

What the United States Flag Stands For

When I see the American flag, I see many things. I see the original thirteen colonies. I see the fifty states. I see Betsy Ross as the woman who produced the first flag, although historians say that they cannot be sure. Through the changes in our country, one thing has remained. Among all of these things, I see the young men and women who gave up their lives to uphold our freedom. During the 246 years that the United States of America has been a country, the core pillar of our country, freedom, has been in jeopardy many times. During the War of 1812, the Civil War, World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, young men have risked their lives to protect our way of life.

The freedom that the flag stands for makes the United States a special nation. The flag represents my freedom to become who I want to be. Our flag represents freedom of speech and freedom of religion. In places like Afghanistan girls like me would not even have the right to an education. Other countries have a state religion like Saudi Arabia but we can worship however we like. We can also speak freely without worrying that we will end up in jail for it. This makes me feel incredibly grateful that I do not live in a country like Russia, where you can be brutally punished for speaking your mind.

When I see the American flag, I see my family and the values they shared with me. The flag represents people like my great uncle and my great, great uncles who fought in Vietnam and the South Pacific to protect not just the people they loved but everyone in their country. The American ideals are personified by the flag, along with the people who have fought for those ideals. People have fought with all they have to protect our way of life, and I wish all Americans remembered that more.

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