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To The Flag: America's Banner of Enduring Freedom

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The background of the entire image is a close-up, slightly blurred view of the American flag. The top half shows a field of white stars on a dark blue background, while the bottom half shows the red and white stripes. The text is centered over the lower portion of the flag.

TO THE FLAG
AMERICA'S BANNER OF
ENDURING FREEDOM

by
D.P. Diffine, Ph.D.

Recipient of
"The New Constellation Award"
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I. WHY AMERICA IS "OVER THERE"

What in the world is at stake for America's "Operation Enduring Freedom," our war on terrorism? How shall we gauge the future of our land so recently visited with terrorism against our pillars of capitalism, the New York Trade Center Twin Towers? We have been violated, lost our innocence, and the stakes are high. Josiah Bailey said it best long ago:

The American Republic and American Business are Siamese Twins; they came out of the same womb at the same time; they are born in the same principles and when American business dies, the American Republic will die, and when the American Republic dies, American business will die.

War and Peace. Few of us in the United States have slept well lately; and we've had that socked-in-the-stomach feeling over the war on terrorism. There have been some very dark days, but also some incredibly bright hours. Words such as "prayer," "God," and "America" are now being used in the same sentence in public forums, and, thankfully, nobody seems to object.

Because of "Operation Enduring Freedom," today there are some empty chairs in many family circles. To those families we should extend our love, sympathy, prayers, and humanitarian aid

Why America Is "Over There"

which has long been the hallmark of American voluntarism. In that regard, and during the initial six weeks after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on America's commerce and defense facilities, our extraordinary private citizens donated over \$1,400,000,000 through personal giving.

Seventeenth century legal theorist Hugo Grotius -- the father of international law -- listed six conditions that a "just war" must meet: (1) the cause must be just, (2) warfare must be conducted in proportion to the injury or threat, (3) the war must be winnable, (4) war must be declared publicly and (5) by a legitimate authority, and (6) the war must be a last resort.

The reasons why we are "over there" do add up, and they will be enumerated in detail in chapters I through IV of this monograph. We need to acknowledge all the reasons, to avoid cruelly punishing ourselves and others with false guilt. We will still have some frustration to work through--to keep us from being literally sick at heart. The medical term for that is now known as "CNN Syndrome."

Lest we Americans develop a national schizophrenia over "Operation Enduring Freedom," here is Wartime Economics 101. Let's start with a reason that has been frequently cited. We're "over there" to preserve "... truth, justice, and the American way." Is there some truth to the point? Yes,

Why America is "Over There"

and it is probably ample reason to send our finest into battle. However, there are many other reasons. All are related; some are more compelling than others. Together they join into a compelling mosaic.

We would like to have these fine people back right away, but we cannot simply withdraw and cross our fingers that there will be no more such crises visited on our land. We have embarked on a course that will require collective resolve, diplomatic savvy, and mega quantities of manpower and equipment. What seemed to originate in Afganistan, became a threat to the entire Arab world, and is now a threat to the rest of the globe.

Although we often have our differences, we still join together in times of crises, such as "Operation Enduring Freedom." Especially at these times, our strength is awesome. Among all the world's nations, America still stands out in front. We should never forget that we are Americans, first, last, and always.

So, today, as our American expeditionary force goes forward into battle which has no front, we are armed with the best technology and Thomas Jefferson's watchword, "Eternal vigilance is the price of peace."

Why America is (Not) Great

and a... (The text is extremely faint and largely illegible, appearing to be a list of points or a long paragraph.)

Although we often have our differences... (The text continues with faint, illegible paragraphs, possibly discussing national identity or political issues.)

II. WHICH WAY TO THE FRONT?

America is not a warmongering nation but rather a cautious trustee of our planet. Only the United States is strong enough to be the guardian of justice. As President George Herbert Walker Bush stated during "Operation Desert Storm," "...Such is the price of leadership." We desire so much to live in a world where fighting will not be necessary. Terrorists do not view things that way.

We cannot fight everybody's war. Any American president would be impeached for trying that. Therefore, we have to fight only those wars in which we have a vital national interest. Where a ruthless aggressor is involved, a bogus peace can lead to a bigger war later. We now know that there can be no trusting any deals any terrorist leader makes under diplomatic pressure. Such false trust would be an appeaser's peace, fated to erupt later in a sucker's war.

"Operation Enduring Freedom" has become nothing less than an effort to sustain the well-being of billions of people including Americans. Sanctions don't have a history of forcing terrorists out of conquered territory. Sanctions don't restrain a leader who protects his military first while sacrificing his civilian population.

Have appeasers done their homework? Anything less than defeat for terrorist leaders would soon have the Arab world and the Western democracies back under their

Which Way To the Front?

peace with the biggest bullies on the regional playground would soon become more bold, reckless, and unpredictable.

Alas, war hath no fury like non-combatants. To this writer, it makes little sense for the sheep and lambs to be signing petitions and waving placards in favor of "vegetarianism," if the wolves don't care. Some day, we are told, the lion will lie down with the lamb. Fine. We should be the lion, just in case that lamb turns out to be another wolf in sheep's clothing. Remember the Pentagon!

So, what about those peace demonstrations today? Across the nation, some would burn their flags. They can burn their flag if they want to; it won't look good on their resume. Theodore Roosevelt was right on target in observing that, "The man who loves other countries as much as he loves his own stands on the level with the man who loves other women as much as he loves his own wife."

The term "Wartime Economics" may itself seem to be a contradiction. This is the language of war: compulsion, victory, defeat, survival, destruction, violence, waste, tactics, assault, defense, fear, and yes, patriotism. However, the language of economics is very different: voluntary action, gain, loss, creating, producing, peaceful work, industriousness, commerce, free trade, and consumer sovereignty.

III. UNTIL PEACE BREAKS OUT

The U.S. economy cannot thrive except under peaceful conditions. The very foundation of our economic lives--our freedom of choice to manage our individual, business, and national affairs--is a direct result of sustained peace in our time. There may not be any quick and painless way for the allied coalition to win the war against terrorism.

For the allied coalition to expect a painless solution to that 1990-91 Persian Gulf War was inconsistent. We did that to ourselves--all the coalition countries did, starting a decade earlier by arming Iraq against Iran. This isn't the first time; history does repeat itself. Who hasn't criticized General Custer's charge in 1876? But where do we suppose the Indians assembled at Little Big Horn obtained all those repeating rifles that General Custer's men lacked? From gun-running Americans. Go figure.

