

REP. ELINOR Z. TAYLOR/FLAG DAY/6-12-94

TODAY WE GATHER TO PAY TRIBUTE TO OUR NATION'S FLAG.

I'M HONORED TO HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A FEW COMMENTS ABOUT THE STARS AND STRIPES AND WHAT OUR FLAG HAS MEANT -- AND CONTINUES TO MEAN -- AS IT FLIES, FLAMING WIDE THROUGH THE SKIES OF HISTORY.

THANKS FOR INVITING ME.

OUR STAR SPANGLED BANNER IS A STIRRING SIGHT AS IT WAVES IN THE BREEZE, ISN'T IT? ITS STRIKING DESIGN, ITS BOLD RED, WHITE AND BLUE REMIND US OF ALL OUR FLAG STANDS FOR WHEN IT COMES TO OUR NATION, OUR GOVERNMENT, OUR PEOPLE, OUR IDEALS.

OUR FLAG CAN STIR US TO JOY....TO COURAGE....TO IDEALISM....AND TO SACRIFICE. MANY MEN AND WOMEN HAVE DIED TO PROTECT OUR FLAG AND WHAT IT REPRESENTS, NOT ONLY TO US AS AMERICANS, BUT TO THE WHOLE WORLD AS WELL.

TO OUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS WHO HAVE LIVED -- AND DIED -- SERVING THE

THE FLAG HAS BEEN OUR GREATEST RALLYING POINT. AN INSPIRATION

SACRIFICE. AND WE ALL KNOW WHAT THOSE SACRIFICES WERE, AND ARE.

WORLD. IT HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO THIS PROUD POSITION BY LOVE AND BY

IT STILL FLIES NOBLY THROUGHOUT OUR LAND AND THROUGHOUT THE

FOR PEACE ON EARTH.

IS A LAND OF FREEDOM, AND ABUNDANCE....AND IT REPRESENTS MANKIND'S HOPE

DREAMS HELD BY MAN THROUGHOUT THE AGES. IT REPRESENTS A NATION WHICH

THIS FLAG OF OURS REPRESENTS THE FULFILLMENT OF AGE-OLD

ENTIRE WORLD.

REMAINS UNIQUE IN THE DEEP AND NOBLE SIGNIFICANCE OF ITS MESSAGE TO THE

JUST AS IT HAS FOR GENERATIONS, THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES

THROUGH THE YEARS PENNSYLVANIA -- THE BIRTHPLACE OF LIBERTY --
HAS PROVIDED EXAMPLE AFTER EXAMPLE OF THE STRENGTH OF SPIRIT THE STARS
AND STRIPES INSTILLS IN THE PEOPLE ACROSS THIS GREAT COMMONWEALTH OF
OURS.
FOR THE FLAG WAS THERE IN THE BEGINNING, GUIDING THE FIRST
PATRIOTS -- THE STEADFAST TROOPS AT VALLEY FORGE -- AND OUR FARSIGHTED
FOREFATHERS IN PHILADELPHIA.
IT WAS THERE IN THE TROUBLED TIMES OF THE CIVIL WAR, CARRIED
HIGH OVER WAR-TORN HILLSIDES OF BLOODY BATTLEFIELDS LIKE GETTYSBURG AS
A SIGN THAT THE UNION WOULD BE PRESERVED.
IT WAS TAKEN BOLDLY AND BRAVELY INTO BATTLE BY OUR TROOPS IN
WORLD WAR I, WORLD WAR II, KOREA, VIETNAM, THE PERSIAN GULF....YES, LADIES
AND GENTLEMEN, MANY AMERICANS HAVE FOUGHT FOR THE GLORY OF THE RED,
WHITE AND BLUE AS IT FLEW, FLAMING WIDE THROUGH THE SKIES OF HISTORY.

WHEN FLAG DAY WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1917, PRESIDENT WOODROW

WILSON HAD THIS TO SAY:

"FOR THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES IS THE EMBODIMENT OF OUR HISTORY. IT IS THE EMBLEM OF OUR UNITY. OUR POWER. OUR THOUGHT AND OUR PURPOSE AS A NATION. IT HAS NO OTHER CHARACTER THAN THAT WHICH WE GIVE IT FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION. THE CHOICES ARE OURS."

YES, SURELY, AND CLEARLY, THE CHOICES ARE OURS. IT IS, AND ALWAYS HAS BEEN, UP TO US AS AMERICANS, MY FRIENDS.

DO NOT ALL OF US HAVE A COMMITMENT TO PRESERVE OUR TRADITIONS OF STRENGTH, UNITY, FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE? THOSE STRENGTHS THAT HAVE STOOD FOR SO LONG AND HAVE COST SO MUCH IN TERMS OF HUMAN LIFE AND SACRIFICE....

ARE WE NOT ALL DUTY-BOUND AS FREE MEN AND WOMEN -- AS AMERICANS -- TO PLAY A PART IN MAKING CERTAIN THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER CONTINUES TO WAVE "OVER THE LAND OF THE FREE AND THE HOME OF THE BRAVE?"

AND SO, MY FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS, AS WE GATHER TO PAY TRIBUTE TO OUR FLAG AND ALL IT STANDS FOR ON FLAG DAY, 1994, ALLOW ME TO LEAVE YOU WITH THIS PARTING THOUGHT....

