

TITLE 36, SECTION 176, OF THE UNITED STATES CODE STATES, "NO DISRESPECT SHOULD BE SHOWN TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA." FURTHERMORE, PARAGRAPH (K) OF THIS SAME CODE STATES, "THE FLAG, WHEN IT IS IN SUCH CONDITION THAT IT IS NO LONGER A FITTING EMBLEM FOR DISPLAY, SHOULD BE DESTROYED IN A DIGNIFIED WAY, PREFERABLY BY BURNING."

THE BSA PUBLICATION "OUR FLAG" STATES, "WHEN THE NATIONAL FLAG IS WORN BEYOND REPAIR, BURN IT THOROUGHLY AND COMPLETELY ON A MODEST, BUT BLAZING FIRE. THIS SHOULD BE DONE IN A SIMPLE MANNER WITH DIGNITY AND RESPECT. BE SURE THE FLAG IS REDUCED TO ASHES, UNRECOGNIZABLE AS A FORMER FLAG."

THE FLAG WE PRESENT TONIGHT WAS INSPECTED EARLIER THIS DAY. DURING THAT INSPECTION IT WAS FOUND TO BE NO LONGER SUITABLE FOR DISPLAY. A FRESH NEW FLAG NOW FLIES IN ITS PLACE.

PLEASE JOIN ME NOW IN ONE FINAL PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
FOR THIS FLAG. PLACE YOUR HAND OVER YOUR HEART OR
SALUTE.

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.

I AM OLD GLORY;

I AM YOUR FLAG. I WAS BORN ON JUNE 14, 1777 AND 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 GROUP OF 13 COLONIES TO A UNITED NATION OF 50 SOVEREIGN STATES.

SEVEN RED STRIPES AND SIX WHITE STRIPES; TOGETHER REPRESENT THE ORIGINAL 13 COLONIES THAT GAINED US LIBERTY. THE STARS REPRESENT THE FIFTY SOVEREIGN STATES OF OUR UNION. THE RED STRIPES REMIND US OF THE LIFEBLOOD OF BRAVE MEN AND WOMEN WHO WERE READY TO DIE FOR THIS COUNTRY. THE WHITE STRIPES REMIND US OF PURITY OF PURPOSE, THOUGHT, WORD AND DEED. THE BLUE IS FOR TRUTH AND JUSTICE, LIKE THE ETERNAL BLUE OF THE STAR-FILLED HEAVENS.

I AM OLD GLORY. PLANTED FIRMLY ON THE HIGH PINNACLE OF AMERICAN FAITH, MY 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. I HAVE GONE INTO EVERY BATTLE INTO WHICH THERE HAVE BEEN UNITED STATES CITIZENS, FROM THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION TO THE CIVIL WAR, TO WORLD WAR I, WORLD WAR II, KOREA, VIETNAM, DESERT STORM, IRAQ AND ENDURING FREEDOM IN AFGHANISTAN. I HAVE FLOWN OVER BATTLES THAT WERE NEVER DECLARED: PEARL HARBOR, BEIRUT, OKLAHOMA CITY, AND RECENTLY BY THE RESCUERS AT THE WORLD TRADE CENTER.

IN ALL OF THESE, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE STAYED TRUE TO THE VALUES THAT I REPRESENT. THOSE THAT DIED 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 AND WOMEN. 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.

I AM OLD GLORY. WHEN COMES THE TIME WHEN I AM OLD AND FADED, DO NOT LET ME FLY IN DISREPAIR, RATHER RETIRE ME FROM MY DUTIES ONLY TO REPLACE ME WITH A NEW FLAG SO THAT I MAY CONTINUE TO SYMBOLIZE OUR COUNTRY. WITH THIS, RENEW YOUR COMMITMENT TO WHAT I STAND FOR AND PLEDGE YOUR ALLEGIANCE TO ME ONE FINAL TIME