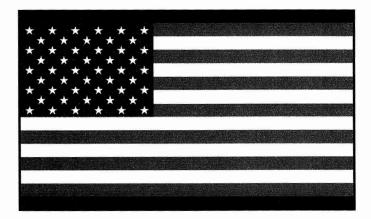
Americanism August 2023



The first official national flag, formally approved by the <u>Continental Congress</u> on June 14, 1777, was the "Stars and Stripes." The American Flag has thirteen equal horizontal stripes of red (top and bottom) alternating with white; there is a blue rectangle in the upper left corner bearing 50 small white five-pointed stars arranged in nine offset horizontal rows of six stars (top and bottom) alternating with rows of five stars; the 50 stars represent the 50 states, the 13 stripes represent the 13 original colonies; known as "Old Glory."

The flag is a symbol of hope. There will always be Americans that will stand up and fight for what they believe in. The lives that have been lost will never be in vain as long as the flag continues to spark hope in our youth. Teaching our kids about the flag and what it represents is very important. They need to understand what it stands for and how to protect it. The flag is not just for those that have served our country or lost their lives, it is about every American. It represents our future and hopes.

We need to go to our schools, Boy Scouts and other groups to talk about and instruct our youth about our flag.

The respect paid to our national standard (Old Glory, the red, white, and blue: The Flag) are the hallmarks of the precious freedom we enjoy as American citizens, and it is every American's duty to pass on the awesome story of this nation to the next generation.

Sylvia Carlson, Americanism Chairman P. O. Box 780 Hays, KS 67601 253-209-6239 sylviacarlson@att.net