

APPENDIX IV -- KANSAS ELKS ASSOCIATION STATE FLAG DAY SERVICE

COLOR GUARD: Enters and Presents the Colors.

PRESIDENT: Please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and remain standing until after the invocation.

I 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.

State association Chaplain _____ from _____ (Lodge) will lead us in prayer.

Chaplain: Almighty God, in this hour of patriotic observance of the birthday of the American flag, we ask you to bless our flag, and the people of these United States. For all that our flag represents, both at home and abroad, we thank Thee, and that through all our history as a nation, it has been an ensign of freedom, liberty and opportunity. And through the years to come may this flag wave as the banner of liberty, freedom and enlightenment. May this service bring to each of us a sense of loyalty to our country and enable us to be better patriots, truer citizens, and more loyal Americans, to Thy glory and to the honor of this great nation. Amen.

WELCOME: (Host Lodge, Mayor or other Host) _____

PRESIDENT: Please stand for the "Star Spangled Banner".

SONG: "*Star Spangled Banner*" - or other patriotic song. _____

PRESIDENT: Please be seated.

My Brothers, Ladies and Friends, the purpose of this service is to honor our country's flag, to celebrate the anniversary of its birth, and to recall the achievements attained beneath its folds. It is quite appropriate that such a service should be held by the Order of Elks, an organization that is distinctively American, intensely patriotic and without counterpart.

The fraternal aims of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks are to inculcate the principles of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity; to promote the welfare and happiness of mankind; to uphold our country and its laws; and to quicken the spirit of American patriotism.

To Elks the significance of the American Flag is to serve as an Emblem of Charity and Justice of all, and as a symbol of Brotherly Love and Fidelity.

Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and Fidelity are the Cardinal Principles of the Order of Elks and they are exemplified in all of our services. By them we teach love of country and our countrymen and loyalty to our American way of life. To be an Elk is to be an American citizen who lives for his country and is ready to die for it. That we may better understand the meaning of our flag, I call upon State Association First Vice-President _____ from _____ (Lodge) for the History of the Flag.

THE FLAG: ITS HISTORY

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT: Heraldry is as old as the human race. The carrying of banners has been a custom among all peoples in all ages. These banners usually contain some concept of the life of government of those who fashion them.

The evolution of the American Flag marks the progression of the government of the American people.

From the landing of the pilgrims, in 1620, until 1775, the Flag of England was the flag of the peoples of America.

In 1775, the Pine Tree Flag was adopted for all Colonial vessels, and this was the banner carried by the continental forces in the Battle of Bunker Hill.

(Enter the Pine Tree Flag)

The southern colonies from 1776 to 1777 used the Snake Flag.

(Enter the Snake Flag)

In the latter part of 1775 the Continental Congress appointed a committee to consider the question of a single flag for the thirteen colonies. That committee recommended a design of thirteen alternate stripes of red and white, with an azure field in the upper corner bearing the red cross of St. George and the white cross of St. Andrew. John Paul Jones, the Senior Lieutenant of the flag ship "Alfred", hoisted this flag to the masthead on

December 3, 1775, and one month later it was raised over the headquarters of General George Washington at Cambridge, Massachusetts, "In compliment," as he wrote, "to the United Colonies."

(Enter the Grand Union Flag)

This flag, called "The Continental Colors" and the "Grand Union", was never carried in the field by the continental land forces, but it was used by the navy as its exclusive ensign, and was the first American Flag to receive a Salute of Honor, a salute of eleven guns from the Fort of Orange in the Dutch West Indies.

In response to a general demand for a banner more representative of our country, the Congress on June 14, 1777, provided: "That the flag of the United States be thirteen stripes of alternating red and white; and that the Union be thirteen stars, white on a blue field, representing a new constellation."

(Enter the Thirteen Star Flag)

It is generally believed that in May or June of 1776, a committee consisting of George Washington, Robert Morris and George Ross commissioned Betsy Ross, a Philadelphia Quakeress, to make a flag from a rough design they left with her. It is said that she suggested that the stars should have five points, rather than six.

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This starry banner was first flown at Fort Stanwix, called Fort Schuyler at that time near the city of Rome, New York, On August 3, 1777, and was under fire three days later at the Battle of Oriskany, August 6, 1777, during a British and Indian attack.

The first official salute to the Stars and Stripes was given on February 14, 1778, by the French Coast, when the "Ranger" under command of John Paul Jones, was saluted by the French fleet.

This flag, than carried by the "Ranger", was made by the young women of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, from stripes of their best colored silk dresses and the white wedding gown of a recent bride.

It is said that this same "Ranger's" Flag was flown by Jones' ship, the "Bon Homme Richard" in its thrilling fight by moonlight, upon the high seas, with the British Frigate "Serapis". When the "Serapis" struck her colors, the immortal fame of John Paul Jones was insured as the intrepid defender of the youthful republic.

The original thirteen stars and stripes represented the original thirteen colonies. In 1795, two additional stars and stripes was added to represent admission to the Union of Vermont and Kentucky. Under this banner of fifteen stars and stripes was fought the War of 1812. It was sight of it flying over Fort McHenry, on September 14, 1814, that inspired Francis Scott Key to write what was to become our National Anthem, "The Star Spangled Banner".

Miss Margaret Young, who cut the stars for that particular banner, subsequently became the mother of Henry Sanderson, the Grand Exalted Ruler of the Order of Elks in 1884.

