



Evolution of the United States Flag



No one knows with **absolute certainty** who designed the first stars and stripes or who made it. Congressman [Francis Hopkinson](#) seems most likely to have designed it, and few historians believe that [Betsy Ross](#), a Philadelphia seamstress, made the first one.

Until the Executive Order of June 24, 1912, neither the order of the stars nor the proportions of the flag was prescribed. Consequently, flags dating before this period sometimes show unusual arrangements of the stars and odd proportions, these features being left to the discretion of the flag maker. In general, however, straight rows of stars and proportions similar to those later adopted officially were used. The principal acts affecting the flag of the United States are the following:

- On June 14, 1777, in order to establish an official flag for the new nation, the Continental Congress passed the **first Flag Act**: "Resolved, That the flag of the United States be made of thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation."
- Act of January 13, 1794 - provided for 15 stripes and 15 stars after May 1795.
- Act of April 4, 1818 - provided for 13 stripes and one star for each state, to be added to the flag on the 4th of July following the admission of each new state, signed by President Monroe.
- Executive Order of President Taft dated June 24, 1912 - established proportions of the flag and provided for arrangement of the stars in six horizontal rows of eight each, a single point of each star to be upward.
- Executive Order of President Eisenhower dated January 3, 1959 - provided for the arrangement of the stars in seven rows of seven stars each, staggered horizontally and vertically.
- Executive Order of President Eisenhower dated August 21, 1959 - provided for the arrangement of the stars in nine rows of stars staggered horizontally and eleven rows of stars staggered vertically.

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REMEMBRANCE

**Remembrance is a golden chain
Death tries to break,
but all in vain.
To have, to love, and then to part
Is the greatest sorrow of one's heart.
The years may wipe out many things
But some they wipe out never.
Like memories of those happy times
When we were all together.**

~ Author Unknown

~ In Memoriam ~

<u>BROTHER</u>	<u>CALLED HOME</u>
Richard Dean Anderson, 32°	4/22/2009
Edward Lambert Edwards, 32°	5/15/2009
Donald Eugene Jagger, 32°	5/6/2009
S Robert Landie, 32°	4/28/2009
Willard Strong Snyder, 32°	5/1/2009
Layfe Wright, 32°	5/5/2009



FEATURE ARTICLE



9HEALTH FAIR - 2009

By Bill Hickey, 32°,
Denver Consistory Site Coordinator for 2009

This year was the 30th anniversary for the 9Health Fairs in Colorado. The Denver Consistory again successfully hosted a 9Health Fair on Saturday, April 25th. I do not have the final count of participants using our fair, but I believe the numbers were somewhere between 175 and 200 people, including a couple of folks that did not have medical coverage and the ability to pay for the blood chemistry screenings. We were able to provide a voucher to those participants for those screenings. While these numbers are down a bit from our previous fairs, in general the numbers for most of the fairs are down between 30-40%. The 9Health Fair offices did not know whether the economy would boost or sag the numbers this year, so they prepared for a boost just in case.

We were able to get a bone density machine this year, which provided Osteoporosis screening for those who fit the risk profiles. We also had a few other medical professionals from outside our Masonic community pitch in and help out with our fair this year, so we also owe them our thanks for helping.

I would like to thank ALL the volunteers that showed up - those that contacted me during the preparatory phases for the fair as well as those who were able to show up the day of the fair and just pitch in. EVERYONE had a part to play in making the fair come off. We had a number of the participants compliment us on our fair, and we had a LOT of folks saying that it was great not to have to stand in line outside or wait for a

long time to have their blood drawn when they had been fasting overnight.

Finally, we simply could not put on the fair at all without the help and support of the Consistory office staff (who also were "volunteers" during the fair itself) and the folks at El Jebel Shrine who provided our partitions and other logistic support in preparation for the fair.

Tuesday May 5, the 9Health Fair will be holding a district meeting to discuss what went right, what went wrong, what we can do better, and what we should re-think about doing next year. I will be sharing that information with the Consistory leadership in making plans for next year. We now have our DATE for the 2010 fair - Saturday, April 10, 2010. Now we work on setting up the screenings we want to offer and then work on the necessary logistics around that.

Again, a hearty "Well Done" to everyone that volunteered - there is NO such thing as an unimportant job in an event like this.

If ANY of you have any comments, recommendations, or (constructive) criticisms about this year's 9Health Fair at the consistory, please send them to Bill Hickey at: wa3h@hotmail.com

Thanks again!

Help Wanted

Denver Consistory Lodge Ritual Support Committee

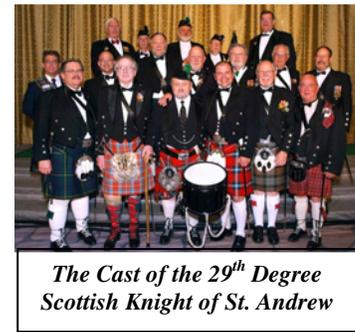
We are building a list of experienced ritualists who are willing to assist area Lodges in putting on Blue Lodge Degrees.

We need brothers who are proficient in any part of the EA, FC or MM degrees. If you can help, please email Brother Bruce Limke at onewayks@comcast.net with your qualifications and availability.

34th Reunion of Denver Consistory

by Claud E. Dutro, 33°, Secretary

Starting with dinner and registration at 5:00 Wednesday evening, the Darrell L. Tygart Memorial Class of thirty-five candidates began the marathon journey that would take them through twenty-nine exemplified degrees during the next three and a half days. Their first view of the auditorium was for a dedication by Don Marshall, 32° KCCH, of the new sound board, one of the last projects that Darrell approved. The 4th Degree cast utilized the newly constructed Tree of Life to illustrate principles and it functioned exactly as designed, a beautiful piece of work, created by several workers.



The Cast of the 29th Degree Scottish Knight of St. Andrew

As each degree progressed, the class became better acquainted with each other and with a deeper understanding of the philosophy underlying the Scottish Rite. Interspersed with the degree pageants the class received information about the Scottish Rite Foundation, the structural organization of Denver Consistory, the Knights of St. Andrew and about various opportunities for further education. They learned that hundreds of workers are required to volunteer thousands of hours to produce and present the degrees for their education and enjoyment. They were encouraged to become involved in cast positions, support committee assignments and in the committees that comprise the Membership Council. Each new member responded with their preferences.

