

The Flag of the United States of America

This flag, which we honor and under which we serve, is the emblem of our unity, our power, our thought and purpose as a nation. It has no other character than that which we give it from generation to generation. The choices are ours ...Woodrow Wilson

Flags, banners, and standards have always been powerful symbols, of course. The Bible speaks of setting up an emblem for the nations" (Isaiah 11:12), of a splendid vision "terrible as an army with banners" (Song of Solomon 6:10) and of "every man in his place by their standards." (Numbers 2:17)

Other civilizations and societies have recognized the power of these emblems but few have raised their flags, literally and figuratively, as high as the stars and stripes.

Born to represent the colonies' fight for independence, altered in its adolescence to reflect the changing size and scope of the nation, and fixed today in its maturity as a bold pattern of red and white stripes and fifty white stars on a blue field.

Color Guard

The Color guard consists of 4 men (women). It is an honor to be selected as a member of the color guard. I have been carrying our flag and rifle or sword for 47 years!

The Color guard is formed and marched in one rank at close interval, the flag bearers in the center. They do not execute rear march or about face. The color guard marches at right shoulder arms and executes facing movements by wheeling to the right or left.

How do we remember? Attending commemorative ceremonies is the most visible way of demonstrating remembrance: placing flags at gravesites for our honor dead, following the color guard as we march down Main Street, USA in a parade, sponsoring patriotic programs for our wounded warriors, dedicating memorials to our armed forces that have sacrificed for the freedoms that all Americans enjoy. Sacrifice is meaningless without remembrance.

This should be regarded as a civic obligation. For this a national debt that can only be truly repaid by individual Americans. By honoring the nation's war dead, our flag, we preserve their memory and this their service and sacrifice.

Spoken on Wed, 21 May 2014 at the York Rite stated meeting by Wayne L. Ithier, Past Commander