(Enter the Fifteen Star Flag)

The Congress on April 14, 1818, adopted a resolution that on and after July 4, 1818, the number of stripes should be thirteen and that the blue field should carry one star for each of the twenty states in the Union and that a new star should be added for each state thereafter admitted.

(Enter the Twenty Star Flag)

Since 1918, there has been no change in the flag design except that twenty eight new stars were added before July 4, 1912, and this flag of forty-eight stars flew over this Nation for forty-seven years until just before the Vietnam War.

(Enter the Forty-eight Star Flag)

On July 4, 1959, a star was added for Alaska, our first non-connected state and a year later, Hawaii, our island state added a fiftieth star. Our present flag - fifty stars and thirteen stripes.

(Enter the Fifty Star Flag)

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PRESIDENT: The Order of Elks is the first and only fraternal body to require formal observance of Flag Day. In July of 1908, the Grand Lodge of this Order, at Dallas, Texas, provided for the annual nationwide observance of Flag Day on the 14th of June of each year, by making it mandatory upon each subordinate lodge of the Order.

This unique distinction as the originator of Flag Day is most becoming to the Order of Elks. This Order is distinctively American. Only American citizens are eligible to join and it has no foreign affiliations. It has linked its destiny with the destiny of our country and made this flag its symbol of self-dedication to God, to country and to fellowman.

The response to the History of Flags will be presented by State Association Second Vice-President _____ from _____ (Lodge).

RESPONSE

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT: The Stars and Stripes, Flag of the United States of America! The worldwide hope of all who, under God, would be free to live and do his will.

Upon its folds is written the story of America - The epic of the mightiest and noblest in all history.

In the days when peoples of the old world groveled in abject homage to the heresy of "the Divine right of Kings", a new constellation appeared in the western skies, the Stars and Stripes, symbolizing the divine right of all men to life, liberty, happiness and peace under endowment by their creator.

To what man is given words adequate to tell the story of the building of this nation? That immortal story is written in blood and sweat, in heroic deeds and unremitting toil, in clearing of primeval forests and in planting of vast prairies where once the coyote and buffalo roamed. Onward swept the nation, spanning wide rivers, leaping vast mountain ranges, leaving in its path villages and farms, factories and cities, till at last this giant Nation stood astride the continent, from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

This is the heritage of the people of the United States. It has been repurchased by each succeeding generation and must be won again, again and again until the end of time, lest it too shall pass like the ancient empires of Greece and Rome.

"The price of liberty is eternal vigilance." What was won at Lexington and Concord and Bunker Hill had to be repurchased at Ticonderoga and Yorktown.

What John Paul Jones achieved upon the high seas in the War of Independence had to be repurchased by Commodore Perry on Lake Erie in the War of 1812.

The prestige of Admiral Dewey's victory at Manila Bay in 1898 was won by the naval battles in the seas about the far-distant islands of the Pacific, after the sneak attacks upon Pearl Harbor and Manila in 1941 had summoned our Country to assume its role in World War II. What our troops achieved under the Stars and Stripes at Chateau-Thierry and Flanders in World War I, their sons were required to repurchase in World War II in the bloody trek across northern Africa, in the beachheads of Europe and in the Battle of the Bulge. The flag our American boys

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raised at Iwo Jima was the same flag later raised in the defense of Inchon, Pusan and Pork Chop Hill in far-off Korea. Than another generation under the same flag bled to stem the threat of communism in far-off Vietnam. This flag then flew over the boys in Operation Desert Storm again fighting to help maintain freedom.

The greatest significance of this flag, however lies in the influence it has in the hearts and minds of millions of people. It has waved over the unparalleled progress of a Nation in developing democratic institutions, scientific and technological knowledge, education and culture. It has served as a beacon for millions of poor and oppressed refugees abroad and stands as a promise that the underprivileged will not be forgotten.

What is the meaning of the Flag of the United States? There can never be a definitive answer to that question. There are people in this world who see it as a symbol of imperialism; others see it as a destiny of the people. But reference to these and similar views of the Flag was resolved by Woodrow Wilson when he said: "This flag, which we honor and under which we serve, is the Emblem of our Unity, our power, and thought and shape of this Nation. It has no other character than that which we give it from generation to generation. The choices are ours."

Only love, true love of our fellowman, can create peace. The emblem and token of that love is the Stars and Stripes, the symbol of the American way of life.

SONG: *"American the Beautiful"* - or other patriotic song. _____

PRESIDENT: Introduce program.

PATRIOTIC ADDRESS: (Approximately 15 to 20 minutes]

SONG OR SONGS: *"You're a Grand Old Flag"* - *"God Bless America"* - or other patriotic songs.

PRESIDENT: In conclusion of this observance of Flag Day, let us rededicate ourselves to the Flag of the United States and may the Principles of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity ever increase in each of us.

(Thank Color Guard, singer or singers, host Lodge, speaker and anyone else that helps with the Flag Day Service.)

State Association Chaplain _____ from ____ (Lodge) will offer the benediction. Then after the gun salute and the playing of "Taps" this service will be closed. Please remain standing until the Color Guard has retired the Colors.

Chaplain: Our Father who art in heaven we ask thy blessings upon this patriotic service. As we gathered to pay our respect and tribute to our Nation's Flag, may the beauty of its silken folds remind us always of the proud history of our country. May it nourish in the hearts of all reverence for what it represents and the memory of those who fought beneath it. May we foster at all times the true spirit of utmost loyalty to our Flag. Amen.

GUN SALUTE

RETREAT OF COLORS and "TAPS"

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