

# **AMERICANISM**

This is one program that all units can and should participate in. It does not require great sums of money, traveling, or even a unit with a large membership. It does, however, require a team effort and time. The Americanism Chairman always presents a report at all unit meetings. The unit should be instructed on the correct way to give the pledge, the importance of voting, displaying the flag properly and participating as a unit in all holidays, such as Flag Day, Veterans Day, Memorial Day, July 4<sup>th</sup> and local holidays. The chairman should keep accurate records of the activities of the unit and plan a special Americanism Program to be held sometime during the year.

## **CITIZENSHIP**

Auxiliary members should be encouraged to register, be informed concerning the candidates' character, experience, political record and views on important issues. Their stand on veterans' benefits should be closely watched. Stress the need of each member voting in all local, state and national elections. Special emphasis should be given each year to commemorate "Citizenship Day" on September 17 and "Constitution Week" which is observed the week of September 17. Auxiliaries are encouraged to review historical events which led to the framing of our United States Constitution; to participate in their community's activities that week; and assist in recognizing new citizens who have been naturalized during the year and those who became of voting age.

Whenever possible, we should assist our foreign born in securing their citizenship by conducting classes or advising them where they may attend classes. Auxiliaries should keep abreast of their state's procedures in educating aliens. Information and data can be obtained from immigration and

naturalization offices located in federal buildings.

Special attention and assistance should be given to the foreign spouses of our service people, encouraging them to become American citizens.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

Flag presentations may be made to schools, scout groups, church groups, city and civic groups and businesses.

Presentations of copies of the Constitution, Declaration of Independence, Oath of Allegiance, Bill of Rights and How to Display and Respect the Flag of the United States may be made to any of the above. Literature can be obtained on a local level or possibly by writing to your congressman. The government printing office is also a good source for brochures along with information from the internet.

The Flag Customs and Dedication of Colors are referred to in the National Constitution and Bylaws. See the Table of Contents of your bylaw book.

## **KNOW YOUR AMERICA WEEK**

The week of Thanksgiving each year is "Know your America Week." Contacts should be made with churches and schools concerning special programs detailing the many and varied aspects of our American heritage and history. All available means should be used to publicize these programs.

## **FREEDOMS FOUNDATION**

Freedoms Foundation is located at Valley Forge, Pa. It is a national educational institution dedicated to understanding and improving the fundamentals of the American Way of Life as expressed in the Declaration

of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. It is non-political, non-sectarian and makes no recommendations on political issues or candidates.

It was founded March 1949 by the Honorable Don Belding of Los Angeles, Dr. Kenneth D. Wells of Bedford Hills, NY, and the late Mr. E.F. Hutton of New York City. Its purpose is to create a continuing positive approach to responsible citizenship, patriotism and the American Way of Life. This is done through the National Awards Program, teachers' graduate-credit seminars on the campus and other educational and public media programs, which help to encourage Americans to learn more about their heritage. Over 20,000 awards have been made since its founding in 1949.

Every other year, our National Auxiliary Commander is invited to sit on the panel of judges along with other dignitaries to study and recommend the winners in various categories. This is usually held in November and it is a full week of reading, studying and finally making the decision for the awards, which are presented to the winners in February.

Over the years, the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary has donated: A Bronze Plaque (this is located in the Medal of Honor Grove), a stained glass window located in the George Washington Building, four marble benches, picture projector and equipment, furniture for the director's office and printing for a brochure that was entitled Guidelines for American Way of Life.

Since 1973 our donations have been used for the Scholarship Program. Through these donations we have been able to provide teachers with scholarships. We will continue to grow in this program as donations grow. This program is sustained through the donations of the local, state and individuals of our organization.

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR OUR AMERICANISM PROGRAM**

A special public Americanism Program is to be held during the year. Prominent speakers and outstanding people should be scheduled to appear on this program. Insure that adequate publicity is given and that the public is invited.

Your junior auxiliary members can be enlisted to assist you in the SPECIAL AMERICANISM PROGRAM as well as your yearly Americanism activities.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was penned by Francis J. Bellamy in 1892 in honor of the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of Columbus in the Americas. Columbus Day was to be celebrated for the first time as a national holiday and the pledge was written to be given on that day in October. It was first published on September 8, 1892, and was added to the Flag Code of the United States in 1945. Mr. Bellamy was the same man for whom a Hillsborough County school and the last city of Tampa fireboat were named. He was once the advertising director for Tampa Electric Co. and died in 1931. His original version of the Pledge was as follows:

"I pledge allegiance to my Flag and to the Republic for which it stands; one Nation indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all."

Now, when giving the Pledge of Allegiance, we are to remind all members that they must free their hands and place their right hand over their heart and repeat the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. (Pause) And to the Republic for which it stands. (Pause) ONE NATION UNDER GOD, (Pause) indivisible, (Pause) with liberty and justice for all."

## **THE AMERICAN CREED**

"I believe in the United States of America, as a government of the people, by the people, for the people, whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a Republic; a sovereign nation, and many sovereign states; a perfect union, one and inseparable, established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes.

I therefore believe it my duty to my country to love it, to support its Constitution, to obey its laws, to respect its Flag, and to defend it against all enemies." William Tyler Page.

## **HONOR OLD GLORY**

The American Flag, or "Old Glory" as many of us call her, is a symbol of all things great, not only in America but also throughout the world. She is the symbol of Freedom, Equality and Progress. The sight of her calls to remembrance events past that have shaped much of the goodness in the world today. To all people of the Free World, the American Flag is a symbol of hope, of charity, of a peaceful tomorrow. Honor Old Glory and when she passes, remove your hat, place your right hand over your heart or salute her, but don't insult her by ignoring her.