Ron Birely, the Director General, commented that the cast enthusiasm and presentation quality had improved in virtually every degree and thanked the Degree Directors for their untiring efforts. With only a few exceptions, the reunion kept to its time schedule, and those exceptions were quickly overcome.

The banquet was a fitting climax to the reunion and was well attended. Class President Duke O'Neill introduced the other class officers: William Neuendorf, Vice President; Alexander Appelhans, Secretary; Eric Nelson, Treasurer; and Victor Turner, Orator. The Orator then delivered a speech that made his points quickly and was well received by the audience. Matt Raia, 33°, delivered a eulogy that captured the personality of his good friend and our departed Secretary,



Darrell Tygart. Matt concluded by presenting a bouquet of roses to Angel Tygart.

The Sovereign Grand Inspector General, Stephen M. Munsinger, 33° Active, then made several introductions and presented Life Membership certificates to class members Herbert Connelley, 32°, and Dana Griffin, 32°.



each of whom responded with comments about their experiences during the past fifty years.

Fifty year membership hats and certificates were presented to Ronald V. Hayden, 32°, and to Wayne G. Arner, 33°,



REUNION DEEMED A SUCCESS

All in attendance agreed that this was a successful reunion, but with additional work and with the infusion of talent from the new members, that the Fall 2009 Reunion can be even larger and more impressive. Our goal is not to be better than others, but to be better than ourselves. Spread the word and bring in petitions.



Knights of St. Andrew

by Rich Silver, 32°

It was great for the Knights of St. Andrew to participate in a very successful Spring Reunion. The Knights actively participated in working with the new class and in the degrees.

Venerable Master Greg Dominguez held a meeting of the Knights on Monday, 18 May as part of the May Stated Meeting. We added nine new Knights during that meeting. We were very pleased to have eight of the new Knights come from the Spring Reunion class.

The Knights will be announcing some family social activities in the near future in addition to the planned meeting during the year.



A STANDARD OF HONOR

The flag of the United States of America is a living Thing that calls to our spirit, reminding us of the greatness of our America. We cherish it and uphold it because it is the standard of honor under which we live.

We view the flag with devotion, for it represents our national heritage of noble deeds, splendid accomplishments, and untold sacrifices which combined to establish the moral character of our national foundation. Our flag is a symbol that makes our past one with the present and makes the present a prophecy for tomorrow.

It signifies a people dedicated to liberty, justice and freedom for all.

It is our companion around the world. It summons confidence on sight. There is a magic in its folds that continually renews the hope that this nation, under God, will long be an example everywhere for all who love freedom with honor.

We give homage to the flag because it stands for the courageous, earnest and unselfish experiences of our people who have given us strength as a nation and pride as citizens.

We respect our flag because we have respect for our countrymen, and because our love for country finds its center in our flag.

The customs and traditions which surround the display and use of our flag are guides to the means by which we as proud and citizens may demonstrate the ultimate respect for the flag of our nation. In the honoring and saluting our flag we demonstrate affection for our nation, fellow citizens and the proud inheritance we share.

- Author Unknown -



The First Official United States Flag: This 13-Star Flag became the Official United States Flag on June 14th, 1777 and is the

result of the congressional action that took place on that date. Much evidence exists pointing to Congressman [Francis Hopkinson](#) as the person responsible for its design. The only President to serve under this flag was [George Washington \(1789-1797\)](#). This Flag was to last for a period of 18 years.

Each star *and* stripe represented a Colony of which there were thirteen, united nearly one year earlier by the Declaration of Independence. The thirteen Colonies are

listed below with the date that each ratified the Constitution and became a State.

The Star Spangled Banner: This Flag became the Official United States Flag on May 1st, 1795. Two stars were added for the admission of [Vermont](#) (the 14th State on March 4th, 1791) and [Kentucky](#) (the 15th State on June 1st, 1792), and was to last for 23 years. The five Presidents who served under this flag were; [George Washington \(1789-1797\)](#), [John Adams \(1797-1801\)](#), [Thomas Jefferson \(1801-1809\)](#), [James Madison \(1809-1817\)](#), and [James Monroe \(1817-1825\)](#).



The 15-star, **15-stripe** flag was authorized by the Flag Act of January 13, 1794, adding 2 stripes and 2 Stars. The regulation went into effect on May 1, 1795.

This flag was the only U.S. Flag to have more than 13 stripes. It was immortalized by [Francis Scott Key](#) during the bombardment of Fort McHenry, Sept 13, 1814. The image above is representative of the actual flag that flew over Fort McHenry on that day and which is now preserved in the Smithsonian Museum. You can notice the "tilt" in some of the stars just as in the [original Star Spangled Banner](#).

Where the original Star Spangled Banner went...

- **1814:** The battle occurred, and the flag won its glory. Armistead was promoted to Lt. Colonel by Madison. Armistead died in service on April 25, 1818. He acquired the flag sometime before that date, but at this point it is unknown how.
- **1818:** Armistead died and "legend" says that the flag was used in his funeral. However, in all of the newspaper accounts of Armistead's funeral, there is no mention of the flag being displayed at it. At his death the flag passed to his widow, Louisa Armistead.
- **1824:** The flag was used in a reception for General Lafayette.
- **1861:** Louisa Armistead died on October 3, 1861, and in her will left the flag to her daughter, Georgiana Armistead Appleton. The flag was sent to England for safe keeping during the Civil War, according to one of the Armistead family members, who made this statement in a newspaper interview in the 1880's. But Georgiana said, in a letter to Admiral George Preble, that the flag was in her possession during the rebellion.
- **June 24, 1873:** The flag was displayed in the Charleston Naval Yards. Canvas backing was sewn on the flag and one of the first photographs was taken of it.
- **1876:** The flag was loaned to the Navy Department for the Centennial Celebration.

