

It is known as **THE STARS & STRIPES**

It is known as the Stars and Stripes. The union consists of white stars, an ancient symbol of sovereignty, against a blue background. There are as many stars as there are states, but no particular star is for any individual state. The stripes represent the thirteen original colonies which declared their independence from Great Britain in 1776.

The original symbolism of the colors is not known. However, when congress chose those same colors for the great seal in 1782, it was indicated that...

RED is for Hardiness and Valor
WHITE for Purity and Innocence, and
BLUE for Vigilance, Perseverance, and Justice.

These are mere words from a book. A book definition of our nation's flag. Yet, these words do not say what we feel in our hearts.

The flag stands for many things, things evident in the Declaration of Independence--where all men and women are created equal, with rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The right of the people to alter or abolish any form of government that becomes destructive. This is what we live for to be free. Our flag is the symbol of that freedom. What we fight for to keep ourselves free.

The flag stands for the Constitution of the United States of America. A land of freedom, a flag of freedom. Freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, security of people in their homes, the right to vote. Our flag stands for all these things and much more.

In reality, we do not think of the flag in terms of what it has done for us. Rather we think of it in terms of how each and everyone of us feels when we see it flying.

The flag stands for freedom, whether in peacetime, during war. It reminds us that we are willing to fight if we must to conserve the ideals are forefathers set for us.

The flag flies for you, it flies for me. Long may it wave. Free am I, free are you. God bless our flag and God bless the United States of America.