On June 14, 1877, Congress resolved "That THE FLAG of the United States be 13 stripes alternate red and white, that the Union be 13 stars white in a blue field representing a new constellation." June 14 has been officially recognized as FLAG DAY since August 3, 1949.

## **JUST A LITTLE DATA** **The Birth of Uncle Sam**

Uncle Sam was not an imaginary figure. He was born September 13, 1766, in Arlington, Massachusetts. He was the fifth son of Edward Wilson, a Massachusetts Minuteman. His name was Samuel Wilson.

Rev. 2006

At the age of nine, he helped make rifle balls, prepare supplies and served as a messenger for the Colonials. He shouldered a musket at the tender age of 13. Samuel Wilson died in Troy, New York, July 31, 1854. He was interred in Oakwood Cemetery in that city.

At the age of 23 he and his brother settled in Troy and began a business, a brick-making kiln. It flourished due to the consideration he gave his employees. He represented decency, honesty, fair play, and won the respect of all those around him. But how did he become Uncle Sam?

In the War of 1812, he operated a slaughter house and stamped the barrels of beef – "U.S."

The soldiers from Troy designated the beef as, "Uncle Sam's," indicating it was furnished by Samuel Wilson. Other recruits, thinking that the term was applied to the letters U and S standing for the United States, began using the term "Uncle Sam" figuratively, for the United States. This interpretation was picked up by other soldiers who began to call everything belonging to the government, "Uncle Sam's."

By an act of the 87<sup>th</sup> Congress of the United States the following Resolution was adopted September 15, 1961.

"Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring) that the Congress salutes "Uncle Sam" Wilson of Troy, New York, as the progenitor of America's symbol of "Uncle Sam."

On October 18, 1980, a celebration was held in Troy to unveil a monument dedicated to Uncle Sam Wilson who became the symbol of freedom throughout the world.

## **WHAT PRICE FREEDOM**

We know that wars have been fought within our nation, neighbor against neighbor, brother against brother, and also across the oceans and various continents for the sake

of freedom. We have sacrificed our young men and women for this cause but have you ever wondered what happened to those men who signed the Declaration of Independence?

There were five signers who were captured by the British as traitors. At least a dozen of the fifty-six men had their homes ransacked and burned. Two lost their sons in the Continental Army. Another had two sons captured. Several took part in various battles of the American Revolution, and many suffered wounds or other physical hardships.

What kind of men were they? Twenty-five were lawyers or jurists. Eleven were merchants. Nine were farmers or large plantation owners. These were men of means and education. Yet they signed the Declaration of Independence, knowing full well that the penalty could be death if they were captured. When these courageous men signed, they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor to the cause of freedom and independence.

RICHARD STOCKTON returned to New Jersey in the fall of 1776 to find the state overrun by the enemy. He removed his wife to safety but was himself captured. His home, his fine library, his writings, were all destroyed. Stockton was so badly treated in prison that his health was ruined, and he died before the war's end.

CARL BRAXTON was a wealthy planter and trader. One by one his ships were captured by the British navy. He loaned a large sum of money to the American cause; it was never paid back. He was forced to sell his plantations and mortgage his other properties to pay off his debts.

THOMAS McKEAN was so hounded by the British that he had to move his family almost constantly. He served in the Continental Congress without pay, and kept his family in hiding.

Vandals or soldiers or both looted the properties of ELLERY, CLYMER, HALL, HEYWARD, MIDDLETON, HARRISON, HOPKINSON, and LIVINGSTON.

THOMAS NELSON, JR noted when fighting at the battle of Yorktown that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the family home for his headquarters. Nelson urged General George Washington to open fire on his own home. This was done and the home was destroyed. Nelson later died bankrupt.

FRANCIS LEWIS also had his home and properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife for two months, and that and other hardships from the war so affected her health that she died only two years later.

"HONEST JOHN" HART was driven from his wife's bedside when she was near death. Their thirteen children fled for their lives. Hart's fields and his gristmill were laid waste. While eluding capture, he never knew where his bed would be the next night. He often slept in forests and caves. When he returned home, he found that his wife had died, and his children were gone.

Such are the stories and sacrifices of those who risked everything to sign the Declaration of Independence. These men were not wild-eyed, rabble-rousing ruffians. They were soft-spoken men of means and education. They had security, but they valued liberty more. Standing tall, straight, and unwavering, they pledged: "For the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of the Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other, our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor." They gave us an Independent America.

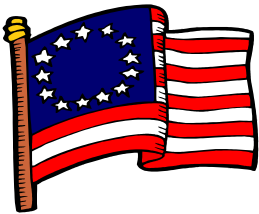
Is it worth it, and CAN WE KEEP IT??

*Compliments of Inst. For Enterprise Adv.*

## HISTORY OF THE FLAG

The first official American flag, the Continental or Grand Union Flag, was displayed on Prospect Hill, January 1, 1776, in the American lines besieging Boston. It had thirteen alternate red and white stripes, with the British Union Jack in the upper left corner.

On June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress adopted the design for a new flag, which actually was the Continental flag, with the Red Cross of St. George and the White Cross of St. Andrew replaced on the blue field by thirteen stars, one for each state. No rule was made as to the arrangement of the stars, and while they were usually shown in a circle, there were various other designs. It is uncertain when the new flag was first flown, but its first official announcement is believed to have been on September 3, 1777.



The first public assertion that Betsy Ross made the first Stars and Stripes appeared in a paper read before the Historical Society of Pennsylvania on March 14, 1870, by William J. Canby, a grandson. However, Mr. Canby on later investigation found no official documents of any actions by Congress on the flag before June 14, 1777. Betsy Ross's own story, according to her daughter, was that Washington, Robert Morris and George Ross, as representatives of Congress visited her in Philadelphia in June 1776, showing her a rough draft of the flag and asking her if she could make one. However, the only actual record of the manufacture of flags by Betsy Ross is a voucher in Harrisburg, Pa., for 14 pounds and some shillings for flags for the Pennsylvania navy.