To some extent, the 1990-91 allied coalition members were unwitting partners in creating Iraq's fortress in the first place (and a decade earlier) as we feared Iran would defeat Iraq. Iraq's aircraft and tanks are Russian- and French-made. Italy designed Iraq's nuclear reactor. Those chemical plants were constructed by Germany. U.S.-made computers, dual-use chemicals, and U.S.-grown food flowed into Iraq throughout the 1980's. The British engineered Iraq's underground aircraft bunkers.

Until Peace Breaks Out

A similar approach in the 1980's, albeit sincerely attempting to arm Afgans against the USSR invaders, created the climate for the hornet nests of terrorism in Afganistan. Consider this fable of a knight and his men who have returned to their castle after a long, hard day of fighting. How are we fairing?", asks the king. "Sire," replies the knight, "I have been robbing and pillaging on your behalf all day, burning the towns of your enemies in the West." "What?!", shrieks the king, "I don't have any enemies to the West!" "Oh," says the knight, "Well, you do now."

Our President deserves the support of all Americans. True, the last chapter hasn't been written yet, and won't be for years, but the good guys are going to win. World War III has not started. The present military action will avert World War III. Those wonderful men and women, now serving in the war on terrorism at great personal and economic sacrifice, once again " ... won't be back 'til it's over, over there."

History tells us that aggressors throughout the ages have advanced in the face of weakness and retreated in the face of strength. Always. It may feel good to sing the whining lyrics of "Give Peace a Chance," but it doesn't accomplish much at all toward a genuine, lasting peace that comes through victory over "the evil doers," as our current President Bush has described them.

IV. OIL IN THE FAMILY

To be sure, America's primary economic goal must be to guarantee western nations a stable supply of reasonably priced oil. Two-thirds of the world's oil stock is in the Persian Gulf, as is one-fourth of the world's current flow of crude oil. Our lack of resolve to tap our own recoverable reserves in Alaska, combined with our willingness to do business with OPEC, as if a cartel is an honest and legal marketing situation, has contributed to the power and pervasiveness of OPEC for three decades.

Will we have another spike in energy prices because we still import too much of our oil and are wasteful? No, the planet's chronic energy crisis is that oil provides 40% of the energy and that two-thirds of verified oil reserves are in the Persian Gulf known by its shifting sands of strife for millennia. Additionally, we import half our oil, but even achieving self-sufficiency would not fully protect us from war in the Gulf.

Not to go unnoticed logistically, during "Desert Storm" in 1990-91, the only refinery in the entire Persian Gulf that could produce jet fuel was in Kuwait. Oil reserves in Iraq and Kuwait alone are 200 billion barrels. We use 17 million barrels a day. We could not simply withdraw and cross our fingers that there would be no more such crises.

Let's not gloss over the many reasons why we went "over there" to the Persian Gulf in 1990-91: to protect the interests of

Oil In the Family

America's friends in the Middle East; because Iraq with nuclear weapons would endanger the entire world; to protect those oil fields and oil company investments; because a big spike in oil prices threatens our economy; and to create that elusive "new world order."

Further, the loss of control of the oil fields in the Persian Gulf could shake the foundations of the international banking system. Why? There are scores of oil-importing, underdeveloped countries which owe tens of billions of dollars to overexposed major banks. A sharp, sustained increase in crude oil prices, and those nations may not be able to service their debts.

The world's biggest and most vulnerable banks would take a significant broadside. If the banks are pushed to the edge, those who suffer won't just be bank stockholders. We, all of us, our enterprises, and our loved ones could also suffer, at least temporarily, due to financial deflation and confusion.

What would have happened, for example, if Iraq developed a monopoly on Persian Gulf oil? It could have held captive the world's economy and severely affected industrial output. By that time, it could have stifled the coalition's military power and will to resist. Was the Persian Gulf war about cheap crude oil? No, it was about heading off the terrible misuse of oil power. We did not send nearly 500,000 Americans to the

Oil In the Family

Persian Gulf just to hold oil prices at \$20 a barrel.

Our young men and women were there to keep Iraq from controlling two-thirds of global oil reserves and from using that control to blackmail the industrial world possibly with nuclear weapons. The case for fighting in 1990-91 was, frankly, that Iraq (already possessing the world's fourth largest military) would be militarily, politically, and geographically harder to fight later.

What we did was a pragmatic attempt to maintain access to the oil on which the world depends. It was nothing less than an effort to sustain the well-being of billions of people including Americans. Our prosperity is heavily linked to countries that are heavily dependent on Mid East oil. American troops could be rotated into the Persian Gulf for years.

Oil in the Family

...to hold oil prices at 200 a barrel...

Our young men and women were there to keep the firm controlling the third goal of reserves and firm control to checkmate the industrial world possibly with nuclear weapons. The case is found in 1960-71 was fairly not tied (already possessing the world's oil) and (likely) would be militarily, politically and geographically better to control.

What we did was a pragmatic effort to maintain access to the oil on which the world depends. It was nothing less than an effort to sustain the well-being of billions of people including Americans. Our property is heavily linked to countries that are heavily dependent on the East of America and could be totaled into the Persian Gulf for 100 years. The world's oil reserves are estimated to be 100 years. The world's oil reserves are estimated to be 100 years.

...happened even later... development a... developed... and severely... By... a... Was... We... to...

V. STILL A GRAND OLD FLAG

This is a very patriotic period in our lives. We may not all remember the dates we learned in our history courses, and we will most certainly forget much of the details of our national development. However, each and every American should try to live up to the ideals that have become our American heritage: self-reliance; personal courage; love for country; faith in God; responsible freedom; limited constitutional government; fiscal integrity; and free, private enterprise.

As Woodrow Wilson penned it, "The things that the flag stands for were created by the experiences of a great people. Everything that it stands for was written by their lives. The flag is the embodiment, not of sentiment, but of history."

Yes, it did start out like any other day, but on July 4th, 1776, our Founding Fathers made it official with that one-page Declaration that said, in effect, "We're in charge here!" What does the Fourth of July mean to you: flag waving, chest pounding, pulse beating about the glory of our heritage?

And what about those men who signed the Declaration of Independence and meant literally that they would mutually pledge to each other their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor? Think of how much less is asked of us today. Shouldn't the celebration of our independence each year be a day of

Still a Grand Old Flag

inspiration and renewal--a day that reminds us that a country is as great as its people?

A dozen years ago on the world scene there were fine, courageous Chinese young people who had experienced the ultimate in civil rights violations--the loss of their lives for the cause of freedom. Some were able to flee toward freedom, leaving behind their own coveted version of a hastily created but fiercely revered "Goddess of Liberty."

And what greeted our new refugees from mainland China as they arrived to shores of America in 1989, but the simultaneous home-grown desecration of America's own liberty banner? Who, in their right mind, would wantonly burn the very symbol that freedom-loving peoples around the world would lay down their lives to embrace?

