

What the United States Flag Stands For

When I see our flag, with the red, white, and blue, waiving in the air, I think of courage, hope, freedom, and fairness. The flag has symbolic meaning with the stars, stripes, and colors. Our flag is in every civic building, courtroom, and classroom, throughout the United States. We see the flag at sporting events, on ships, and in parades. It has even been taken to space and placed on the moon.

I think George Cohan captured the meaning of the flag best in his song "You're a grand old flag." The chorus line continues: "You're the emblem of the land I love, the home of the free and the brave." The respect we bestow on our flag shows the loyalty we have to our country, and gratitude to our brave soldiers. We see the flag worn on the sleeves of servicemen in every branch of the military. The sight of our flag ensures that our society will continue to safeguard the freedoms we all cherish. The flag can speak when words alone cannot. We display our freedom of faith and respect with the ceremonial draping of the flag over all our fallen veterans. The presentation of a folded flag to the family symbolizes the gratitude of our nation for their sacrifice and service.

Each state is represented on our flag as a star, and the thirteen bands on the flag represent the colonies during the revolution. The cost of Freedom was paid for with the blood of our soldiers. The flag we fly represents loyalty and liberty for all.

When we stand and place our hands on our hearts, we renew our promise, through the Pledge of Allegiance, to be patriotic citizens of the United States of America, as "one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." I am proud to look up and see our flag raised high in the sky, and my heart fills with national pride, sure that our country will continue to lead and inspire the world as a beacon of freedom to all.

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