

FLAG TRIBUTE # 2

TRIBUTE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

By Sister Lee Morey – New Jersey (written in 1986)

I am the daughter of an immigrant! Since 1886 the magnificent Statue of Liberty has been a symbol of the hopes and dreams of ALL immigrants who have come to the United States of America hoping to find and, yes, to help build freedom and prosperity.

"There are so many countries in the world today," my father would say, "where people's only hope and prayer is to get out! Much as they love their native land, their freedom is so restricted; their thoughts so throttled, that they long for a free land in which they can grow, develop and be happy."

Then he would, tearfully, relate to us the most joyful occasion of his life, when he first viewed the lovely lady in the harbor—The Statue of Liberty—and of what becoming an American meant to him.

I, on the other hand, was born an American. This is MY country and I remember the lessons I was taught as a child about patriotism, love of our flag and our country. As I grew older, I realized that patriotism is a humble, inner feeling of kinship for all that is our land and our people a pride in the good and a hopeful tolerance of the bad. Only REAL PATRIOTS see this flag; others merely see a brightly colored piece of cloth. Patriotism is a way of life, and it has never been more precious than in this year when we celebrate the 100th birthday of that great lady with the lamp, the Statue of Liberty.

I am proud of the flag of the United States of America. Every star and every stripe in this glorious flag has a meaning. It represents unity and justice, freedom to the individual and a wide-open opportunity to EVERY citizen under its protection, native born or immigrant. This American flag waves freely in the breeze as a symbol of hope and happiness for all enslaved nations to emulate. What a heritage has been bequeathed to every one of us so fortunate to be an AMERICAN!

Let us not barter it away, let us hold fast to it and do all we can to spread its blessings to all those less fortunate or ignorant of its happy way of life. Let us appreciate America—be worthy of it! Let us forever thank God for this symbol of Liberty. This is My Flag! This is My Country! GOD, Bless America.

FLAG TRIBUTE # 3

I am your flag. I was born on June 14, 1777. I am more than just cloth shaped into a design. I am the silent sentinel of freedom, and the inspiration for which American patriots have given their lives. I have led your sons and daughters into battle from Valley Forge to the Arabian deserts. I walk, in silence, with each of your honored dead, to their final resting place, beneath a field of white crosses. I have flown through peace and war, strife and prosperity, and amidst it all, I am still respected and honored. My red stripes symbolize the blood spilled in defense of our beloved nation. My white stripes represent the tears shed by those who have lost loved ones protecting my country. My blue field represents God's beautiful sky, under which I proudly fly. My 50 stars symbolize the states united by the dedication to freedom, love for God, and love for my country. When I, "Old Glory", pass by, stand erect, place your right hand over your heart, and be proud. In return, I will wave to you with pride and honor. I AM YOUR FLAG ... GOD BLESS AMERICA.

Sing: "God Bless America"

FLAG TRIBUTE # 3

The American Flag has long stood for a country that struggled to gain independence from oppression and unity amongst her people. She has been held high with pride by children at parades, astronauts landing on the moon, and by soldiers marching off to defend her with their lives on the field of battle.

The Declaration of Independence was the beginning of a new nation and a new flag. She has changed little in appearance since her birth when the Third Continental Congress of the United States passed a resolution, "that the flag of the United States be 13 stripes representing the 13 states, that the stripes be red and white alternately, and that the Union be represented by 13 stars, white in a field of blue." More stars have been added to include 37 more states. But has anything been taken away? Has the pride that you feel dwindled in the light of political and social unrest? Has the pride man once felt fallen by the wayside?

I hope and fervently pray that the pride that you and I as Sisters and Brothers have maintained is the pride that puts a gleam in the eye and a swell in the chest. If not, why not be the ones to bring back the spirit that once stirred the heart and caused men of all ages to show their utmost respect.

Next time you see a flag at a parade, a sporting event, or even hanging majestically by your own front door, pause for a moment and think about that young boy from the parade that grew up to be President; think about the astronaut that took our flag into outer space with them; and think about the men and women, our sons and daughters, who bravely go into the field of battle to make sure that we would always be able to wave our most precious treasure with pride, honor, and love for country...one country, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all...Amen.

The American Flag

When freedom, from her mountain height
Unfurled her standard to the air,
She tore the azure robe of night
And set the stars of glory there.
She mingled with its gorgeous dyes
The milky baldrick of the skies,
Then from his mansion in the sun
She called her eagle-bearer down
And gave into his mighty hand
The symbol of her chosen land.

-- Joseph Rodman Drake

Hot July brings cooling showers,
apricots and yellow flowers,
firecrackers, flags, picnics and parties
that help us herald the birthday
of our country.

-- Unknown

Fourth of July

6/25/01

Fourth of July,
Fourth of July,
That's when the flag
Goes waving by.

And the crackers crack,
And the popguns pop,
And the big guns boom
And never stop.

And we watch parades,
And listen to speeches,
And picnic around
On the beaches.

And it usually rains,
And it's always hot;
But we all like Fourth
Of July a lot.

-- Marchette Chute

Old Glory

Old Glory, Old Glory
How graceful you are!
You stand like a wise man with all
fifty stars.

Old Glory, Old Glory
So graceful, so righteous,
Your colors so beautiful and truthful
to all of us.

Old Glory, Old Glory
What memories you bring,
Like when you were made by hand,
Needle, and string

Old Glory, Old Glory
You're important to me!
You stand for our country,
The Land of the Free!

-- Melonie Richards

Am currently teaching a recertification class and have time to be out
surfing....maybe this will help you a little.