

I Am Your Flag

Author Unknown

I was born on June 14, 1777

I am more than just a cloth shaped into a design

I am the refuge of the world's oppressed.

I am the silent sentinel of freedom

I am the inspiration for which American patriots gave their lives and fortunes.

I have led your sons into battle from Valley Forge to the bloody jungles of Vietnam

I walk in silence with your honored dead to their resting places beneath the silent white crosses, row on row.

I have flown through peace and war, strife and prosperity and amidst it all, I have been respected.

My red stripes symbolize the blood spilled in defense of this glorious nation.

My white stripes signify the burning tears shed by Americans who have lost their sons

My blue field is indicative of God's heaven under which I fly

My stars are clustered together unifying 50 states in one, for God and country

"Old Glory" is my nickname, and I proudly wave on high

Honor me, respect me, defend me with your lives and your fortunes.

never let my enemies tear me down from my lofty position, lest I never return.

Keep alight the fires of patriotism

Strive earnestly for the spirit of democracy

Worship eternal God and keep his commandments

And I shall remain the bulwark of peace and freedom for all mankind

National Symbol

by Charles Evans Hughes

The flag is the symbol of our national unity, our national endeavor, our national aspiration.

The flag tells of the struggle for independence, of union preserved, of liberty and union one and inseparable, of the sacrifices of brave men and women to whom the ideals and honor of this nation have been dearer than life.

It means America first; it means an undivided allegiance.

It means America united, strong and efficient, equal to her tasks.

It means that you cannot be saved by the valor and devotion of your ancestors, that to each generation comes its patriotic duty; and that upon your willingness to sacrifice and endure as those before you have sacrificed and endured rests the national hope.

It speaks of equal rights, of the inspiration of free institutions exemplified and vindicated, of liberty under law intelligently conceived and impartially administered. There is not a thread in it but scorns self-indulgence, weakness, and rapacity.

It is eloquent of our community interests, outweighing all divergencies of opinion, and of our common destiny.