On January 13, 1794, Congress voted to add two stars and two stripes to the flag in recognition of the admission of Vermont and Kentucky to the union. The fifteen-star, fifteen-stripe flag, was made by Mary Young Pickersgill, was raised over the ramparts of Fort McHenry, Maryland, and inspired Francis Scott Key to write the poem that is now our National Anthem, "Star-Spangled Banner" on September 14, 1814. By 1818, there were twenty states in the Union, and as it was obvious that the flag would soon become unwieldy, Congress voted April 18 to return to the original thirteen stripes and to indicate the admission of a new state simply by the addition of a star. Two stars were added July 4, 1912, for New Mexico and Arizona. President Eisenhower signed a bill on July 7, 1958, to make Alaska the 49<sup>th</sup> state, and on August 21, 1959, Hawaii, the 50<sup>th</sup> state, was officially admitted to the Union.

*Source: Encyclopedia Britannica*

## AWAITING THE CROWN

I am the flagpole. I stand alone, naked and forgotten. My halyard waves in the breeze, its purpose forgotten. Without my majestic crown of red, white, and blue I am nothing. What has happened to my town, which was once so proud of its Flag? Why is it not raised at dawn every morning with its colors blazing above a town who has given much of its own blood so that it might wave? And what of those who are presently serving under it, insuring that it stays there? What are they to think when they come home after fighting and serving so fiercely to preserve freedom, our nation's greatest gift, only to find that no one really cared enough to show it. Oh sure, you say that it is flown at commemorative services held on Memorial Day for those who have fought so bravely. Hundreds of Old Glory wave and freedom and patriotism resound loud and clear on Flag Day and the Fourth of July. These, however, are only three days out of an entire year.

Is freedom something only to be thankful for three or four times a year? If this be so, then the next time you send your children off to school or openly disagree with a policy set up by your government, just stop for a moment and ask yourself if you would be able to do this if you lived in any other country. No, freedom cannot be an occasional thing. In order to keep it you must live and honor it everyday that you have the privilege of being here. Let others know that it is everyone's duty, in every corner of America, to honor your flag. I have only one last question to ask of you. When was the last time that you pledged allegiance to your Flag?

**I AM THE FLAGPOLE.  
I AWAIT MY CROWN.**

*Written by USMC Sgt. Sandra R. Bryson,  
member of Cameron Unit #18 at Cameron, W.  
VA*

**REVIVE THE GLORY DAYS OF OLD  
GLORY**

Hello. Remember me? Some people call me Old Glory, others call me the Star-Spangled Banner, but whatever they call me, I am your flag, the flag of the United States of America. Something has been bothering me.

I remember some time ago, people would line up on both sides of the street to watch the parade, and naturally I was leading every one, proudly waving in the breeze.

When your daddy saw me coming, he removed his hat and placed it against his left shoulder so that his hand was directly over his heart. Remember? And you, I remember, were standing there straight, as a soldier. You didn't have a hat, but you were giving the right salute. Remember your little sister? Not to be outdone, she was saluting the same as you.

What happened? I'm still the same old flag. Oh, maybe I've added a few more stars since you were a boy, and a lot more blood has been shed since those parades of long ago. But now, somehow, I don't feel as proud as I used to feel. When I come down your street, you just stand there with your hands in your pockets. You may give me a small glance, and then you look away. I see children running around and shouting; they don't seem to know who I am. I saw one man take his hat off, then he looked around, and when he didn't see anybody else take off his hat, he quickly put his on again.

Is it a sin to be patriotic today? Have you forgotten what I stand for, and where I have been? Anzio, Guadalcanal, Korea, Vietnam, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan and Iraq.

Take a look at the memorial honor rolls and see the names of those patriotic Americans who gave their lives to keep this republic free. When you salute ME, you are actually saluting THEM.

Well, it won't be long until I'll be coming down your street again. So when you see me, please stand straight and place your hand over your heart. I'll salute you by waving back.

**I AM THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES  
OF AMERICA**

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 institutions of learning. I stand guard with 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 proud.

When I am flown with my fellow banners, my head is a little higher, my colors a little truer, I bow to no one!! I am recognized all over the world. I am saluted, I am loved, I am revered, I am respected - and I am feared.

I have fought in every battle of every war for more than 200 years. I was flown at Valley Forge, Gettysburg, Shiloh and Appomattox. I was there at San Juan Hill, the trenches of France, in the Argonne Forest, Anzio, Rome and the beaches of Normandy, Guam, and Okinawa. The people of Korea, Vietnam and Kuwait know me as a Banner of Freedom. I was there. I led my troops, I was dirty, battle worn and tired, but my soldiers cheered me.

And I was proud. I have been burned, torn and trampled on the streets of countries I have helped set free. It does not hurt, for I am invincible. I have slipped the bonds of earth and stood watch over the uncharted frontiers of space from my vantage point on the moon.

I have borne silent witness to all of America's finest hours. But my finest hours are yet to come. When I am torn into strips and used as bandages for my wounded comrades on the battlefield, when I am flown at half-mast to honor my countryman, when I lie in the trembling arms of a grieving parent at the grave of their fallen son or daughter, or in the arms of a child or spouse who will have to go on without one who gave their life in a national disaster to save the life of another, as many did at the Pentagon, The World Trade Center Towers and Pennsylvania on September 11, 2001.

MY NAME IS OLD GLORY; LONG MAY I WAVE!

### **HOW IMPORTANT IS ONE VOTE**

Every election held becomes more critical if each of us is to maintain our personal freedom; yet every election finds thousands of eligible citizens who do not vote. They feel that their one vote is not important and doesn't mean a thing. The election of 2000 clearly indicated that a vote is important. It was not clear until the late part of December who the winner for the presidency was and

then it was decided by the United States Supreme Court.