- **1879:** Georgiana Armistead Appleton died in 1879 and left the flag to her son Eben Appleton.
- **1907:** Eben Appleton loaned the flag to the Smithsonian.
- **1912:** Eben Appleton converts the loan of the flag to a gift to the Smithsonian.
- **1914:** Amelia Fowler was commissioned to remove the canvas backing sewn on the flag when it was photographed in 1873 and replace it with the present linen backing.

The 1818 Flag: Realizing that the addition of a new star and new stripe for each new State was impractical, Congress passed the Flag Act of 1818 which returned the flag design to 13 stripes and specified 20 stars for the 20 states.



This Flag became the Official United States Flag on April 13th, 1818. Five stars were added for the admission of [Tennessee](#) (the 16th State on June 1st, 1796), [Ohio](#) (the 17th State on March 1st, 1803), [Louisiana](#) (the 18th State on April 30th, 1812), [Indiana](#) (the 19th State on December 11th, 1816), and [Mississippi](#) (the 20th State on December 10, 1817), and was to last for just one year. The only President to serve under this flag was [James Monroe \(1817-1825\)](#).



The 21-Star Flag: This Flag became the Official United States Flag on July 4th, 1819.

A star was added for the admission of [Illinois](#) (December 3rd, 1818) and was to last for just one year. The only President to serve under this flag was [James Monroe \(1817-1825\)](#).

The 23-Star Flag: This Flag became the Official United States Flag on July 4th, 1820. Two stars were added for the admission of [Alabama](#) (the 22nd state on December 14th, 1819) and [Maine](#) (the 23rd state on March 15, 1820) and was to last for 2 years. The only President to serve under this flag was [James Monroe \(1817-1825\)](#).



The 24-Star Flag: This Flag became the Official United States Flag on July 4th, 1822. A star was added for the admission of [Missouri](#) (August 10th, 1821) and was to last for fourteen years. The Presidents who served under this flag included [James Monroe \(1817-1825\)](#), [John Quincy Adams \(1825-1829\)](#), and [Andrew Jackson \(1829-1837\)](#).

The 25-Star Flag: This Flag became the Official United States



Flag on July 4th, 1836. A star was added for the admission of [Arkansas](#) (June 15th, 1836) and was to last for just one year. The two Presidents to serve under this flag were [Andrew Jackson \(1829-1837\)](#) and [Martin Van Buren \(1837-1841\)](#).



The 26-Star Flag: This Flag became the Official United States Flag on July 4th, 1837. A star was added for the admission of [Michigan](#) (January 26th, 1837) and was to last for 8 years. The four Presidents to serve under this flag were; [Martin Van Buren \(1837-1841\)](#), [William Henry Harrison \(1841\)](#), [John Tyler \(1841-1845\)](#), and [James Polk \(1845-1849\)](#).

The 27-Star Flag: This Flag became the Official United States Flag on July 4th, 1845. A star was added for the admission of [Florida](#) and was to last for only 1 year. The only President to serve under this flag was [James Polk \(1845-1849\)](#).



The 28-Star Flag: This Flag became the Official United States Flag on July 4th, 1846. A star was added for the admission of [Texas](#) (December 29th, 1845) and was to last for only 1 year. The only President to serve under this flag was [James Polk \(1845-1849\)](#).



The 29-Star Flag: This Flag became the Official United States Flag on July 4th, 1847. A star was added for the admission of [Iowa](#) (December 28th, 1846) and was to last for only 1 year. The only President to serve under this flag was [James Polk \(1845-1849\)](#).



The 30-Star Flag: This Flag became the Official United States Flag on July 4th, 1848. A star was added for the admission of [Wisconsin](#) (May 29th, 1848) and was to last for 3 years. The three Presidents to serve under this flag were; [James Polk \(1845-1849\)](#), [Zachary Taylor \(1849-1850\)](#), and [Millard Fillmore \(1850-1853\)](#).



The 31-Star Flag: This Flag became the Official United States Flag on July 4th 1851. A star was added for the admission of [California](#) (September 9th, 1850) and was to last for seven years. The three Presidents who served under this flag were; [Millard Fillmore \(1850-1853\)](#), [Franklin Pierce \(1853-1857\)](#), and [James Buchanan \(1857-1861\)](#).



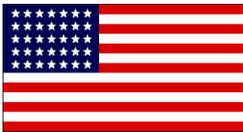
The 32-Star Flag: This Flag became the Official United States Flag on July 4th, 1858. A star was added for the admission of [Minnesota](#) (May 11, 1858) and was to last for just one year. The only President to serve under this flag was [James Buchanan \(1857-1861\)](#).



**The 33-Star Flag:** This Flag became the Official United States Flag on July 4th, 1859. A star was added for the admission of [Oregon](#) (February 14, 1859) and was to last for 2 years. The two Presidents to serve under this flag were [James Buchanan \(1857-1861\)](#) and [Abraham Lincoln \(1861-1865\)](#).

The 34-Star Flag: This Flag became the Official United States Flag on July 4th, 1861. A star was added for the admission of [Kansas](#) (January 29th, 1861) and was to last for 2 years. The only President to serve under this flag was [Abraham Lincoln \(1861-1865\)](#).



**The 35-Star Flag:** This Flag became the Official United States Flag on July 4th, 1863. A star was added for the admission of [West Virginia](#) (June 20th, 1863) and was to last for 2 years. The two Presidents to serve under this flag were [Abraham Lincoln \(1861-1865\)](#) and [Andrew Johnson \(1865-1869\)](#).

The 36-Star Flag: This Flag became the Official United States Flag on July 4th, 1865. A star was added for the admission of [Nevada](#) (October 31st, 1864) and was to last for 2 years. The only President to serve under this flag was [Andrew Johnson \(1865-1869\)](#).



**The 37-Star Flag:** This Flag became the Official United States Flag on July 4th 1867. A star was added for the admission of [Nebraska](#) (March 1st, 1867) and was to last for ten years. The three Presidents who served under this flag were; [Andrew Johnson \(1865-1869\)](#), [Ulysses S. Grant \(1869-1877\)](#), and [Rutherford B. Hayes \(1877-1881\)](#).

