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"Wheels of Heritage and Faith"

Flag Ceremony                      Thur. 19 th.

Today we pay tribute to the emblems that stand for the noble side of man, his hopes, dreams, aspirations, faith and promises. His loyalty to that which he holds dear to his heart and soul and becomes more precious than life itself. Sisters and Brothers----- the

Flag of the United States of America

carried by Pete Barnes, husband of our Worthy Grand Matron and escorted by Starsteppers Bob and Garnetta Durham

Since June 14, 1777, I have been the banner of hope and freedom for generation after generation of Americans. Born amidst the first flowers of America's fight for freedom, I am the symbol of a country that has grown from a little group of thirteen colonies to a united nation of fifty sovereign states planted firmly on the high pinnacle of American faith. My gently fluttering folds have proved an inspiration to untold millions. Men have followed me into battle with unwavering courage. They have prayed that they and their fellow citizens might continue to enjoy the life, liberty and pursuit of happiness granted to Americans as the heritage of free men. So long as men love liberty more than life itself; so long as they cherish the priceless privileges bought with the blood of their fore-fathers and their brothers; so long as the principle of truth, justice and charity for all remain deeply rooted in human hearts, I shall continue to be the enduring Banner of the United States of America.

There it waves - - - Old Glory ! Colorful proclamation of our nation's dependence upon God and its unwavering devotion to the principles of Liberty and Justice. Proud emblem of the unquenchable spirit of a mighty people. Powerful reminder of our ancestral debt, our tremendous responsibility to the present and the Heritage we will pass on to future generations!

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#### The Canadian Flag

carried by Sam Holland, husband of our Grand Organist and escorted by Starsteppers David and Marie Heidel

We now pay tribute to the national flag of our best friend, Canada. This flag in its beautiful simplicity with it's red maple leaf is also a symbol of freedom throughout the world. It too represents a glorious heritage founded on the principles of honor, justice, love and loyalty. The Maple Leaf of Canada and the Stars and Stripes of the United States, with our beautiful Peace Gardens as a lovely jewel in the center, fly side by side over thousands of miles of unfortified border as an example to the whole world that two nations can live side by side in friendship, tolerance, dignity and respect.

#### The Colorado Flag

carried by David Hageman, husband of the Grand Marshal and escorted by Starsteppers Jean Davidson and Alta Noland. This beautiful flag was given to Grand Chapter this year. Many thanks to the Beacon Clubs for this lovely gift.

We present the flag of our beloved Centennial State. "It is a beautiful flag as its colors unfold, the red, white and blue, and a touch of gold. Red, for the gorgeous sunset- nowhere else can be found, blue for the blue skies we have (almost) all the time, and yellow, for the gold that we dig from our mines. "C" for Centennial---that's our nickname, you know, -- also for Colorado, where the lovely Columbinas grow." Yes, this 38th. state, on the very determined fourth try, came into being just one hundred years after the signing of the Declaration of Independence! Much of the spirit of our Founding Fathers was carried on in the hearts and minds of Colorado's pioneers. Our beautiful State Flag and how we love it!

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#### The Indiana State Flag

carried by Gene Wilson, husband of our Grand Electa and escorted by Starsteppers Wes and Jeanie Moore.

Indiana, the state of our Most Worthy Grand Patron, David J. Miller, has a flag bearing the Torch of Knowledge and Liberty. It is surrounded by nineteen gold stars on a field of dark blue. The flag is fringed in gold. The star above the torch is larger than the others and represents Indiana. The other stars represent the eighteen states in the Union when Indiana was admitted, in the year 1816 as the nineteenth state. Indiana, we welcome you and you too have an honored place beside us, this "Whooser" state whose history is so full of the many heroic deeds accomplished during the winning of the West by their

*hard. pioneers.*

### The Christian Flag

carried by Don LeFevre, husband of our Grand Martha  
and escorted by Starsteppers Ann Ploeser and Shirley Foree

It is with reverence and thanksgiving that we pay  
tribute to the Christian Flag. This flag of white, blue  
and red is a symbol of the belief in the existence of a  
Supreme Being upon which our Order is founded. The white  
is a symbol of purity, the blue field symbolizes fidelity,  
and the red cross is an emblem of sacrifice.

The Christian Flag has been an emblem of Protestant  
Churches since 1897. Never has there been a flag unfurled  
that is more deserving of tribute. Within its silken folds  
is wrapped the peace of the world: the hopes, joys and  
sorrows of all mankind. Its presence in all our deliberations  
make it evident that God is with us.

The Christian Flag has no geographic boundaries, but  
illuminates all nations with undaunted splendor. We  
are privileged to behold its beauty. We know in our hearts,  
that it is truly a symbol of things hoped for and the  
evidence of things not seen.

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### The Eastern Star Flag

carried by Olin Mueller, escort of our Grand Warder  
and escorted by Starsteppers, Maudie McDaniel and  
Cleo Artz

This beautiful white flag with its emblematic star  
in the center has led and still leds thousands of people  
to a happier and fuller life.

Brother Rob Morris must have been guided by God and inspired by the Holy Spirit in the choice of a name for our Order, even in the selections of the Biblical characters, to represent the five points of the Star and in the composition of the lectures which he prepared.

The Order of the Eastern Star is more radiant and more meaningful than ever before, and we need today, as never before, a renewed faith in organized society. The healing qualities of fidelity, constancy, loyalty, faith and love must always be present if our Order is to continue.

Each of us here today should be proud to give tribute to the Eastern Star Flag for the many blessings the Order has given us. May we always remember its teachings and keep them close to our hearts.

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So, my Sisters and Brothers, on behalf of the 93rd. Annual Grand Chapter "Wheels of Heritage and Faith" session, we pay humble tribute to these flags, symbolizing our Country, our State, our Religions and our Order. May they ever, through the grace of God, continue to wave serenely over the land of the free and the home of the brave!

*Kay Hageman*

Kay Hageman  
Grand Marshal