### **HOW IMPORTANT IS ONE VOTE?**

In 1645 – One vote gave Oliver Cromwell control of England.

In 1649 – One vote caused Charles I of England to be executed.

In 1776 – One vote gave America the English language instead of German.

In 1845 – One vote brought Texas into the union.

In 1868 – One vote saved President Andrew Johnson from impeachment.

In 1876 – One vote changed France from a monarchy to a Republic.

In 1876 – One vote gave Rutherford B. Hayes the Presidency of the United States.

In 1923 – One vote gave Adolph Hitler leadership of the Nazi Party.

In 1941 – One vote saved selective service just weeks before Pearl Harbor.

In 1948 – Lyndon B. Johnson was elected to the U.S. Senate by less than one vote per precinct in the state of Texas. (He eventually became President of the United States and appointed Thurgood Marshall to the U.S. Supreme Court.)

In 1982 – Governor James R. Thompson was reelected Governor of Illinois by less than one vote per precinct.

How important is one vote? Your vote? A wise man once said, "Liberty means responsibility – this is why most men dread it."

Do you dread it, or do you consider liberty your responsibility – to be preserved where it counts most, in the ballot box? There are white crosses here and abroad that commemorate our youth who died to give

you this privilege. Is your vote important? Was their life important? You be the judge.

### **POW/MIA** **“THE EMPTY TABLE”**

We call your attention to this small table, which occupies a place of dignity and honor. It is set for one, symbolizing the fact that members of our armed forces are missing from our ranks. They are referred to as POW/MIA'S.

We call them Comrade. They are unable to be with their loved ones and families, so we join together to pay humble tribute to them, and to bear witness to their continued absence.

The table is small symbolizing the frailty of one prisoner, alone against his other suppressers. The tablecloth is white, symbolic of the purity of their intentions to respond to their call to arms.

The single rose in the vase, the blood they may have shed in sacrifice to ensure the freedom of our beloved United States of America. This rose also reminds us of the family and of our missing comrades who keep faith while awaiting their return.

The red ribbon on the vase represents the red ribbon worn on the lapels of the thousands who demand with unyielding determination, a proper account of our comrades who are not among us.

A slice of lemon on the plate reminds us of their bitter fate.

The salt sprinkled on the plate reminds us of the countless fallen tears of families as they wait.

The glass is inverted, they cannot toast with us at this time. The chair is empty. They are not here.

The candle is reminiscent of the gift of hope, which lives in our hearts to illuminate their way home, away from their captors, to open arms of a grateful nation.

The American Flag reminds us that many of them may never return and have paid the supreme sacrifice to insure our freedom.

Let us pray to the Supreme Commander that all our comrades will soon be back within our ranks.

Let us remember and never forget their sacrifice.

May God forever watch over them and protect them and their families.



As of December 2002 the number of Americans still missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War is 1,891. Total in Vietnam, 1,444. In Laos, 382, in Cambodia, 57, and 8 in the territorial waters. These are the statistics of the Department of Defense.

### **FLAG FOLDING CEREMONY**

THE POINT OF HONOR of the flag of the United States is a canton of blue containing the stars representing the states of those who served. The point of honor of the flag of the United States dresses from the left to the right and the only time it is inverted and displayed in the manner in which you see it today is when it comes to serve as a pall on the casket of a veteran who has served his country honorably in uniform.

In the evening, in the Armed Forces of the United States at the ceremony of Retreat after Taps have been sounded, the flag is

lowered and folded in a triangle fold, and kept under watch throughout the night as a tribute to our Nation's honored dead. The next morning it is brought out at the ceremony of Reveille and ran up aloft as a symbol of our belief in the resurrection of the body.

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

The Second fold is a symbol of our belief in the eternal life, and the fold we make in honor and remembrance of this veteran whom we are commemorating today, for he, too, gave a portion of his life for the defense of our country and our flag, and we are here today to perform this flag-folding ceremony in order to show forth to his family and friends that his efforts to attain peace throughout the world have not been in vain and shall never be forgotten.

We fold to the left in the shape of a triangle, for this is where our hearts lie. It is with our hearts 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.

We fold again to the left in the shape of a triangle, representing our weaker nature; for we, as American citizens, trust in God, and it is to Him we turn in times of peace, as well as in times of war, for His divine guidance.

We fold to the right as a tribute to our Armed Forces; for it is through these same Armed Forces that we protect our country and our flag from all her enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of our Republic.

We fold again to the right as a tribute to our country, for in the words of the immortal Stephen Decatur, "OUR COUNTRY, IN DEALING WITH OTHER COUNTRIES, MAY SHE ALWAYS BE RIGHT; BUT IT IS STILL OUR COUNTRY, RIGHT OR WRONG."

We fold to the left as tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death that we might see the light of day, and this fold is made to honor Mother for whom it flies on Mother's Day.

We fold again to the left as a tribute to our Womanhood; for it has been through their faith, love, loyalty, and devotion that the characters of the men that have made this country great have been molded.

We fold to the right as a tribute to Father; for he, too, has given of his sons for the defense of our country since she was born.

We fold from the stripes toward the stars; for, whereas the stripes represent the thirteen original colonies that founded our Republic, they are now embodied in the fifty sovereign states represented by the stars, so that the stars cover the stripes.

We fold to the left in the shape of a triangle, for, in the eyes of a Hebrew citizen, this represents the lower portion of the Seal of King David and King Solomon, and glorifies in their eyes the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.

We fold again to the left in the shape of a triangle; for, in the eyes of the Christian citizen, this represents an emblem of Eternity and glorifies in their eyes God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

When our flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost, which reminds us of the national motto "IN GOD WE TRUST."