The 38-Star Flag: This Flag became the Official United States Flag on July 4th, 1877. A star was added for the admission of [Colorado](#) (August 1st 1876) and was to last for 13 years. The five Presidents to serve under this flag were;



[Rutherford B. Hayes \(1877-1881\)](#), [James A. Garfield \(1881\)](#), [Chester A. Arthur \(1881-1885\)](#), [Grover Cleveland \(1885-1889\)](#), and [Benjamin Harrison \(1889-1893\)](#).



The 43-Star Flag: This Flag became the Official United States Flag on July 4th, 1890. Five stars were added for the admission of [North Dakota](#) (the 39th State on November 2nd, 1889), [South Dakota](#) (the 40th State on November 2nd, 1889), [Montana](#) (the 41st State on November 8th, 1889), [Washington](#) (the 42nd State on November 11th, 1889), and [Idaho](#) (the 43rd State on July 3rd, 1890) and was to last for just 1 year. The only President to serve under this flag was [Benjamin Harrison \(1889-1893\)](#).

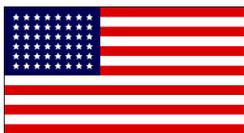
The 44-Star Flag: This Flag became the Official United States Flag on July 4th, 1891. A star was added for the admission of [Wyoming](#) (July 10, 1890) and was to last for 5 years. The Presidents to serve under this flag were [Benjamin Harrison \(1889-1893\)](#) and [Grover Cleveland \(1893-1897\)](#).



**The 45-Star Flag:** This Flag became the Official United States Flag on July 4th, 1896. A star was added for the admission of [Utah](#) on January 4th, 1896, and was to last for 12 years. The Presidents to serve under this flag were [Grover Cleveland \(1893-1897\)](#), [William McKinley \(1897-1901\)](#), and [Theodore Roosevelt \(1901-1909\)](#).

The 46 Star Flag: On July 4, 1908, the U.S. flag grew to 46 stars with the addition to the Union of [Oklahoma](#) (November 16, 1907). [Theodore Roosevelt \(1901-1909\)](#) and [William H. Taft \(1909-1913\)](#) served as President under the 46 star flag. This was the official flag for 4 years.



**The 48 Star Flag:** On July 4, 1912, the U.S. flag grew to 48 stars with the addition of [New Mexico](#) (January 6th, 1912) and [Arizona](#) (February 14, 1912) Executive Order of President Taft dated June 24, 1912 - established the proportions of the flag and provided for arrangement of the stars in six horizontal rows of eight each, a single point of each star to be upward. This flag was official for 47 years, longer than any other flag, through two World Wars and the emergence of the United States of America as the leading nation of the world. Eight Presidents served under this flag; [William H. Taft \(1909-1913\)](#), [Woodrow Wilson \(1913-1921\)](#), [Warren Harding \(1921-](#)

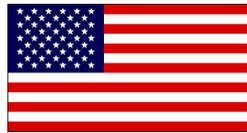
[1923](#)), [Calvin Coolidge \(1923-1929\)](#), [Herbert Hoover \(1929-1933\)](#), [Franklin D. Roosevelt \(1933-1945\)](#), [Harry S. Truman \(1945-1953\)](#), [Dwight D. Eisenhower \(1953-1961\)](#).



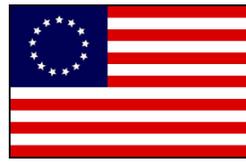
49-Star Flag: On January 3rd, 1959 [Alaska](#) was formally granted statehood placing the 49th star on our Flag. Executive Order of President Eisenhower dated January 3, 1959 - provided for the arrangement of the stars in seven rows of seven stars each, staggered horizontally and vertically. The first 49-star flag was made in the Army Quartermaster Depot at Philadelphia, and was used in the White House ceremony when [President Dwight D. Eisenhower \(1953-1961\)](#) signed the proclamation admitting Alaska to the Union. Subsequently, this flag was carried to Philadelphia by Senator Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania, who gave it to the mayor of Philadelphia to raise over Independence Hall on July 4th, 1959. After these ceremonies Scott gave the flag to his colleague, Senator Earnest Gruening of Alaska, who, in turn, delivered it to Governor William A. Egan to be flown over the state capitol at Juneau. This flag was later given to the Alaskan State Museum for preservation.

The 49-Star flag was official for only one year, until July 4, 1960, when [Hawaii](#) achieved its Statehood and the [50-Star flag](#) was born. [President Eisenhower](#) was the only President to serve under this flag.

50-Star Flag: Executive Order of President Eisenhower dated August 21, 1959 - provided for the arrangement of the stars in nine rows of stars staggered horizontally and eleven rows of stars staggered vertically. This is the current flag of the United States. [Hawaii](#) was admitted as the 50th state on August 21st, 1959. The 27th flag of the United States became the official flag on July 4th, 1960. Nine presidents have served under this flag; [Dwight D. Eisenhower \(1953-1961\)](#), [John F. Kennedy \(1961-1963\)](#), [Lyndon B. Johnson \(1963-1969\)](#), [Richard M. Nixon \(1969-1974\)](#), [Gerald R. Ford \(1974-1977\)](#), [Jimmy Carter \(1977-1981\)](#), [Ronald W. Reagan \(1981-1989\)](#), [George Bush \(1989-1993\)](#), [William J. Clinton \(1993-2001\)](#) and [George W. Bush \(2001-present\)*](#).



* Bush is only the fourth President to lose the popular vote but win the Presidency by means of the Electoral College. Andrew Jackson and Grover Cleveland suffered the same setback as Al Gore, but went on to win in a later election. Samuel Tilden, the people's choice in 1876, is the only member of this elite group who shunned a comeback. History will show to which group Al Gore will belong, having won the election by some half million votes but losing in the Electoral College.



Since there was no official flag during the first year of the United States, there were a great number of homespun flag designs. **This flag** is without question the most well known of those. There are many reasons why this flag is confused with the first official U.S. flag.

THE FLAG GOES BY

by Henry Holcomb Bennett

Hats off!
Along the street there comes
A blare of bugles, a ruffle of drums,
A flash of colour beneath the sky:
Hats off!
The flag is passing by!