Let's fly the flag as a symbol of our national unity. Doesn't it stand for the best that is in us? Does it not stand for our greatest achievements, our fondest dreams? What about all the great men and women who have given us our heritage? Aren't the truly great events of our past and present embodied in our flag?

VI. NEEDED -- A CIVICS LESSON

Consider John Quincy Adams' haunting mandate from yesteryear: "Posterity--you will never know how much it has cost my generation to preserve your freedom. I hope you will make good use of it."

Is it possible that liberty itself has eroded our understanding of freedom? Alexander Solzhenitsyn, the Russian dissident, upon the occasion of receiving the American Friendship Award from the Freedoms Foundation, had these harsh but necessary words for Americans:

I boldly direct your attention to some aspects of freedom that are not fashionable to talk about--freedom to put commercial rubbish in mailboxes and telecasts. . . freedom of editors to seduce younger generations with their miscreations...freedom of adolescents to immerse themselves in idleness instead of invigorating tasks... freedom for healthy adults to avoid work and live at the expense of society...freedom for politicians to please voters today but not farsightedly providing for his safety and well-being...freedom of indifference to a distant alien trampled freedom...freedom even to not defend one's own freedom...

Mr. Solzhenitsyn concluded, "Genuinely human freedom is inner freedom, given to us

Needed--A Civics Lesson

by God: freedom to decide upon our own acts as well as moral responsibility for them--that which was called in an age-old, and now quaint, word--honor."

Senator John McCain of Arizona, spoke a few years ago at an annual meeting of the Association of Private Enterprise Education of which I am a charter member. I was able to briefly visit with him one on one afterward. He was in favor of an amendment to protect the flag from desecration. He captivated us all with his recollection of an event while a Vietnam prisoner of war:

A fellow prisoner who made a tiny American flag and sewed it to the inside of his shirt to help boost morale...When the North Vietnamese discovered the flag, they beat the man severely for several hours. When they brought him back to the cell, we cleaned him up as well as we could. Later that night... I saw him in the corner, sitting under a light bulb, sewing another American flag onto his shirt.

Alas, it has been observed that this will remain the "... land of the free ..." only as long as it is the "... home of the brave." So, isn't it a good time for Americans to rethink our goals, reinvent ourselves, restructure our processes, reassess our priorities, and redouble our efforts?

VII. DOES THAT BANNER YET WAVE?

Will we get in touch with our heritage through a renaissance of patriotism? Will we use the opportunity to place greater emphasis on citizenship education? Will we make the Constitution and our flag an immediate part of our lives and forestall the day when each might become ancient history to us?

Yes, even today, there are so many unanswered questions. Even our National Anthem, penned by Francis Scott Key, ends with a question mark:

Oh, say does that star-spangled
banner yet wave

O'er the land of the free
and the home of the brave?

Admired by thousands of Americans each year who pass through the campus of the Freedom's Foundation at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, is a 30 foot by 50 foot American flag atop "Freedom Hill." The giant flag is a spectacular sight, majestically silhouetted against the royal sky overlooking Valley Forge National Park. It is both a fine local landmark and a great source of national pride--one of the largest continuously flying flags in the nation. At night, six thousand watts of electricity illuminate the 50 pound nylon flag atop its one hundred-foot pole.

Truly, the Star Spangled Banner is still a comforting and inspiring symbol. It is

Does That Banner Yet Wave?

comforting to know that the flag is still there, still whole, still preserving. "Let it rise! Let it rise! 'Til it meets the sun in his coming," said Daniel Webster. "Let the earliest light of the morning gild it, and the parting day linger and play on its summit."

So, what is our freedom worth? Isn't freedom our most priceless possession? Was it really won from King George III for good? Doesn't it have to be earned over and over again every day of our lives? Don't we have to work for it all of the time? Can we put these current matters regarding the flag into historical perspective and do our homework about our America?

Percy Simmons provides us with incredible focus: "Americanism is an unfailing love of country: loyalty to its institutions and ideals; eagerness to defend it against all enemies; undivided allegiance to the flag; and a desire to secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and to posterity."

"What have you done for liberty?" said William Jennings Bryan nearly a century ago. "If nothing, what can freedom mean to you?" It seems that no generation of Americans has talked as much about freedom as the present one, and yet, in normal peace times, pre-September 11, 2001, none had shown greater readiness to abandon it. Even as he referred to his own English roots, Edmund Burke dutifully observed, "With all of her faults, she is my country still."

VIII. THREE CHEERS FOR OLD GLORY

Let's get personal; what about you, dear reader? Do you know of a better flag to wave? That's the burning issue. What will you do with your liberty banner? Will you show the flag? Will you show your true colors? If so, then three cheers for both you and the red, white, and blue! Put out more flags. Let the bands play. Sing to the flag. Sing about it. Take a stand.

Why do we knock ourselves, when we are the envy of the world? We have so much to be thankful for:

A country of unbounded beauty; almost unlimited natural resources; a standard of living beyond the dream of kings; a judicial system that is the envy of the rest of the world; food so plentiful overeating is a major problem; food processing advances which give us all-season menus; clothing that is more durable, longer lasting, and easier to maintain; a press nobody can dominate; a ballot box nobody can stuff; churches of our choice; 130 million jobs; freedom to go anywhere we want, with the planes, cars, and highways to get us there; automobile tires that last as long as some cars; Social Security; Medicare; Medicaid; hybrid synthetics, metals and plastics that can even replace some body parts; near-miracle drugs which can help us live longer and

Three Cheers for Old Glory

feel better; unemployment insurance; public and private schools, plentiful scholarships, etc.

Yes, we literally are a people "free" to do anything we want, if we have the "enterprise" to do it. Let's get back in touch with our heritage and celebrate our remarkably durable Republic. Remember, it's our First Amendment right to speak out about the good things, too. It's guaranteed in writing.

Judge Felix Frankfurter provided the clarity we need: "Democracy is always a beckoning goal, not a safe harbor. For freedom is an unremitting endeavor, never a final achievement. That is why no office in the land is more important than that of being a citizen."

IX. THE WAY IT WAS

We have arrived in the early days of what could be called another "American Century." And is this a great country, or what? Why bother, early in the 21st century, to commemorate a piece of faded parchment? It is the world's oldest living Constitution. Commemorating its anniversary each and every year is one way to encourage the American people to get enthusiastic about it.

In the process, we get in touch with our heritage, through a renaissance of patriotism. What a wonderful opportunity to place greater emphasis on citizenship education. We can make the Constitution an immediate part of our lives and forestall the day when it could become ancient history to us.

Thomas Jefferson, in acknowledging that governments are made up of fallible people who tend to abuse power, penned this profound observation: "In questions of power. . . let no more be heard of confidence in man, but bind him down from mischief by the chains of the Constitution."

