

Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary

Department of New Mexico

Americanism/Patriotic Instructor

Promotional # 2
2025

August 1,

To: Diana Russell-Milton, National Ambassador

Jeanette Garcia, Department President

I hope everyone had a safe and fun 4th of July!

As I was doing research for this promotion, I remembered my government class in high school. At the time I could not understand why we had to learn about anything about the flag. We were taught to respect the flag both at home and when we were out. The teacher and I had a discussion on learning the meaning of why we should always respect the flag of The United States and how it became our national symbol. That has always stayed with me and become more important as a member of The Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary.

After the American Revolution began, the first, unofficial national flag known as the Continental flag, or Grand Union Flag, the Cambridge Flag, the Somerville Flag, or the Union Flag- was hoisted on a towering 76 -foot liberty pole at Prospect Hill in Charlestown (now in Somerville), Massachusetts on January 1,1776. It was raised at the behest of General George Washington.

The flag had 13 horizontal stripes (probably red, white or of red, white, and blue.

The first official national flag, formally approved by the Continental Congress on June 14,1777, was the Stars and Stripes. That first Flag Resolution read, in toto” Resolved, that the Flag of The United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white: that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field representing a new constellation”. The designer of the flag-most likely Congressman Francis Hopkinson, a signer of the Declaration of Independence from Philadelphia. Today that pattern is popularly known as the Betsy Ross Flag.

The Stars and Stripes changes on May 1,1795, when Congress enacted the second Flag Resolution, which mandated that new stars be added to the flag when new states were admitted to the Union. In 1818, after 5 more states had been admitted, Congress enacted the third and last Flag Resolution, requiring

that henceforth the number of stripes should remain 13, the number of stars should always match the number of states, and any new star should be added on July 4 following a state's admission.

There is no official assignment of meaning or symbolism to the colors of the flag. Charles Thomsom, secretary of the Continental Congress suggested "White signifies purity and innocence, Red, hardiness & valor, and Blue signifies vigilance, perseverance and justice".

Many Americans have fought and died, for our symbol of Americanism and Patriotism, and we should hold them dear to our hearts daily.

Proud To Be an American,

Nancy Tabb

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