Blue and crimson and white it shines,
Over the steel-tipped, ordered lines,
Hats off!
The colours before us fly;
But more than the flag is passing by;

Sea-fights and land-fights, grim and great,
Fought to make and to save the State;
Weary marches and sinking ships;
Cheers of victory on dying lips;

Days of plenty and years of peace;
March of a strong land's swift increase;
Equal justice, right and law,
Stately honour and reverend awe;

Sign of a nation great and strong
To ward her people from foreign wrong;
Pride and glory and honour, - all
Live in the colours to stand or fall.

Hats off!
Along the street there comes
A blare of bugles, a ruffle of drums,
And loyal hearts are beating high;
Hats off!
The flag is passing by!

Betsy Ross

Elizabeth Griscom Ross (1752-1836), was a Philadelphia seamstress, married to John Ross, an upholsterer who was killed in a munitions explosion in 1776. She kept the upholstery shop going and lived on Arch Street, not too far from the State House on Chestnut, where history was being made almost every day. According to most historians, she has been incorrectly credited with designing the first Stars and Stripes. The story has enormous popularity, yet the facts do not substantiate it. Lets begin with the legend itself.

George Washington was a frequent visitor to the home of Mrs. Ross before receiving command of the army. She embroidered his shirt ruffles and did many other things for him. He knew her skill with a needle. Now the General of the Continental Army, George Washington appeared on Mrs. Ross's doorstep around the first of June, 1776, with two representatives of Congress, Colonel Ross and Robert Morris. They asked that she make a flag according to a rough drawing they carried with them. At Mrs. Ross's suggestion, Washington redrew the flag design in pencil in her back parlor to employ stars of five points instead of six. ("Her version" of the flag for the new republic was not used until six years later.)

This account of the creation of our first flag was first brought to light in 1870 by one of her grandsons, William J. Canby, at a meeting of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. This took place **94 years** after the event supposedly took place! Mr. Canby was a boy of eleven years when Mrs. Ross died in his home.

In the many years since the story was told, numerous historians have conducted vigorous searches into extant government records, personal diaries, and writings of Washington and his contemporaries and none of them have been able to verify the claims of Canby. One verifiable fact is this; the minutes of the State Navy Board of Pennsylvania for May 29, 1777, say in part "An order on William Webb to Elizabeth Ross for fourteen pounds twelve shillings, and two pence, for making ship's colours, &c, put into Richards store". The minutes show that Elizabeth Ross made ship's colors for Pennsylvania state ships. Some of the facts, among others, that have been discovered by this research that cast doubt on Canby's claim are these; He asserted that the stars and stripes were in common if not general use soon after the signing of the Declaration of Independence, nearly a year **before** the resolution of Congress proclaiming the flag. There is **no** record of the flag being discussed or of a committee being appointed for the design of the flag in either the Journals of the Continental Congress or the diaries and writings of

Washington around this time. Meetings with Colonel Ross and Robert Morris cannot be documented. Further, it is illogical to assume that Washington was present at the alleged meeting with Betsy Ross on the design of the flag when it is known that he wanted a national standard made for the use of the army in 1779.

But I think that the question that begs to be asked is; Why have so many generations of Americans come to accept this legend as fact? After Canby's death, a book written by his brother George Canby and nephew Lloyd Balderson was published in 1909. The book, *The Evolution of the American Flag*, presented in more detail the claims for Betsy Ross made by William Canby in 1870. Among other things, the authors describe the formation of the Betsy Ross Memorial Association, and reproduced a painting by Charles H. Weisgerber depicting the alleged meeting of the committee of Congress with Betsy Ross. The picture, entitled *Birth of Our Nations Flag*, is actually a composite portrait made up of from pictures of her granddaughters and other descendants. The artist took liberties with history by painting the stars in the flag in a circle. This painting, incidently, stirred a great deal of public interest in the subject when it was first exhibited, at the Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893. Following this, money to purchase the Betsy Ross house in Philadelphia was raised by selling ten-cent subscriptions to the American Flag House and Betsy Ross Memorial Association, incorporated in 1898. Each contributor received a certificate of membership that included a picture of the house, her grave in Mt. Moriah Cemetery in Philadelphia, and a color reproduction of the Weisberger painting. This campaign gave the legend wide publicity and the Weisberger painting was reproduced in school history textbooks throughout the United States!

In the days of Betsy Ross we did not have the benefit of a frenetic press corps to witness, probe, and record the events of the day. Careful historians do not accept the legend and neither should we. At the same time, there often seems to be a wistful regret, best expressed, perhaps, by President Woodrow Wilson when asked his opinion of the story. He replied, "**Would that it were true!**"

This data was provided by Duane Streufert..
It may be reviewed at:
<http://www.usflag.org/toc.html>

Flag Folding Ceremony

The flag folding ceremony described by the Uniformed Services is a dramatic and uplifting way to honor the flag on special days, like Memorial Day or Veterans Day, and is sometimes used at retirement ceremonies.

Here is a typical sequence of the reading:

(Begin reading as Honor Guard or Flag Detail is coming forward).

The flag folding ceremony represents the same religious principles on which our country was originally founded. The portion of the flag denoting honor is the canton of blue containing the stars representing the states our veterans served in uniform. The canton field of blue dresses from left to right and is inverted when draped as a pall on a casket of a veteran who has served our country in uniform.

In the Armed Forces of the United States, at the ceremony of retreat the flag is lowered, folded in a triangle fold and kept under watch throughout the night as a tribute to our nation's honored dead. The next morning it is brought out and, at the ceremony of reveille, run aloft as a symbol of our belief in the resurrection of the body.

(Wait for the Honor Guard or Flag Detail to unravel and fold the flag into a quarter fold--resume reading when Honor Guard is standing ready.)

The first fold of our flag is a symbol of life.

The second fold is a symbol of our belief in the eternal life.

The third fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veteran departing our ranks who gave a portion of life for the defense of our country to attain a peace throughout the world.

The fourth fold represents our weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in times of war for His divine guidance.

The fifth fold is a tribute to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but it is still our country, right or wrong."

The sixth fold is for where our hearts lie. It is with our heart that we 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.

The seventh fold is a tribute to our Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that we protect our country and our flag against all her enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of our republic.