MAY OLD GLORY ALWAYS MEAN AS MUCH TO US -- AND TO THE WORLD -- AS IT FLIES, FLAMING THROUGH THE SKIES OF HISTORY, NOW AND FOR ALL THE AGES YET TO COME.

FOR IT IS MY FERVENT HOPE -- EXPRESSED SO BEAUTIFULLY IN THE WORDS OF THE SONG WE SING -- "LONG MAY OUR LAND BE BRIGHT WITH FREEDOM'S HOLY LIGHT...."

THANK YOU.

The flag we honor to-day represents many things to many people ... and as citizens of this nation, we have our collective traditions and unique ways of paying tribute individually to the symbol of our great nation.

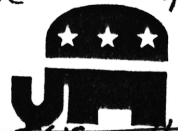
Perhaps the most common of all is reciting the pledge of allegiance on occasions like this... When we do that although the words are the same ... the thoughts about what they mean are as diverse as the numbers of us who are here this ~~evening~~ ^{afternoon}.

1- It is the flag that flies high wide & handsome
on joyous happy occasions - a fight won ...
a Country freed ... a peace remembered.

2. It is the flag that is solemn as it drops the
Casket of a loved one or of a Comrade
fallen in the line of duty. ~~Only recently it dropped~~
the casket of the unknown soldiers ~~from Viet Nam.~~
~~That soldier unknown - finally captured Victory +~~

HOME ADDRESS
104 PRICE STREET
WEST CHESTER, PA 19380
!15-696-8229

TO SERVE



THE PEOPLE

~~proper recognition for all who fought
the unpopular war.~~

OFFICE
13 W. MIN
WEST CHESTER
21E

- 3. It is the flag children wave ^{in joy} / widows clutch in sorrow.
To the children, also it represents perhaps its attempt to recite something other than war-sung rhythms or other songs (war drum songs)
- 4. It is the flag that in anger & rebellion that has been desecrated by our own misguided & misled ~~people~~
- 5. It is the flag that was burned by the terrorists in Iran - and that act served only to unite our people.
- 6. It is the flag carried ^{in battle} to protect our land & liberty
- 7. It is the flag that symbolized freedom to the oppressed people of Europe - it was carried on the beaches of Normandy - All American ~~land~~


~~by Pres Reagan~~ ~~that~~ were reminded on the 50th anniversary of D day of the sacrifices of brave men who fought & died for our precious freedom.

8. ~~It was raised in glory at Iwo Jima.~~

9. It was the flag that led the parade when in Norristown a band escorted my father to the R.R. station to

fight a war that was to end all wars

10. It is the flag that embodies patriotism. It is the spirit of the American matron.

When the founding fathers of this nation ordered the creation of Old Glory . . . Their thoughts of what it should symbolize must have been different from what we think today 

It is the history of the American people.

11. For the veteran the flag represents - home - family Nation. It represents all he sacrificed when he took up arms to protect - home, family & nation

TO THEM IT MAY HAVE STOOD FOR A NATION OF PURITY... REPRESENTED
BY WHITE. THAT PURITY WAS BOUGHT AT THE PRICE OF RED BLOOD...
WITH THE STARS ... A NEW CONSTELLATION OF SOVEREIGN STATES...
RISING ON AN UNCLUTTERED AND CLEAR HORIZON OF BLUE.

GEORGE WASHINGTON, THE FATHER OF OUR COUNTRY, LOOKED AT
IT ANOTHER WAY. HE SAID:

"WE TAKE THE STARS FROM HEAVEN, THE RED FROM OUR MOTHER
COUNTRY, SEPARATING IT BY WHITE STRIPES, THUS SHOWING THAT WE
HAVE SEPARATED FROM HER, AND THE WHITE STRIPES SHALL GO DOWN
TO POSTERITY REPRESENTING LIBERTY."

ANOTHER INTERPRETATION OF OUR FLAG EXPLAINS THAT THE RED IS FOR VALOR, ZEAL AND FERVCENCY; THE WHITE FOR HOPE, PURITY, CLEANLINESS OF LIFE AND RIGHTNESS OF CONDUCT; THE BLUE -- THE COLOR OF HEAVEN -- FOR REVERENCE TO GOD, LOYALTY, SINCERITY, JUSTICE AND TRUTH.

THE EXPLANATION GOES ON TO DEFINE THE STAR -- AN ANCIENT SYMBOL OF CIVILIZATIONS IN THE EAST -- AS A SYMBOL OF DOMINION AND SOVEREIGNTY, AS WELL AS LOFTY ASPIRATIONS.

THE CONSTELLATION OF THE STARS WITHIN THE UNION -- ONE STAR
FOR EACH STATE -- IS EMBLEMATIC OF OUR FEDERAL CONSTITUTION,
WHICH RESERVES TO THE STATES THEIR INDIVIDUAL SOVEREIGNTY, EXCEPT
FOR RIGHTS DELEGATED BY THEM TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

WHATEVER THE INDIVIDUAL INTERPRETATION OR MEANING... OUR
FLAG IS UNIQUE IN THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE MESSAGE IT SENDS TO
ALL THE WORLD... A MESSAGE OF INDEPENDENCE... OF INDIVIDUAL
LIBERTY... OF IDEALISM... AND DEDICATION TO THE RIGHTS OF FREE
PEOPLE EVERYWHERE. IT HAS ENDURED THROUGH GENERATIONS, REPRESENTING
THE FINEST IDEALS OF MANKIND. AMONG EACH GENERATION, UNIQUE

*Antony's name
emerged.*

8

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