Even today, after 26 amendments, the Constitution doesn't guarantee us a full life, a long life, a happy life, nor a prosperous life. It guarantees the protection of life; we make of our lives what we will. The Preamble to the Constitution is indeed a fitting summary of the entire document. Therein are presented the basic responsibilities and limitations of civil government in our country:

The Way It Was

We the people of the United States in order to form a more perfect Union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

What an amazing document. The American Constitution was the first of its kind to be prepared by "the people" through their delegates in convention. It was the first Constitution to recognize the right of a people to self-government. It was also the first Constitution to secure the rights of people from government's power, by securing government so that its several constituent parts were the means of keeping each other in their proper place.

X. IT TAKES A STRONG CONSTITUTION

The American approach was that government should serve the people. What a refreshing notion. They were not to be a people of, by, and for their government. The only powers any government could have were the powers that people willingly gave to it. Having successfully won the Revolutionary War, the Americans meant to live by free will. There would be freedom of choice and freedom of action.

As the Declaration of Independence marked the conception of our Republic and set forth our "inalienable rights" to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, so the Constitution outlined our style of government and defined the rights that are protected from intrusion by government. As the American statesman, Henry Clay, said, "The Constitution of the United States was not made merely for the generation that existed, but for posterity -- unlimited, undefined, endless, perpetual prosperity."

Americans of all ages should have a greater understanding for that noble plan for our great nation. We are stakeholders in its preservation. The Constitution sets up a plan for our Republic composed of several states. And it never forgets that each of these states is made up of people of diverse origins, interests, and perspectives.

It Takes A Strong Constitution

Patriot Thomas Paine said it best:

What we obtain too cheaply we esteem too lightly; it is dearness only that gives everything its value. Heaven knows how to put a proper price upon its goods; and it would be strange indeed if so celestial an article as "freedom" should not be so highly rated.

For over 200 years, our country, through freedom and hard work, has changed the world. In agriculture, industry, education., medicine, law, transportation, services, etc., no country can match America's record. Our religious freedoms, civil freedoms, human rights, and the importance we place on the dignity of the individual - all these set us apart.

XI. DISHONORING LIBERTY'S BANNER

As the United States has embarked on "Operation Enduring Freedom," the question of the last generation surfaces once again: "What ever happened to truth, justice, and the American way?" A case in point occurred a dozen years ago when the United States Supreme Court, in a controversial 5-4 vote, brought the curtain down on the latest act of a drama dating back to a 1984 rally at a national political convention in Dallas.

There, protestors chanted, "America, the red, white, and blue. . .we spit on you." The individual burning the American flag on that occasion was, in his own words, a member of the Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade and a self-styled "proletarian internationalist." Essentially, he was assigning himself the sad status of being a man without a country.

Other Americans across the country would ungratefully trash our flag--that liberty banner that most Americans have pledged to protect and defend. The sad and angry scene of a visible few desecrating their American flag--only to hide behind the skirts of the government for legal protection from their misdeeds--is a strange irony. It is much like the situation of the young man who, as he stood before the judge to be sentenced for bumping off his parents, pleaded for mercy because "After all, your Honor, I'm an orphan, you know."

Nevertheless, the Supreme Court did rule, in 1989, that the First Amendment of the

Dishonoring Liberty's Banner

Constitution gives a person the right to burn the flag. Isn't this a situation that is legally right but morally wrong? Our founding fathers must be rolling over in their graves. The reader will be hearing more from them and others on this, to be sure.

On the flag issue in general, if a little knowledge is a dangerous thing, then some folks are a walking time bomb. John Milton observed, "License they mean when they cry Liberty! For who loves that must first be wise and good." How far we have come from a time when patriots like Nathan Hale who, before going to his death on a British gallows in our War for Independence, spoke the undying words: "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country."

Frankly, this writer really thought he came down on the side of an Amendment on the Bill of Rights to prohibit flag burning, that it was not only Constitutionally correct but also right in principle. However, in listening to the perspective provided by John Leo:

The only absolute certain way to revive the flag-burning instinct among American misfits is to pass an amendment forbidding it. It is politically much smarter to ignore the occasional flag-burner. Without an arrest and a big emotional reaction, the burning comes to nothing, other than still vastly irritating the general population. It is not worth tinkering with the Constitution to chase a few cranks with flags and matches.

Dishonoring Liberty's Banner

Fred Siegel, a historian at a Cooper Union in New York City, spins it this way: "The cultural left is enormously exhibitionistic and enormously juvenile. An amendment would let them become martyrs. They would be able to cloak their hostilities in constitutional issues."

Consider the take on this by William Safire: "No incendiary jerks can dishonor the flag; by burning, commercializing or exploiting the flag, people only dishonor themselves. Old Glory gains new glory in our tolerance of dissent and in our secure shrug of unconcern for political temper tantrums."

Finally, Martin Keating may have hit the nail with his head with this observation: "America is great because individuals have the right to disagree with the majority. The strength of the Republic transcends any perceived threat from a handful of goofy flag-burners (out a population of 280 million!). At worst, these attention getters should be ignored for their bad manners."

XII. DON'T TREAD ON ME

One of the first flags flown by our navy during the War for Independence really summed up what the American people are trying to say on this flag-desecration issue. The words were written across that early flag in striking fashion: "Don't Tread On Me." In today's language, it's "Don't burn my flag." You see, it is the people's flag--our single and beloved national symbol.

Shouldn't we feel quite uneasy about that narrow Supreme Court margin, that found flag burning to be "symbolic speech" of the type the First Amendment was intended to protect? Shouldn't such a unifying symbol as our American flag have been given exceptional status by the Supreme Court? Couldn't our flag as the guarantor of our liberty have been made exempt from the freedom of speech provisions of the First Amendment?

Further, if burning the flag is "symbolic speech", why couldn't it also be "symbolic aid and comfort to the enemy"--an act of treason in wartime under Article III, Section 3 of the same Constitution? The United States has no established religion nor monarch. Because we are such a melting pot of race, religion, creed, and national origin, only the American flag has been the symbol which binds us together.

Are Americans becoming timid and apologetic about the Stars and Stripes? The following comments were made by Mr. Alan

Don't Tread on Me

Grant, former President of the American Farm Bureau Federation, and guest speaker at Harding's American Studies Institute:

When I was a little boy, very small, my father and I were watching a parade. My father was an immigrant to this country, and there was some marching and flags going by and I looked over at my dad and I said, "Daddy, why are you crying?" And he said to me, "You're too young to fully understand." But he also said, "remember that you asked the question, and think about it in later years when you're older and can think about it--remember that when you asked the question, 'Daddy, why are you crying?' -- your flag was going by."