After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a three-cornered cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington, and the sailors and marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones, and, followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States have preserved for us the rights, privileges, and freedom which we are enjoying today.

## TAPS

A familiar melody to all that have ever attended a military funeral or a memorial service. There are no official words to this melody; however, these are the words that are accepted.

“Day is done, gone the sun,  
From the hills, from the lake,  
From the skies.  
All is well, safely rest.  
God is nigh.

Go to sleep, peaceful sleep,  
May the soldier or sailor,  
God keep.  
On the land or the deep,  
Safe in sleep.

Love, good night, must thou go,  
When the day, and the night  
Need thee so?  
All is well. Speedeth all  
To their rest.

Fades the light; and afar  
Goeth day, And the stars  
Shineth bright.  
Fare thee well; day has gone,  
Night is on.

Thanks and praise, for our days,  
‘Neath the sun, ‘Neath the stars,  
‘Neath the sky.  
As we go, this we know,  
God is nigh.”

## ARLINGTON

In the beginning of 1802 a house was in the first stages of construction. It was being built by George Washington Parke Custis, adopted son of George Washington. It was to be a memorial to George Washington and would house the largest collection of memorabilia in his honor. Custis owned 15,000 acres; however, he chose the choice location just north of Mt. Vernon, consisting of 1,100 acres for this purpose. It would take him 16 years to complete this project.

This man, who was so dedicated in honoring his stepfather, had a daughter, Mary Anna Randolph Custis. She would be the sole beneficiary upon the death of her father. Mary Anna married a military man, which did not please her father. His name was Robert E. Lee. Because of his disdain for Lee, he maintained the supervision and maintenance of Arlington House. Upon his death the house became the property of Mary Anna and her husband. It was in severe need of repair and Robert E. Lee’s goal was to once again restore it to its original condition. This took many years.

Robert E. Lee was known for his abilities concerning the military field. When rumors of war and secession became louder and louder he was torn apart. Before the actual secession of the south, he was asked, by General Scott, to take command of a new army that was being raised. Lee stated at that time, “I can not take part in an invasion of the southern states or my home, Virginia.” General Scott’s reply was, “Lee you have made the greatest mistake of your life, but I feared it would be so.”

As the dispute between the states came closer, he was requested to again travel to Washington, D.C., to accept a command. His response was, “With all my devotion to the Union and the feeling of loyalty and duty as an American Citizen, I have not been able to make up my mind to raise my hand against my relations, my children, my home.” This would be the last trip that he would make, for in 1861 he took command of the Southern Army and asked his wife, Mary Custis Lee to leave their home across the Potomac and find safety. This she said she would do. Federal troops crossed the Potomac in May and Mary Custis Lee pleaded with General McDowell to protect the wealth of memorabilia of George Washington. His response was that she could rest assured that it would be taken care of. However, this was not done and when it was realized that the request had not been carried out, Federal troops had

already taken much of it. The remainder was packed and labeled: "Captured at Arlington."

Military installations were created over the 1,100 acres, including Fort Whipple (on the site of the present Ft. Myer) and also around the mansion known as Arlington House. Arlington House became a Federal headquarters. It was primarily a military camp until 1864. However, due to a law passed it could be confiscated for governmental use, if the taxes could not be paid. They must be paid by the owner of the property and no one else. Mary Custis Lee was in a wheelchair and could not make the trip to pay them in person, so she authorized her cousin to pay them. The taxes amounted to \$92.07. The Federal government refused to accept payment and declared the mansion and the acreage for public sale. The tax commissioners were the only bidders. The property, consisting of 1,100 acres, the mansion and all out buildings, was sold for the amount of \$26,810 and earmarked "for government use for war, military, charitable or educational purposes."

At this time, a brigadier general named Montgomery Meigs, controlled construction of barracks, depots, hospitals, cemeteries, roads and furthermore he hated the Lee and Custis family with a vengeance. He had also been burying bodies on the property illegally. However, after the law was passed and the property passed to the government, he was able to play out his hatred for the family, legally. Even if Arlington was the only available location capable of satisfying the need for more burial ground there were many plots within the 1,100 acres that could have been used. However, Meigs wanted to make sure that Lee could never return and reside at Arlington House again, and thus began burying bodies up to the very steps of the mansion. It is interesting to note that the body of Meigs is buried within one hundred yards of Lee's rose garden.

After the defeat of the Confederate Army, Lee could not return and he and his wife spent their remaining years at Washington University. He never again revisited Arlington House.

In 1879, his son, George Washington Custis Lee, sued the Federal government and it was declared that the government had deprived Mary Custis Lee her property without due process of law. The property was to be returned to the Lee family. The question was what would be done with the 16,000 bodies buried there. Custis Lee could have demanded that all remains be disinterred and the military post be dismantled. Vengeance was not his goal and so he submitted a letter stating that he would accept compensation for the family loss, in the amount of \$150,000.00. This amount was paid by the government and they were happy to pay it. The memorabilia, the very reason for the Arlington House's existence, was never located except for the few pieces in the Smithsonian.

Note: The oldest grave located in Arlington is that of Mary Randolph who had special ties to the Custis Family.

## **THE WHITE HOUSE**

For over two hundred years, the White House has stood as a symbol of the Presidency, the United States government, and the American people. Its history, and the history of the nation's capital, began when President George Washington signed an Act of Congress in December of 1790 declaring that the federal government would reside in a district "not exceeding ten miles square ... on the river Potomac." President Washington, together with city planner Pierre L'Enfant, chose the site for the new residence, which is now 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. As preparations began for the new federal city, a competition was held to find a builder of the "President's House." Nine proposals were submitted, and Irish-born

architect James Hoban won a gold medal for his practical and handsome design.