The eighth fold is a tribute to the one who entered in to the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day, and to honor mother, for whom it flies on mother's day.

The ninth fold is a tribute to womanhood; for it has been through their faith, love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great have been molded.

The tenth fold is a tribute to father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of our country since they were first born.

The eleventh fold, in the eyes of a Hebrew citizen, represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon, and glorifies, in their eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

The twelfth fold, in the eyes of a Christian citizen, represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in their eyes, God the Father, the Son, and Holy Ghost. When the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost, reminding us of our national motto, "In God we Trust."

(Wait for the Honor Guard or Flag Detail to inspect the flag--after the inspection, resume reading.)

After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington and the sailors and marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for us the rights, privileges, and freedoms we enjoy today.

| The Flag Folding Ceremony above is from the [US Air Force Academy](#) |

FLAG FOLDING

As an Army and Navy custom, the flag is lowered daily at the last note of retreat. Special care should be taken that no part of the flag touches the ground. The Flag is then carefully folded into the shape of a tri-cornered hat, emblematic of the hats worn by colonial soldiers during the war for Independence. In the folding, the red and white stripes are finally wrapped into the blue, as the light of day vanishes into the darkness of night.

This custom of special folding is reserved for the United States Flag alone.

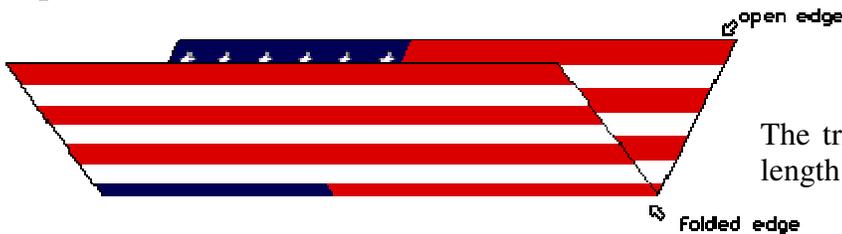
How to fold the Flag

Step 1



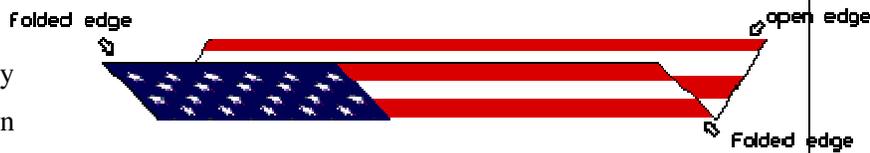
To properly fold the Flag, begin by holding it waist-high with another person so that its surface is parallel to the ground.

Step 2



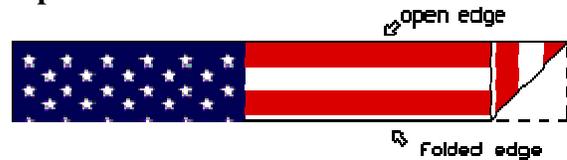
Fold the lower half of the stripe section lengthwise **over** the field of stars, holding the bottom and top edges securely.

Step 3



Fold the flag **again** lengthwise with the blue field on the **outside**.

Step 4



Make a triangular fold by bringing the striped corner of the folded edge to meet the open (top) edge of the flag.

Step 5



Turn the outer (end) point inward, parallel to the open edge, to form a second triangle.

Step 6



The triangular folding is continued until the entire length of the flag is folded in this manner.

Step 7



When the flag is completely folded, only a triangular blue field of stars should be visible.



TRIBUTE

I watched the flag
Pass by one day,
It fluttered in the breeze.



A young Marine Saluted it,
And then he stood at ease..

I looked at Him in uniform
So young, so tall, so proud,
With hair cut square And eyes alert
He'd stand out in any crowd.

I thought how many men Like him
Had fallen through the years.
How many died on foreign Soil
How many mothers' tears?



How many pilots' planes Shot down
How many died at sea
How many foxholes were soldiers' Graves
No, freedom isn't free

I heard the sound of Taps One night,
When everything was still,
I listened to the bugler Play
And felt a sudden chill.

I wondered just how many times
That Taps had meant 'Amen,'
When a flag had draped a Coffin.
Of a brother or a friend.



I thought of all the Children,
Of the mothers and the wives,
Of fathers, sons and Husbands
With interrupted lives.



I Thought about a graveyard
At the bottom of the sea
Of unmarked graves in Arlington .
No, freedom isn't free.



OUR MASONIC YOUTH



Bethel 40's Annual Chili Dinner

by Michael D. Moore, 32°

The young ladies of Bethel 40 which meets at South Denver, number 93's lodge had their annual fundraiser on April 17th. The Jobies raised approximately \$800.00. Those who attended were entertained by "Deborah Hill and the Sugar Daddies", who kept us there bouncing and swaying till almost 10:00 pm.



Jobies' mascot

This Bethel, one of the largest in the state, has thirteen young ladies in it. Which is up from the three to four they had three years ago. And two more are in the wings waiting to join this next year. The dinner was a part of a busy weekend for them which included the dinner on Friday night, a Saturday drive to Cortez for a Grand Bethel visit and a sleep over that night.

If you are interested on keeping up with their activities, you can see all their upcoming events on the *Colorado Masonic Family* site on Facebook or contact any of the ladies or adults involved with them.



Sweetheart elections at Congress

Colorado Job's Daughters Annual Session

Clarion Hotel - 314 Bijou Street in Colorado Springs

June 16-20

- Formal Opening Thursday, June 18th, 7pm
(formal attire, please)
- Grand Bethel Officers
and Representatives
Installation Friday, June 19th, 7pm
(formal attire, please)
- Installation of
Grand Officers Saturday, June 20th, 4pm
(formal attire, please)

Anyone may attend these events, and would be most welcome. If you have any questions, you are welcome to contact me via email (megsaredhead@msn.com) or call (970) 278-1503.

Sincerely and Fraternally,
Megan Fritts, Vice Grand Guardian



Grand Worthy Advisor's Homecoming to Pikes Peak Assembly #4, May 2, Colorado Springs



From the Secretary's Desk

by Claud E. Dutro, 33°, Secretary

Another busy month at Denver Consistory during May. All of the office staff celebrated birthdays within a 30 day period plus one marked an anniversary as an employee.