Couldn't the Stars and Stripes, our banner of liberty, have been excluded from the First Amendment court ruling regarding freedom of expression? Doesn't the American flag have that unique status? Pragmatically, it is very unlikely that the Constitution could have been altered by the flag amendment. Of the approximately 10,000 amendments proposed since 1987, barely more than two dozen have become law.

XIII. THERE OUGHT TO BE A LAW

Desecration of the American flag may be fashionable to some people in some places; however, at Harding University, that Grand Old Flag has a multitude of friends. There are those, such as an official of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), who once observed that a Constitutional amendment to protect the American flag would inevitably lead to censorship of many unpopular views--that once we establish exceptions to the First Amendment for offensive speech, there would be no way to limit it. But such has already happened.

There have been exceptions all along. The most well-known one is the case of Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes finding that one cannot shout "Fire!" in a theatre and cause panic. Certainly, freedom of speech is not open-ended. Try running a campaign sound truck with loud speakers through a residential neighborhood at 2 a.m. Try burning a mailbox. Exceptions abound already.

Are we reduced to no more of a response than sadly saluting the flag as it burns? Shall we continue to have laws and court interpretations that prohibit the burning of garbage but not the flag, our banner of liberty? The bald eagle is also a national symbol. To kill one is to risk jail or at least a fine. Where is the justice in all this?

Some creative things have occurred since the controversial Supreme Court ruling. One

There Ought To Be A Law

municipality passed a law requiring the party in question to take out his city permit before being allowed to burn anything within city limits.

Why can't there be additional legislation which would appropriately word a Federal law to make it a crime to mutilate, deface, burn, display on the ground, or trample the American flag--and eliminate any vague, provisions of current law which forbids anyone "to cast contempt" on the flag by desecrating it? Has the Supreme Court turned a hate crime into a constitutional right, by abandoning its doctrines of "judicial restraint" and "strict construction"? The debate continues.

Well, it's a two-edged sword. Such an amendment might send the message, according to Eric Dykaman, that "we are an insecure nation that can not tolerate mindless expression by a few citizens." Rather, claims Dykaman, the message would be that, "we are a caring nation that holds the sacrifices of hundreds of thousands of Americans sacred."

XIV. IT SHOULD BE A BURNING ISSUE

Will we be content to make it a fundamental right that the Constitution will protect those who hold the flag in contempt, while it remains illegal to tear those little tags from the cushions of our new furniture? Can we not remedy the situation by enacting new laws which would comply with the court ruling; that is, focus punishment of the action of flag burning itself, without sanctioning the intent or common sense of the person burning the flag?

What are we going to do about it? Edmund Burke said it best, "The only thing necessary for evil to triumph is for good people to do nothing." Shouldn't "We the people" go on record about desecrating the American flag? As a matter of fact, we have. Before the Supreme Court's ruling in 1989, 48 states and the Federal Government had such rules on the books. Only Alaska and Wyoming were the exceptions.

It was Daniel Webster who observed, "Liberty exists in proportion to wholesome restraint." So, how hard would it be to again pursue the option of a Constitutional amendment? It would take the support of two-thirds of both Houses and 38 state legislatures. And it would take a lot of persistence and persuasive speeches at that. But after all, the First Amendment does guarantee the right of Americans to embrace their flag while also exercising the liberty to

It Should Be a Burning Issue

disagree with the Supreme Court's close ruling.

It is precisely at times of national stress and anxiety that a renewal of faith and purpose is required. America remains an inspiration to millions; but ingratitude, misunderstanding, even hatred may have to be endured. You see, "Liberty means responsibility," said George Bernard Shaw. "That is why most men dread it."

George W. Truett said that there are things that are worth dying for--"the honor of one's country, the sanctity of the home, the virtue of women and the safety of little children. But, if they are worth dying for, they are worth living for."

What good, then, can come from the desecration of our flag? Will we more frequently and properly salute our flag? Will we try to learn more about American civics? Will we develop a resurging patriotic spirit? Will we be sure that the flag is more properly displayed? Will we help the next generation to better appreciate the priceless privilege of being an American? Will we make it a point to routinely say the Pledge of Allegiance with feeling?

XV. THE FLAG DECISION REVISITED

Here is Eagle Forum's Phyllis Schlafly's take on the issue:

Five Justices of the U.S. Supreme court have now invented the notion that the First Amendment includes the right to desecrate the American Flag. For 199 years, nobody else ever detected that "right" in the First Amendment, and 48 states and Congress enacted laws to punish such desecration.

Even that great liberal Justice and First Amendment absolutist, Justice Hugo Black, wrote in a dissenting opinion in 1969, "It passes my belief that anything in the Federal Constitution bars a State from making the deliberate burning of the American Flag an offense." The majority of Americans agree with Justice Black, and that's why they support a constitutional amendment to protect our Flag as a precious symbol and to deliver a needed comeuppance to the Supreme Court.

But the liberals are not content with saying they want to use the First Amendment to protect those who desecrate the Flag. The liberals have gone overboard in arguing that the First Amendment requires us to subsidize the desecration of the Flag

The Flag Decision Revisited

and our other precious symbols! One of the obnoxious items funded by taxpayers' money through the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) was an exhibit by an alleged artist called "What Is the Proper Way to Display a U.S. Flag?" which spread an American Flag across the floor and invited viewers to trample on it.

The Supreme Courts' Flag decision reminds us of the story about the mother who went to see her son drill in his new army job. "Everybody's out of step except my son Jim," she remarked. Just as it was obvious to everyone else that Jim was the only one out of step, the court is the one out of step with the laws of 48 states, the Federal Government, and the overwhelming majority of the American people.

Desecrating the Flag isn't "speech" anymore than a belch or a fist in your face. The purpose of the First Amendment is to promote freedom of public and private discourse, but there is no discourse involved in those obnoxious acts or in burning the Flag. The Supreme court should have made the commonsense distinction between speech and conduct.

The Flag Decision Revisited

The radicals could have said anything derogatory about the Flag and not have been prosecuted. As Chief Justice William Rehnquist said in his dissent, "Surely one of the high purposes of a democratic society is to legislate against conduct that is regarded as evil and profoundly offensive to the majority of the people."

It is good for a nation to have a shared value, something to help give us a national identity which binds us together despite the religious, political, economic, and social forces that divide us. The Flag serves that purpose well. That's why we pledge allegiance to the Flag as well as the things for which it stands. That's why the millions of men who risked their lives in service to our country felt personally betrayed by the Supreme Court's decision.

