

The 13 Folds Of The American Flag

THE AMERICAN FLAG

*You might have thought it was to symbolize the original 13 colonies.
Here is one story that is dear to many veterans and their families.*



The story is told while others fold the flag.

Here by a member of the VFW 1152 Military Rites Team





***The 1st fold of our flag
is a symbol of life.***

***The 2nd fold
is a symbol of our belief in eternal life.***

***The 3rd fold
is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing
our ranks who gave a portion of their lives for the defense
of our country to attain peace throughout the world.***

***The 4th fold
represents our weaker nature, for as American citizens
trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace
as well as in time of war for His divine guidance.***

***The 5th fold
is a tribute to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur,
"Our Country", in dealing with other countries, may she
always be right; but it is still our country, right or wrong.***

***The 6th fold
is for where our hearts lie. It is with our heart that
We pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America,
and to the republic for which it stands, one Nation under God,
Indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.***

***The 7th fold
is a tribute to our Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces
that we protect our country and our flag against all her enemies,
whether they are found within or without the boundaries of our
republic.***

***The 8th fold
is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the
shadow of death, that we might see the light of day.***

***The 9th fold
is a tribute to womanhood, and Mothers. For it has been through
their faith, their love, loyalty and devotion that the
character of the men and women who have made this
country great has been molded.***

***The 10th fold
is a tribute to the father, for he too, has given his sons and
daughters for defense of our country since they were first born.***

***The 11th fold
represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and
King Solomon and glorifies in the Hebrews eyes, the God of
Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.***

***The 12th fold
represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies,
in the Christians eyes, God the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit.***

***The 13th fold,
or when the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost
reminding us of our nation's motto, "In God We Trust."***



***After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the
appearance of a cocked hat, Ever reminding us of the soldiers who served
under General George Washington, and the Sailors and Marines who
served under Captain John Paul Jones, who were followed by their
comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States,
preserving for us the rights, privileges and freedoms we enjoy today.***

The next time you see a Flag ceremony honoring someone that has served our country, either in the Armed forces or in our civilian services such as the Police Force or Fire Department, keep in mind all the important reasons behind each and every movement.

They have paid the ultimate sacrifice for all of us.

Here are some comments, regarding the 13 folds of the Flag.

1. I perform military funerals all the time. We fold the flag carefully because we don't want it to come out sloppy. It just happens to have 13 folds, and if the flag is proportioned properly, 9 inches will be left over, and needs to be folded and tucked in--another fold.
This was written by someone, and it is annoying that everyone who repeats on the internet is creating the impression it is official.
The United States government assigns no meaning to the folds, and no meanings to the colors. In fact, the sizes and proportions were never specified by the US government until 1959, when President Eisenhower signed the executive order adding the 50th star to the flag.
Every website that finds it and republishes the meaning of the 13 folds furthers this misconception. They have no more meaning that that which you or I might make up ourselves. JM Lee
2. "While Public Law 94-344 does not place any significance or meaning to the 13 folds of the American flag the sentiments written above have been adopted as a tradition by many veterans and family members of veterans of our great nation as they reflect what we recognize about our flag and our country. They give meaning and hope to those family members who have lost a loved one fighting for our freedoms. There are a multitude of sites online and other entities which claim that these meanings have never been official but, if you talk to many veterans of our great country these words do have a great significance and meaning and are official in that sense. Tell me what makes a tradition? Does it just crop up one day and become a reality? How did our national song come about? Was it an official publication written into a law somewhere to begin with or did the people adopt it and it then become our National Anthem? There are those who take issue with the religious nature of the lines but that is all a matter of preference and that is what fighting for our freedom gave us the freedom to choose religion or not to choose it along with all of our other rights. Who are you to say that this needs to be taken down and ignored? I fought for freedom of speech right along with all of the other rights that we enjoy today and am permanently disabled because of it. I appreciate your view as that is what you have the right to do but don't take exception when others raise their voice as it is their God given right and they are exercising it by the laws of our Country and Constitution." L. Halamek, PO3 US Navy Disabled Veteran
3. "Please keep this posted. If in fact the 13 folds do not have meaning per say it would be a good thing to try to get passed into law. Our veterans need something more than just the flag folded and these reasons give meaning to that....." Sincerely William T Huiss Wisconsin
4. "I received this message a couple of times and have never tired of reading it. The symbolic message is one that takes my breath away each time! Just the awesomeness of what the TRUE meaning is, makes me more proud of our service men and women and our country, our Flag of Freedom, and no matter what problems our country faces, it is STILL the best! The reason for the flag folding it 13 ways should be taught in school along with the Pledge. Not very many people know "Why"...." Jeanne Rose Wittmann, AZ

DID YOU KNOW

The traditional method of folding the flag is as follows:

(A) Straighten out the flag to full length and fold lengthwise once.



A)



(B) Fold it lengthwise a second time to meet the open edge, making sure that the union of stars on the blue field remains outward in full view. (A large flag may have to be folded lengthwise a third time.)

B)



(C) A triangular fold is then started by bringing the striped corner of the folded edge to the open edge.

C)



(D) The outer point is then turned inward, parallel with the open edge, to form a second triangle.

D)



(E) The diagonal or triangular folding is continued toward the blue union until the end is reached, with only the blue showing and the form being that of a cocked (three-corner) hat.



E)