Construction began when the first cornerstone was laid in October of 1792. Although President Washington oversaw the construction of the house, he never lived in it. It was not until 1800, when the White House was nearly completed, that its first residents, President John Adams and his wife, Abigail, moved in. Since that time, each President has made his own changes and additions. The White House is, after all, the President's private home. It is also the only private residence of a head of state that is open to the public, free of charge.

The White House has a unique and fascinating history. It survived a fire at the hands of the British in 1814 (during the war of 1812) and another fire in the West Wing in 1929, while Herbert Hoover was President. Throughout much of Harry S. Truman's presidency, the interior of the house, with the exception of the third floor, was completely gutted and renovated while the Trumans lived at Blair House, right across Pennsylvania Avenue. Nonetheless, the exterior stone walls are those first put in place when the White House was constructed two centuries ago.

Presidents can express their individual style in how they decorate some parts of the house and in how they receive the public during their stay. Thomas Jefferson held the first Inaugural open house in 1805. Many of those who attended the swearing-in ceremony at the U.S. Capitol simply followed him home, where he greeted them in the Blue Room. President Jefferson also opened the house for public tours, and it has remained open, except during wartime, ever since. In addition, he welcomed visitors to annual receptions on New Year's Day and on the Fourth of July. In 1829, a horde of 20,000 Inaugural callers forced President Andrew Jackson to flee to the safety of a hotel while, on the lawn, aides filled washtubs with orange juice and whiskey to

lure the mob out of the mud-tracked White House.

After Abraham Lincoln's presidency, inaugural crowds became far too large for the White House to accommodate them comfortably. However, not until Grover Cleveland's first presidency did this unsafe practice change. He held a presidential review of the troops from a flag-draped grandstand built in front of the White House. This procession evolved into the official Inaugural Parade we know today. Receptions on New Year's Day and the Fourth of July continued to be held until the early 1930's.

### **Disposal of Flags — Suggested Ceremony**

The public should be informed that your organization will hold a Flag Disposal Ceremony. Be sure to include who, what, where, time, date and why. Also give the name and address of a contact person with whom the Flags can be left. Invite the public to attend. You can even do this at a school with their permission. The ceremony can be conducted with few or many participants. You should always use the Commander, Chaplain, Sgt-at-Arms or Conductress and at least two other people to place Flags on a rack. All participants should line up on each side and act as Honor Guard. Audience members should be kept well back from fire area. At this time you would begin the ceremony.

**Commander:** "Have these Flags been inspected?"

**Sgt-at-Arms:** "They have."

**Commander:** "What does your inspection show and what do you recommend?"

**Sgt-at-Arms:** "These Flags are found to be in an unserviceable condition. I recommend they be disposed of in an appropriate and dignified manner."

**Commander:** “Comrades, we have presented here these Flags of our Country which have been inspected and condemned as unserviceable. A Flag may be a flimsy bit of printed gauze, or a beautiful banner. Its value may be small or great; but its real value is beyond price, for it is a precious symbol of all that we and our comrades have worked for and lived for, and died for – a free nation of free men, true to the faith of the past, devoted to the ideals and practice of Justice, Freedom, and Democracy.

Let these faded Flags of our Country be destroyed and let no grave of our soldier or sailor go unmarked. We will destroy these Flags by burning.”

*(At this time the Commander will cut the blue from the Flag.)*

**Chaplain:** “Almighty God, Captain of all hosts and Commander over all, bless and consecrate this present hour. We thank you for our Country and its Flag, and for the liberty for which it stands. To clean and purging flame we commit these Flags, worn out in worthy service. As we yield their substance to the fire, may your Holy Light spread over us and bring our hearts renewed devotion to God and Country. Amen.”

*(Here an appropriate song could be sung.)*

Once the song has ended the Commander will say “Hand Salute.” At which time the Flag Detail will proceed with the Flags to the burning rack and all will salute. Once the flags are burned the Commander will say “Two” and the Flag Detail will return to their original position and at this time “Taps” will be played.

After TAPS, the designated persons, usually the Commander and/or Chaplain will collect the ashes. The ashes are placed in an appropriate container and buried in a designated area often at the base of the Flag Pole. You may dismiss the audience after TAPS or after the burial.

## **RITUAL FOR A WORN OUT FLAG**

On June 14, 1877, Congress resolved “that the Flag of the United States be 13 stripes, alternate red and white, that the Union be 13 stars, white in a blue field representing a new Constellation.”

After this was passed our Flag looked different each time a new State joined the Union because a new stripe was added. The Flag soon required very tall flag poles so on April 4, 1818, Congress enacted: “that from the fourth day of July next the Flag of the United States be 13 horizontal stripes, alternate red and white; that the Union be 20 stars, white in a blue field, that on the admission of every new State into the Union, one star be added to the Union of the Flag and that such additions shall take effect on the Fourth of July next succeeding such admission.”

As states were admitted the position of Stars were changed so that today we have stars in 9 rows: 5 rows with 6 stars and 4 rows with 5 stars.

We, as American citizens, respect our Flag even to seeing that it retains its original beauty, and when it is no longer a fitting emblem for use and must be destroyed, we do it in a dignified way by burning.

The leader says: “I will cut out the Union of the Flag, and when the Union is gone, the Flag is no longer a flag.” The Union is then cut out. It is then placed in the incinerator, 13 members representing the 13 original colonies come forward in order 1 through 13, each dressed in costume representative of the costumes of their day. Beginning with the first colony, each reads (or recites from memory) their part. Then as each one finishes, they take the scissors, and starting at the top of what had been our Flag, they cut off one stripe and place it in the incinerator. After all stripes have been cut out, the fire is lit.

While the members watch the burning flag, the leader says: "Nothing is really ended until it is forgotten. Our Flag, the symbol of freedom for over 216 million plus citizens of our great land, and the banner under which countless millions have given their last measure of devotion in wars to protect our freedom, will never be forgotten. It is for us the living, in strength and unity, to love and respect our Flag. As we remember our Flag, we know that it represents the living country and it is a precious possession. So let us with pride continue to say."