The Flag, the Pledge, and the Star Spangled Banner are imbedded deeply into our national consciousness. In these times when so many demonstrators who trample on patriotism, religion, family, decency, Western civilization, and American traditions have been constitutionally protected, we should preserve something precious that is beyond their destructive boot. That something is the Flag.

The Flag Doctors' Revolt

Medical doctors have long and rightly been wary about the flag and its role in society. As a result, the medical profession has often been a vocal opponent of the flag. In fact, the medical profession has often been a vocal opponent of the flag. In fact, the medical profession has often been a vocal opponent of the flag. In fact, the medical profession has often been a vocal opponent of the flag.

In a good way, the medical profession has often been a vocal opponent of the flag. In fact, the medical profession has often been a vocal opponent of the flag. In fact, the medical profession has often been a vocal opponent of the flag. In fact, the medical profession has often been a vocal opponent of the flag. In fact, the medical profession has often been a vocal opponent of the flag.

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XVI. A BEACON OF HOPE

America's Future has also weighed in on the issue of defending the Stars and Stripes:

A good many Americans react with anger when they see pictures of foreign terrorists burning our flag. They are no less indignant when some Americans, for whatever purpose, desecrate the Stars and Stripes.

We would like to quote what the National Commander of the three-million member American Legion, H. F. "Sparky" Gierke, has to say about honoring the flag. "With every freedom guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution," says this leader of America's war veterans, "comes an equal measure of responsibility."

For the benefit of those who forget to heed the meaning of Old Glory, Commander Gierke has this reminder: "The Flag is not only a living symbol of this free nation; it is a beacon of hope to oppressed people around the world. The U.S. Flag carries its own message of peace and freedom."

The Legion commander says that his organization, as well as other service and civic associations, have long been guided by the principles of patriotism, respect and allegiance to

A Beacon of Hope

the flag. "Many of our members fought to defend it and keep this country free, and to keep other countries from perishing under the boot of totalitarian oppression."

"More eloquent than our beliefs," adds Gierke, "are the thousands upon thousands of grave markers from Boston to San Francisco and from the cemeteries of France to the faraway atolls of the Pacific, all standing as mute testimony to the devotion of the men and women who served without question. That glorious Flag was draped over the coffins of those who gave their last full measure of devotion to defend it."

Concludes Commander Gierke: "The Flag is as much a part of us as our souls." As defenders of the flag have argued, the Stars and Stripes remain, as always, a symbol of what America is all about -- deserving of honor and respect by all who value freedom.

XVII. TIME TO RETAKE THE PLEDGE?

In 1969, the year that Americans first walked on the moon, the Dean of American entertainers, Red Skeleton, made this touching televised tribute to "The Pledge of Allegiance:"

. . . Getting back to school, I remember a teacher that I had. Now, I only went through the seventh grade. I left home when I was 10 years old because I was hungry. I'd work in the summer and go to school in the winter. But I had this one teacher at Harrison School in Indiana - to me this was the greatest teacher, a real sage in my time, anyhow. He had such wisdom.

We were all reciting the Pledge of Allegiance one day. And he walked over, this little old teacher, Mr. Laswell was his name, and says, "I've been listening to you boys and girls recite the Pledge of Allegiance all semester; and it seems as though it's becoming monotonous to you. If I may, may I recite it and try to explain to you the meaning of each word:

I - Me, an individual, a committee of one;

Pledge - Dedicate all my worldly goods;

Time To Retake the Pledge

Allegiance - My love and devotion;

To the Flag - Our standard, Old Glory, a symbol of freedom. Wherever she waves there's respect, because your loyalty has given her a dignity that shouts, 'Freedom is everybody's job;'

United - That means that we have all come together;

States - Individual communities that have united into 48 great, 48 individual communities with pride and dignity and purpose, all divided with imaginary boundaries, yet united to a common purpose - and that's love for country;

And to the Republic - A state in which sovereign powers are vested in representatives, chosen by the people to govern; and government is the people, and it's from the people to the leaders, not from the leaders to the people;

For which it stands, One Nation - Being so blessed by God, individuals incapable of being divided;

Time To Retake the Pledge

With liberty - Which is freedom, the right of power to live one's own life without threat, fear, or some sort of retaliation;

And justice - The principles or qualities of dealing fairly with others;

For all - Which means, Ladies and Gentlemen, it's as much your country as it is mine."

Red Skeleton concluded, "Since I was a small boy, two states have been added to our country and two words have been added to the Pledge of Allegiance - 'under God.' Wouldn't it be a pity if someone said that is a prayer and that it would be eliminated from school, too?" Frankly, as long as there are teachers giving exams, prayer, in some form, will always be found in schools.

XVIII. THE WHOLE ANTHEM TELLS ALL

Initially we asked "... does that Star Spangled Banner yet wave....? The answer in this patriotic period of great uncertainty is a resounding, "Yes." Here are the rest of the lyrics of the last three verses of our National Anthem, courtesy of Francis Scott Key:

On the shore, dimly seen through
the mists of the deep,
Where the foe's haughty host in
dread silence reposes.

What is that which the breeze, o'er
the towering steep,
As it fitfully blows, now conceals,
now discloses?

Now it catches the gleam of the
morning's first beam,
In full glory reflected now shines on
the stream:

"Tis the star-spangled banner!
O long may it wave
O'er the land of the free and
the home of the brave!

And where is that band who so
vauntingly swore
That the havoc of war and the
battle's confusion
A home and a country should leave
us no more?

Their blood has washed out their
foul footsteps' pollution.
No refuge could save the hireling
and slave

The Whole Anthem Tells All

From the terror of flight, or the gloom
of the grave:

And the star-spangled banner
in triumph doth wave
O'er the land of the free and
the home of the brave!

Oh! thus be it ever, when freemen
shall stand
Between their loved homes and the
war's desolation!
Blest with victory and peace, may
the heaven-rescued land
Praise the Power that hath made
and preserved us a nation.
Then conquer we must, for our
cause it is just,
And this be our motto: "In God is our
trust."

And the star-spangled
banner in triumph shall
wave
O'er the land of the free and
the home of the brave!

XIX. GOING FULL CIRCLE?

Is there a definite cycle that most civilizations have historically gone through? Yes, historians have studied the rise and fall of great civilizations and have concluded two things. First, they can identify a definite cycle. Secondly, 21 of the 23 literally decayed from within -- becoming easy prey to predator nations. The cycle they have identified contains the following steps:

1. From bondage to spiritual faith
2. From spiritual faith to great courage
3. From courage to liberty: freedom
4. From freedom to initiative: production
5. From production to abundance
6. From abundance to selfishness
7. From selfishness to complacency
8. From complacency to apathy
9. From apathy to dependence
10. From dependence back to bondage

Here, again, is the cycle, with appropriate elaboration:

1. A person in **bondage** resents his bondage so he looks to some higher power than his bondage master. This usually results in **spiritual faith**.

