

The Flag and Freedom

In this week of Independence Day, our communities and our country are awash in the colors of red, white and blue. And well they should be. They have great significance for all Americans.

Recently, I came across an article written by Retired Army Colonel Daniel K. Cedusky. It is appropriate for our thoughts as we approach the Fourth of July weekend. Here it is:

I Am Your Flag

I was born on June 14, 1777. 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 nation on 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 bloody swamps of Vietnam. I walk in silence with each of your honored dead to their final resting place beneath the silent white crosses, 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. Worship Eternal God and keep His commandments, and I shall remain the bulwark of peace and freedom for all mankind.

I am your flag.

Those are words fitly chosen as we celebrate the birth – and the strength and character – of our nation.

--Beecher Hunter