Fellows Mike Moore, 32°, and Peter DeLaurier, 32°, met with the Grand Commander and the rest of the Scottish Rite Fellows in Washington, DC, at the first of the month to discuss future programs and projects. This is part of the Grand Commander's vision of "thinking outside the box" and making Scottish Rite Masonry more relevant in today's society. Both of these members are involved in helping develop our own projects to help Denver Consistory grow and prosper.



The officers met on Monday evening to accept more petitions before the reunion began on Wednesday evening. All twenty-nine degrees were exemplified during the marathon reunion, where the

class was involved for 42 of the next 72 hours. Some of the support crew worked longer hours than that. By the end of that reunion we had created 35 new 32° (Masters of the Royal Secret) members who are excited to help with the next reunion in November. While not the biggest, it was certainly one of the most successful of recent reunions. The banquet on Saturday night celebrated the class's successful completion and honored the memory of our late Secretary, Darrell Tygart, with a slide presentation and eulogy from his long time friend and co-worker Matt Raia. Angel Tygart and her family were able to attend.

The following Monday evening was our stated meeting, where a nice crowd of tired members enjoyed another great meal from Michael. The pork chops were good, but the desert was to die for. The Knights of St. Andrew educated us with a public performance of their initiation before the

ladies departed for a very enjoyable "zoo babies" program. The men's tiled meeting was short



because most of the routine items had been cleared up with the reunion.

This eventful month concluded with the Ladies Luncheon, where over a hundred wives and widows were treated as "Queen For A Day" by the officers and honormen, who welcome this occasion as an opportunity to express their gratitude to the ladies who have supported them for many years. The Three Keys provided the music and inspired Wes and Phyllis Campbell to dance for us all to enjoy. I even heard some sing-a-long during the Beer Barrel Polka. A special thank you to Audrey Ford for helping create an enjoyable afternoon for all.

Next month's stated meeting will be casual dress with Hawaiian shirt night, with an appropriately lighter menu. Take advantage of this relaxed evening for a low-priced date with your favorite spouse. Come see the beautiful new covers for the officer's chairs. Rusty Keithline, 32°, and his staff donated their time to create this classy addition. Thanks, Rusty. This will also be the first meeting as an officer for our new Captain of the Guard for Centennial Lodge of Perfection. Congratulations to Peter DeLaurier on this great beginning. Denver Consistory will not hold any further stated communications with dinners until September and the office will begin its summer hours (closing at 2:00 pm on Fridays). Friday lunches will continue, except for July 3 when the Consistory will be closed for the Independence Day holiday.

[The answer to the quiz in the *Between the Columns* article is a KEY. Will write more about it in the next column.]

deeper aspects were never talked or written about, it was left to the seeker to find for themselves. The answer for this is found somewhere hidden in this issue of RiteWorks- be sure to look for it!

While out and about this last month, I shot a picture of a favorite saying, that even before I became a Mason thought was interesting. On the upper part of the front entryway of Highland's Temple is this:



A Youngster With Severe Communication Issues Receiving RiteCare Assistance

by Vern Ingraham, Executive Secretary
Scottish Rite Foundation of Colorado

Childhood language disorders are the most common health problem among children – with an estimated ten percent of children at-risk. Some cases are complex, especially when associated with another health issue such as cleft lip and/or palate, autism spectrum disorder, or cerebral palsy. Other cases are faced by children who, upon casual observation, appear to be typical, healthy youngsters. They may have a mild problem involving the inability to properly pronounce certain letters such as an “r” or a more severe problem such as one characterized by a complex speech delay or a learning disorder such as dyslexia.

Recently a mom and dad told me their five-year-old boy has no verbal ability. He only communicates by non-verbal grunts and groans. He points and gestures when he wants or demands something. The child has developed serious behavioral problems manifested by frequent emotional outbursts and anger.

The youngster was born prematurely and early on the parents thought the developmental delay would be overcome with physical development. This didn't happen. In addition to the serious communication issues, the child chokes on food to the point where he can't breathe and his face turns red. Mom, dad, or someone has to be on hand when this happens to help him regurgitate the food caught in his throat.

Dad has basically stopped talking to the child and primarily communicates by mimicking the child's communication pattern, pointing and making nonverbal sounds. The various problems with this young boy are rapidly multiplying and the parents are frightened. This is an extremely low income family which had no idea of what to do until they talked to me when I met them at a friend's house on a completely unrelated visit. When they discussed the problem with me, I immediately referred them to a RiteCare clinic. The child will be in therapy for some period of time, but his issues are now being addressed by professionals who care. This is what RiteCare is all about and why Scottish Rite Masons are at the forefront of programs nationwide in addressing childhood speech-language disorders.



Burney Brandel 32° KCCH is presenting the Scottish Rite Americanism award to Cadet Brian Kelly (Army Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps) at Loveland High School on May 12th, 2009. The Scottish Rite Americanism Award is awarded to a cadet in the JROTC program for Demonstrated Scholarship and Americanism during the current academic year. The Denver Consistory has presented 19 of these awards to deserving cadets throughout the area during May of this year.

LEADERSHIP

ALLEGIANCE

*The bodies of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, sitting in the Valley of Denver, Orient of Colorado, acknowledge and Yield allegiance to the **Supreme Council** (Mother Council of the World) of the Inspector General, Knights Commander of the House of the Temple of Solomon of the Thirty-third degree of the Ancient Scottish Rite of Freemasonry For the Southern Jurisdiction of The United States of America.*



Ronald A. Seale, 33°
Sovereign Grand Commander
Supreme Council, 33°, Washington, D.C.

Stephen M. Munsinger, 33°
Sovereign Grand Inspector General
of The Supreme Council

David W. Powell, 33°
Personal Representative of the SGIG in Colorado
for Denver Consistory



James H. Harris, 32° KCCH
Venerable Master
Centennial Lodge of Perfection



Wesley L. Campbell, 32° KCCH
Wise Master
Rocky Mountain Chapter of Rose Croix

Scottish Rite Creed

"Human progress is our cause, liberty of thought our supreme wish, freedom of conscience our mission, and the guarantee of equal rights to all people everywhere our ultimate goal."