Going Full Circle?

2. As he recognizes and acknowledges a higher power, it gives him **courage** to try to become free from bondage.
3. This **courage**, based on a higher power, stimulates the desire for **freedom** and usually wins out through some means.
4. As a person becomes free, his **initiative** is released and he produces to help himself--usually helping others in the process.
5. Production under freedom will produce an **abundance** of goods and services if based on personal reward.
6. As abundance is produced, people tend to get **selfish**. Those without abundance covet what others have, whereas those that have are not motivated to share without compensation. This generally brings civil action to take from him who has and give to him who has not in exchange for votes or favors.
7. Once the have nots have legal authority to live off of the goods of the producers, they become **complacent** since they now have legal sanction to live off the production of others.
8. Complacency leads to **apathy** or to a why-should-I-care attitude--I have a legal right to food, etc.

Going Full Circle?

9. This apathetic attitude creates a nation of **dependents** on the handouts of others and on the force of government to see that they are taken care of.
10. When enough persons become dependent for their well-being on the production of others, and on the force of government to redistribute goods to them, they become critical of both government and the industrious. They criticize and refuse to defend their heritage of freedom and are ripe subjects to go back into **bondage**. National decay has set in and freedom is lost.

XX. DUTIES TO CAESAR AND GOD

Two centuries ago, the British historian, Alexander Tyler, writing about the collapse of the ancient democracies of Athens and Rome, provided this warning:

A democracy cannot exist as a permanent form of government. It can only exist until the voters discover they can vote themselves largess out of the public treasury. From that moment on, the majority always votes for the candidates promising the most benefits from the public treasury...democracy collapses under the weight of loose fiscal policy. Always to be followed by a dictatorship.

How can we and our religious friends heed our Creator's admonition to be a positive, leavening influence in the government sector. Again, let's learn from our own history. In 1787, James Madison's illustrious political career almost came to an abrupt early end when he broke an important promise to the religious people of Virginia. He had promised to get the free exercise of religion written into the Constitution, but he changed his mind.

Patrick Henry and George Mason branded him to be unreliable and unfit for election to public office because of that one scandalous broken promise. Consequently, Madison promised the preachers and voters that he would never break his promise again and he

Duties to Caesar and God

would work hard to correct his mistake. There are those who say that the incident resulted in our First Amendment liberties, and the entire Bill of Rights!

The lesson? Politicians do their best only when the decent voters of the land level with them. Edmond Burke said it best: "The only thing necessary for evil to triumph is for good people to do nothing." Christians are strangers and sojourners on this earth. We are but passing through; not one of us is staying. We look to the city whose builder is God. Our citizenship is in heaven.

We also have earthly responsibilities--a duty to Caesar as well as to God. In fact, in the duty which we owe to God, He has bounded on us obedience to civil government. Yet, we know that even the apostle Paul, when he was not pleased with the treatment he received at the hands of regional government leaders, appealed to Caesar in Rome itself.

Hopefully, we as citizens can continue to be in the forefront of those on this planet who are trying to communicate a better understanding of the relationship between politics, economics, and morality. After all, Jesus did.

XXI. ONE NATION UNDER GOD

The things we know that aren't true. Example? The so-called "Constitutional separation of church and state." But, stop the presses. The First Amendment of our United States Constitution does not use those words, "separation, church, state."

That First Amendment reads: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..." That's all. It appears that the First Amendment was not intended to remove religion from the schools, but rather to keep government out of religion.

Over two centuries, fact and folklore have merged to give the "church and state" issue more play than it probably deserves. In 1801, a political opponent of President Thomas Jefferson attacked Jefferson as being an "atheist."

In response, Thomas Jefferson, through private correspondence, communicated to the Danbury Baptist Association the following: "I contemplate with solemn reverence that act of the whole American people which declared that their legislature should 'make no law respecting and establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof,' thus building a wall of separation between church and state."

It seems fairly clear that the "wall" was meant to protect churches from discrimination by the government by means of, God forbid, a state church.

One Nation Under God

In the 1830's, French political observer, Alexis de Tocqueville, came to America searching for the key to our greatness. He concluded:

I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her commodious harbors and her ample rivers, and it was not there. I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her fertile fields and boundless forests, and it was not there.

I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her rich mines and her vast world commerce, and it was not there. I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her vast public school system and her institutions of learning, and it was not there. I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her matchless constitution, and it was not there.

Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits flame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power. America is great because America is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great.

American church religion, he wrote, is "a political institution which powerfully contributes to the maintenance of a democratic republic among the Americans" by supplying a strong moral consensus amidst continuous political change.

XXII. HOW CLOSE A SEPARATION?

Today, historical revisionists would deny or obscure the fact that our nation was founded upon belief in God. But have they really done their homework? Don't think so. Consider just a few examples from yesteryear.

In 1647, the General Court of Massachusetts ordered every community of 50 families to have a school to teach children to read. The reason given by the court for establishing schools was: "It being the chief project of the old deluder, Satan, to keep men from the knowledge of the Scriptures, effort must be made to thwart this old deluder."

Those Founding Fathers regarded religion as such a cornerstone of our new country that one of the first official acts of the Continental Congress was to requisition 20,000 Bibles to be printed and distributed to the Indians.

In his first inaugural address, George Washington clearly demonstrated the close relationship between God and the people of this country:

It would be peculiarly improper to omit in this first official act my fervent supplications to that Almighty Being who rules over the Universe, who presides in the Council of Nations, and whose providential aids can supply every human defect, that His

How Close a Separation?

Benediction may consecrate to the liberties and happiness of the people of the United States a government instituted by themselves.

In 1787, the year the Constitution was approved by Congress, that same Congress passed the famous Northwest Ordinance. In it they emphasized the importance of religion and morality in the schools:

Article 3: Religion, morality, and knowledge being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools, and the means of education shall forever be encouraged.

In 1892, Supreme Court Justice Brewer, delivering the opinion of the Court stated:

These, and many other matters which might be noticed, add a volume of unofficial declarations to the mass of organic utterances that this is a Christian nation.

Today, on the top of the Washington Monument are carved these words: "Praise be to God." Along its interior walls is inscribed: "In God We Trust; may Heaven to this union continue its beneficence; Search the Scriptures." Above the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court are the Ten Commandments. On the wall opposite the President of the Senate are the words, "In God We Trust." Each session of Congress and our high court starts with a prayer.

XXIII. A BIBLICAL REMEDY

What does our nation's first textbook say of the subject of God and country?

Righteousness exalteth a nation;
but sin is a reproach to any people.