"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."

Let us bow for a prayer of dedication. "Almighty God, our creator, we are thankful that we may serve Thee in freedom and peace; grant that we may realize the true meaning of liberty; give us the strength and zeal to keep our country, from sea to shining sea, free of violence and confusion. Direct us, we pray, in the paths of peace. In Thy Name. Amen."

If possible for this part in the ritual, select a member who is from the state. The one selected recites (or reads) their part, pauses and asks "What State did we become?" pauses for someone to answer, and if they get no response, the name of the state is given and they step aside.

### **FIRST COLONY:**

Our colony was settled first by Swedes and Dutchmen who landed in two vessels – the Key of Kalmar and the Bird Griffin in March 1638. We were joined later by thirty-two Finns and others, but the going was hard. We were taken over by stronger colonies and finally became English after our capture by Sir Robert Carr. We remained so until the American Revolution. Our 'Paul Revere' was Caesar Rodney who made it possible

for us to be a signer of the Declaration of Independence. We were the first colony to join the Union. What State did we become? DELAWARE

### **SECOND COLONY:**

Our leader wanted to name our colony "New Wales" or "Sylvania," but King Charles II would have neither. We Quakers came to the New World in 1681 because of religious persecution. In our colony if we owned land and believed in God, we could vote. We grew faster than any other colony thanks to the leadership of our first governor. We were the second colony to join the Union. What State did we become? PENNSYLVANIA

### **THIRD COLONY:**

We started out as two separate colonies - one on the Hudson River and the other on the Delaware. We were settled by Quakers, Dutch, Swedes, Finns, English and others. In 1702 we were united into one colony, and some important battles of the American Revolution, such as the battle of Trenton, were fought on our soil. We were the third colony to join the Union. What State did we become? NEW JERSEY

### **FOURTH COLONY:**

We were the last of the colonies to be formed. James Oglethorpe thought that we, who were thrown into English prisons because we couldn't pay our debts, could pay if we came to the New World, and so we along with some other unfortunate people, after being carefully screened to make sure we were not criminals, landed in 1733. We were all Protestants with the exception of 40 Jews. We were the fourth colony to join the Union. What State did we become? GEORGIA

## **FIFTH COLONY:**

Our colony was set up without a royal charter. Maybe that is why we grew so peacefully from 1701 to 1774. We were made up of many theocracies. We were mostly farmers and did well. We exported our crops, along with tobacco which grew well, in our colony. Our famous settler, Israel Putnam, came to the aid of Boston just before our entry into the American Revolution. We were the fifth colony to join the Union. What State did we become? CONNECTICUT

## **SIXTH COLONY:**

We were made up of people who had broken away from the Church of England and were known as Separatists, and others who were called Strangers, but all were seeking religious freedom and self-government. "The Mayflower" was our ship and we landed in the New World at Plymouth in 1620. Soon we became known as the Pilgrims. Next to our shores came settlers who were Puritans. They believed in education and were instrumental in founding Harvard in 1636. We were the sixth colony to join the Union. What State did we become? MASSACHUSETTS

## **SEVENTH COLONY:**

Our leader was born a Protestant, but became a Catholic and because of his friendship with a Protestant, James I, we did not have to give up our religion because of the Reformation. We came to the New World in 1634 and were granted all the rights of free Englishmen. Our leader intended to let people of all faiths settle in our colony, but his purpose was never accomplished as here the Catholics were persecuted almost immediately. However, our colony prospered since tobacco, which grew well here, was a money crop. We were the seventh colony to join the Union. What State did we become? MARYLAND

## **EIGHTH COLONY:**

Our territory had been used as a trading post by the Spaniards 150 years before we came and the persecuted Huguenots from France had made a settlement here, but abandoned it too. So our group of about 140 persons mostly English settled here in 1670, and the luckiest day for us was the day Henry Woodward came to our struggling colony. He had lived in Barbados, and the first thing he did on his arrival was make friends with the Indians thus allowing us to trade supplies with them. We were the eighth colony to join the Union. What State did we become? SOUTH CAROLINA

## **NINTH COLONY:**

We had a strange beginning. The ship, Jonathan, in 1623 arrived at our shore under the command of David Thompson who had come to make money for a group in England known as the Plymouth Council. They were to catch fish and evaporate water for salt. But soon two London fish merchants with more men came to our colony and this time they settled here. Despite hardships we prospered and Daniel Webster who was born here said "Men hang out their signs indicative of their respective trades; shoemakers hang out a gigantic shoe; jewelers a monster watch; and the dentist hangs out a gold tooth; but up in the mountains of New Hampshire, God Almighty has hung out a sign to show that there he makes men." We were the ninth colony to join the Union. What State did we become? NEW HAMPSHIRE

## **TENTH COLONY:**

Two of our goals when we set out to settle our colony were: to find gold and the lost Roanoke Colony. The third one was to find a passage to the now Pacific Ocean. None of these were accomplished after we arrived in 1607. Had it not been for John Smith who shrewdly dealt with the Indians and got food, we might have starved to death. John Rolfe

helped us also; he obtained tobacco seed from the West Indies that grew well for us and thus started an industry that made our colony prosper. We were the tenth colony to join the Union. What State did we become? VIRGINIA

### **ELEVENTH COLONY:**

Our ship was sent to the New World in 1624 loaded with 30 families, some of whom were Dutch, others French-speaking people who had fled from Holland. We were joined by more and more people until we soon became a melting pot with little religious persecution because of the number of different faiths. The name of our colony was at first New Amsterdam, but when we were taken over by the English in 1664, the name was changed. We were the eleventh colony to join the Union. What State did we become? NEW YORK

