

Troop 1000 FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY

WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

We have both the right of freedom and the responsibility to respect and protect the freedom of others. From Revolutionary times to the present day, men have defended our flag with their blood and with their lives. Our flag is a symbol of the people, of all the people, the people of the United States of America.

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RETIRE THE FLAG - TURN TO AMERICAN FLAG

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Would you please now join me in giving the Pledge of Allegiance:

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.

Author: Unknown



I was born on the 4th of July.

I am more than just cloth shaped into a design.

I am the refuge of the world's oppressed people.

I am the silent sentinel of Freedom.

I am the emblem of the greatest sovereign nation on the earth.

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 deserts of Iraq.

I walk in silence with each of your honored dead, to their final resting place beneath the silent tombstones - - row upon 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 lost their sons.

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

My stars, clustered together, unify 50 states as one, for God and country.

"Old Glory" is my nickname, and proudly I 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.

We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.

That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed.

We, the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people to peaceably assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.

No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without consent of the owner.

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated.

No person shall be held to answer for a capital crime unless on an indictment of a Grand Jury, nor be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law.

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, and to be known the nature and cause of accusation.

In suits at common law, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved.

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people. The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

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As I say the words to the Pledge of Allegiance, repeat them silently to yourselves.

I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE

As our founding fathers pledged their lives, their fortunes, and Their sacred honor to a new nation, so do we pledge our devotion and our loyalty.

TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

An honored symbol of a nation's unity, its hopes, achievements, glory, and high resolve - - red for courage, white for purity, and blue for vigilance, perseverance, and justice.

AND TO THE REPUBLIC FOR WHICH IT STANDS

Where sovereign power resides in a body elected by, representative of, and responsible to this nation's citizens.

ONE NATION UNDER GOD

From the Atlantic to the Pacific; from Canada to Mexico; we are united as one under the One to whom we turn for guidance, whose blessings we ask, and who watches over us - - for in His spirit America was founded.

INDIVISIBLE

The citizens of this great country come from different racial backgrounds, have different traditions, and often worship in different houses. Because the people of America are so varied and so rich in heritage, the whole of this nation is far greater than the sum of its parts - - and we stand together to face the world.