-- Proverbs 14:34

Blessed is the nation whose God
is the Lord; and the people whom he
hath chosen for his own inheritance.

-- Psalm 33:12

In those days there was no King in
Israel: every man did that which was
right in his own eyes.

-- Judges 21:25

If my people, which are called by
my name, shall humble themselves,
and pray, and seek my face, and turn
from their wicked ways; then I will hear
them from heaven, and will forgive
their sin, and heal their land.

-- II Chronicles 7:14

Remove not the ancient landmark,
which thy father set.

-- Proverbs 22:28

The wicked shall be turned into
hell and all the nations that forget God.

-- Psalm 9:17

Except the Lord build the house,
they labor in vain that build it; except
the Lord keep the city, the watchman
waketh but in vain.

-- Psalm 127:1

A Biblical Remedy

Oh that my people had harkened unto me . . . and had walked in my ways.

-- Psalm 81:13

Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's.

-- Matthew 22:21

Let every soul be subject unto the highest powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

-- Romans 13:1

Honor all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the King.

-- I Peter 2:17

XXIV. PRAYER TO GOD OF OUR FATHERS

Former Chaplain of the U.S. Senate, Peter Marshall, once delivered this Independence Day prayer:

God of our Fathers, whose Almighty Hand has made and preserved our Nation, grant that our people may understand what it is they celebrate.

May they remember how bitterly our freedom was won, the down payment that was made for it, the installments that have been made since this Republic was born, and the price that must yet be paid for our liberty.

May freedom be seen not as the right to do as we please, but as the opportunity to please do what is right. May it ever be understood that our liberty is under God and can be found nowhere else. May our faith be something that is not merely stamped upon our coins, but expressed in our lives.

To the extent that America honors Thee, will Thou bless America and keep her as Thou has kept her free, and make her good as Thou hast made her rich....

— Originally written by Master
Sergeant Perry Webb, USMC

XXIV. PRAYER TO GOD
OF OUR FATHERS

Prayer of the American people for the
Independence Day prayer

God of our Father whose kindly
hand has guided and preserved our
Nation, grant that our people may
appreciate and cherish the freedom
which we enjoy. Remember how freely our
freedom was won, the down payment
that was made for the realization
of this great ideal. Let us be
grateful for the freedom which we
must yet be paid for our freedom.

May freedom be seen not as the
right to do as we please, but as the
responsibility to do what is right.
May it ever be understood that our
freedom is a gift from God and can be found
nowhere else. May our faith be
something that is not merely stamped
upon our coins, but expressed in our
lives.

To the extent that America has
been blessed, America has
kept her as Thou has kept her,
and make her good as Thou hast
made her rich.

Originally written by Walter
Langbein, 1954

APPENDIX -- FLAG COLLECTIONS

I Am Old Glory

I Am Old Glory: For more than ten score 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 thirteen colonies to a united nation of fifty 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 itself; 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 Master Sergeant Percy Webb, USMC

My Flag

I am a member of the greatest fraternity on earth. I can look at Old Glory and say, "This is my Flag." It is not my fraternity alone; it belongs to each of my 200 million brothers and sisters.

Because under that Great Banner, our forefathers pioneered the Continental Vastness that is America -- and won; because under that Grand Flag, men of industry and labor teamed up to produce the necessities and luxuries of life in a superior way; and because a million Americans have died and millions more have suffered defending the Flag in the wars of the Republic, I have greater Freedom than any other citizen of any other nation in any other period of mankind.

Under that Flag, I have the Freedom to Worship, to Work, to Love, to Learn, and to Play. That Flag watches over my Freedom to Compete, to Create, to Invent, to Save, to Promote, and to Own. Old Glory waves so that I have the Freedom to Walk Erect with Head held High; I am free to be my own self -- as an individual Human soul; I am Free to Glorify almighty God, and so, I jealously cherish that Flag which looks over all these Freedoms.

Life would be as dust on a windy street if through indifference on my part that Flag were ever to fail to fly. I know what my father and his forefathers have done that I might inherit the blessings of the Priceless Banner. Hence I am ready, willing, and eager to make my own contribution toward insuring that that

Flag will fly forever. I will do everything within my power each day to defend that Flag, wherever I am, whatever I do -- that I may pass on to my sons and daughters, undiminished, their right to call it their own.

If that Flag ever fails to fly, there will be darkness at noon in America -- and all over the World.

It is my Flag.

-- Col C. E. Mc Henry
USA (Retired)

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 worlds' 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 at me and see me.

I stand for peace, honor, truth, and justice.

I stand for freedom.

I am confident.

I am arrogant.

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 worshiped -- 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, Okinawa, Korea and KheSan,
Saigon, Vietnam know me, 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 been soiled upon, burned, torn, and
trampled on the streets of my country.
And when it's by those whom I've served in
battle -- it hurts.
But I shall overcome -- for I am strong.

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
soldier,
Or when I lie in the trembling arms of an
grieving parent at the grave of their fallen
son or daughter, I am proud.

My name is Old Glory,
Long May I Wave.

Dear God in Heaven,
Long May I Wave.

-- Author Unknown

The American Flag: It's Just a Piece of Cloth

That's all it is -- just a piece of cloth. But when a little breeze comes along it stirs and comes to life, and flutters and snaps in the wind, all red and white and blue! And then you realize that no other piece of cloth could be like it!

It has your whole life wrapped up in it -- the meals you eat; the time you spend with your family; the kind of things your boy and girl learn at school; the strange and wonderful thought you get in church on Sunday.

Those stars in it -- they make you feel just as free as the stars in the wide, deep night. And those stripes -- they are bars of blood to any dictator who would try to change this way of life.

Just a piece of cloth, that is all -- until you put your soul into it, and give it a meaning. Then it is a symbol of liberty, and decency, and fair-dealing for everyone. It is just a piece of cloth until we breathe life into it; until we make it stand for everything we believe in, and refuse to live without it.

Sunshine Magazine

This I Believe

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 of 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 is 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, Clerk
House of Representatives
Adopted by the House in 1918

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The *Entrepreneur* is a quarterly journal addressing contemporary economic issues from a moral perspective. One may not agree with every word printed in the *Entrepreneur* series, nor should feel he needs to do so. It is hoped that the reader will think about the points laid out in the publication, and then decide for himself. Hopefully, the material herein will motivate people to further study and also toward a greater understanding of God's will on life's issues.

Many sources have been consulted in the preparation of this material, and credit has been given to various sources as they were available. The References section gives due credit and enables those who desire to do further study to consult those sources. If any such acknowledgments have been inadvertently omitted, the author would appreciate receiving information so that proper credit may be given in any future printings. The author would also welcome knowing about any possible errors.

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