Fred Runyan III, 32° KCCH
Master of Kadosh
Denver Consistory



H. Gordon Beville, 32° KCCH,
Commander
Colorado Council of Kadosh



M. Edward Johnson, 33°
Almoner



Donald L. Emarine, 33°
Treasurer



Claud E. Dutro, 33°
Secretary-Recorder-Registrar



CALENDAR

2009 Denver Consistory Schedule

June

Thurs – Sun
June 11 – 14

Scottish Rite Regional Reunion IV
Long Beach, California

Mon – June 15

Stated Meeting

5:30 PM – Red Room Business Meeting

6:00 PM – Dinner

Teriyaki Chicken

Wild Rice

Vegetables

Fruit salad

Roll w/butter

Pineapple Upside Cake

7:00 PM – Entertainment – Hawaiian Shirt Night

The Colorado DeMolay Play:

"The Inquisition of Jacques

DeMolay". Brothers and Wives Welcome.

5 minute oration by Colorado

Council of Kadosh Orator

PARKING GARAGE AVAILABLE

July

Fri – July 3
Sat – July 11

Consistory closed for observance of Independence Day
Committee Chairmen, Officers and Wives Picnic

August

Wed – Aug 19
Fri – Aug 21

Officers Meeting 6:00 PM

Shrimp Boil 6:00 PM -

PARKING GARAGE AVAILABLE

September

Mon – Sept 7 Consistory closed for Labor Day

Mon – Sept 21

Stated Meeting

5:30 PM – Red Room Business Meeting

6:00 PM – Dinner

7:00 PM – Entertainment – \

Scottish Rite Foundation Program

5 minute oration by Denver Consistory

Minister of State

Sports Team Shirt Night

PARKING GARAGE AVAILABLE

October

Sat – Tues

Oct 3 – 6

Supreme Council

Washington DC

Sat – Oct 3

Oktoberfest at El Jebel Shrine Center

5:00 PM

Mon – Oct 19

Stated Meeting

5:30 PM – Red Room Business Meeting

6:00 PM – Dinner

7:00 PM – Entertainment – Feast of Tishri

Observance

PARKING GARAGE AVAILABLE

Sat – Oct 31

Honors Conferral

November

Thurs - Fri- Sat

Nov 12 - 14

Fall Reunion - 35th consecutive

PARKING GARAGE AVAILABLE

Mon – Nov 16

Stated Meeting

5:30 PM – Red Room Business Meeting

6:00 PM – Dinner

7:00 PM – Entertainment – Veterans Recognition

Program

PARKING GARAGE AVAILABLE

Sat – Nov 21

Consistory Decorating Party

9:00 AM

All members, officers and wives are invited

Thurs – Fri

Nov 26 & 27

Consistory closed for Thanksgiving Day

December

Sat – Dec 5 Scottish Rite Foundation & Consistory Children’s Christmas Party 10:00 AM
PARKING GARAGE AVAILABLE

Mon – Dec 21

Stated Meeting

5:30 PM – Red Room Business Meeting

6:00 PM – Dinner

7:00 PM – Entertainment

Annual Election of Officers

PARKING GARAGE AVAILABLE

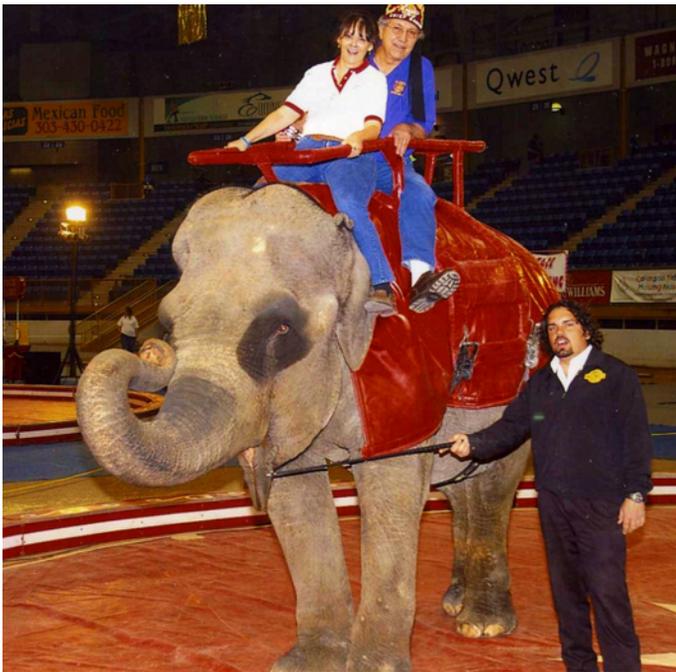
Fri - Dec 25

Consistory closed for Christmas observance

Fri - Jan 1

Consistory closed for New Year’s observance

Note: all menus are listed on our web page at www.denverconsistory.org



Ed Rendon, 32°, Chief Rabban, and his wife Michelle had a great time at the 2009 El Jebel Circus in April. Were you there?

BONFILS  **BLOOD CENTER**



Give the Gift of Life June 9th...and receive a Free Dinner!

Join Columbine Masonic Lodge in giving the gift of life. Bonfils Blood Center will be taking blood donations 1:00 to 6:30 PM at Radiant Temple located at
255 N Acoma St, Denver CO.

If you donate, Columbine Masonic Lodge will buy you dinner.

Not sure if you can donate? Please call Bonfils Donor Relations Dept (303)363-2202 for questions about blood donor eligibility.

Reservations are highly recommended; call Anne @ (303)233-1000, business hours



The Scottish Rite Foundation of Colorado is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit public charity dedicated to funding speech-language therapy for children in Colorado. The Foundation's Tax ID is 84-6034299.

You are welcome to contact the foundation about services or making a gift by calling 303-861-2410 or e-mailing ritecare@scottishritefoundation.org. You may write the Foundation at 1370 Grant Street, Denver, CO 80203. Visit the foundation website at www.scottishritefoundation.org.