### **TWELFTH COLONY:**

The physical features of our colony were very much like that of Virginia, but our first settlers were not from the Old World. They came from Virginia and were bent on making settlements in the wilderness where they would have freedom. By the year 1694 our population had grown because many French Huguenots came from Virginia to our shores and soon more settlers came from Europe. We were the twelfth colony to join the Union. What State did we become? NORTH CAROLINA

### **THIRTEENTH COLONY:**

We, the smallest of all colonies, had for two years only one settler, William Blackstone, a minister of the Church of England, who was a hermit. Six years after the hermit, who came in 1630, Roger Williams came to our colony from Massachusetts; in fact, most of our settlers were from that colony. Under him our colony grew and in 1655, the first Jews came to us and built the first synagogue in the American Colonies. You

will remember that our Mr. Williams believed in separation of church and state. We were the thirteenth colony to join the Union. What State did we become? RHODE ISLAND

### **The History of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier**

The idea of honoring the unknown dead originated in Europe after World War I. The first country to honor its unknown warriors from that war was Great Britain. Reverend David Railton while on the Western Front thought at that time of having an unknown serviceman transported back to England and buried with full honors. He had captured this idea when he came across a rough wooden cross which had been inscribed "An unknown British soldier, of the Black Watch." That grave caused Railton to think! Who was he? Who were they (his folk)? Was he just a laddie? There was no answer to those questions, nor has there ever been. So he thought and thought and wrestled in thought. What could he do to ease the pain of father, mother, brother, sister, sweetheart, wife and friend? Quietly and gradually there came out of the mist of thought this answer clear and strong, "Let this body, this symbol of him – be carried reverently over the sea to his native land."

The Government of the United States was not receptive to this idea. It was the veterans and families of soldiers killed in war that lobbied and fought for this action. The Government relented and began searching for a location for the burial sight.

The original unknown warrior was laid to rest in Westminster Abbey on Armistice Day, November 11, 1920, in an impressive ceremony. The body, borne on a gun carriage was covered with a Union Jack and placed upon it was a steel trench helmet, a khaki belt and a crusader's sword. The service was held in Westminster Abbey and the coffin was guarded by winners of the Victoria Cross which is the highest award for valor. The King scattered French soil, which

had been brought from Flanders Field, over the coffin as it was laid to rest. The inscription read:

**A BRITISH WARRIOR  
WHO FELL IN THE GREAT WAR  
1914-1918  
FOR KING AND COUNTRY**

A project such as this was proposed to Army Chief of Staff, General Peyton C. March, in October 1919. He denied the proposal since he felt that the Army Graves Registration Service would eventually identify all American dead. Furthermore, the United States had no burial place for a fallen hero similar to Westminster Abbey.

Congressman Hamilton Fish, Jr., of New York introduced a resolution calling for the return to the United States of an unknown American soldier killed in France and the burial with appropriate ceremonies be at a tomb constructed at the Memorial Amphitheater in Arlington National Cemetery. This was approved in March 1921 and the body of an unidentified soldier, killed in France, was laid to eternal rest at the plaza of the Memorial Amphitheater on November 11, 1921. This soldier represented all the unidentified and missing from World War I.

Since that time an unidentified American service member has been laid to rest with the highest honors for World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

**The Sentinel's Creed**

My dedication to this sacred duty is total and whole-hearted. In the responsibility bestowed on me never will I falter. And with dignity and perseverance my standard will remain perfection. Through the years of diligence and praise and the discomfort of the elements, I will walk my tour in humble reverence to the best of my ability. It is he who commands the respect I protect, his bravery that made us so proud. Surrounded

by well meaning crowds by day, alone in the thoughtful peace of night, this soldier will in honored glory rest under my eternal vigilance.

**Guarding the Tomb of the Unknown  
Soldier**

This duty requires a very special kind of person and it is a great honor to be selected.

**Q.** How many steps does the guard take during their walk across the Tomb of the Unknowns and why?

**A.** Twenty one (21) steps. It alludes to the twenty-one gun salute, which is the highest honor given any military or foreign dignitary.

**Q.** How long does the guard hesitate after "about face" to begin the return walk and why?

**A.** Twenty one (21) seconds for the same reason as answer 1.

**Q.** Why are their gloves wet?

**A.** Gloves are moistened to prevent losing their grip on the rifle.

**Q.** Do they carry the rifle on the same shoulder all the time, and if not why?

**A.** The rifle is always carried on the shoulder away from the Tomb. When executing an "about face" the rifle is moved to the outside shoulder.

**Q.** How often are the guards changed?

**A.** Guards are changed every thirty minutes, twenty four hours a day, 365 days a year.

**Q.** What are the physical traits of the guard limited to?

**A.** For a person to be selected they must be between 5'10" and 6'2" and waist size cannot exceed 30 inches.

## **Other Requirements of the Guard**

They must commit for the privilege of being selected to guard the Tomb; two (2) years of service; live in a barracks under the Tomb; and cannot drink any alcohol on or off duty for the rest of their lives. They cannot swear in public and cannot disgrace the uniform or Tomb in any way.

After two years, the guard is awarded a wreath pin that is worn on their lapel signifying they served as guard of the Tomb.

The guard must obey these rules for the rest of their lives or give up the wreath pin.

Their shoes are especially made with very thick soles to keep the heat and cold from their feet.

There are metal heel plates that extend to the top of the shoe in order to make the loud click as they come to a halt. There are no wrinkles, folds or lint on the uniform. Guards dress for duty in front of a full-length mirror.

The first six months of duty a guard cannot talk to anyone, nor watch TV. All off-duty time is spent studying the 175 notable people laid to rest in the Arlington National Cemetery.

A guard must memorize who they were and where they are interred. Every guard spends five hours a day getting his uniform ready for guard duty.