

What the United States Flag Stands For

On a wet and dreary August night, a concert was held at my local outdoor amphitheater. Despite heavy rainfall, many people still came, armed with umbrellas and rain jackets. I auditioned and prepared to sing the National Anthem for months to be ready for this event.

As I began to sing, I looked out over the crowd and admired that no matter their age, every member of the audience had risen to their feet, faced the flag, and placed their hand over their heart. The heads of many were damp as they had removed their hats to show respect for the United States flag. The flag was drenched with rain, but its value and purpose remained the same. It stood tall reminding us of our country's valor, purity, and perseverance. It made me ponder on the innumerable times that quiet and humble reverence had been paid to our flag, in remembrance of the loyal sacrifice of those who have given their lives for our country.

The United States flag tells the story of our country's beginnings and where we are today. Its stars and stripes have grown in number, but the flag still stands for what the founders intended it to. It stands for the unity we strive for and the equality we believe all people are entitled to. Our country has gone through difficult times of major turmoil and tension. We often face threats to our freedom to speak out for what is right and practice our religious beliefs peaceably, but that does not mean we give up our hopes and dreams for what our country can be. The great dream of this country is for a peaceful, prosperous, and protected home for all. As we work towards that dream, our flag and the freedoms it represents remind us that hope and hard work are how America has become what it is today, and what it can be tomorrow.

Through it all, rain or shine, over the land of the free and the home of the brave, our flag will always fly.

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