,

Tears for the men that went down to the grave for it.

Here comes the flag!

HERE COMES THE FLAG!



—Arthur Macy