

Flag Day 2011

Welcome.

The Second Continental Congress adopted the flag of the United States by resolution on June 14, 1777. In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation officially establishing June 14th as Flag Day. Although it is not a federal holiday, Flag Day is observed today in communities across our great nation.

Flag Day isn't simply about honoring a particular design on a cloth. It is about taking time to reflect on our freedoms and the principles of our great nation.

The flag is a reminder of who we are.

A reminder that we are a nation where many races, creeds, cultures and religions live and prosper together as one in a manner that defies the experience and history of most other nations. No place else on earth can you find so many different ways coexisting together than in the United States of America. Each and everyone one of us here today is the descendant of people from a different

culture who came to America to escape economic tyranny, religious intolerance, dictators and monarchs.

The Flag is a reminder that we are a nation of laws not dictators. We have a great legal system that protects and balances the rights and responsibilities of all its citizens, visitors, businesses and its government.

The Flag is a reminder that America is a land of freedom and opportunity unlike any other nation.

Our Flag should remind us that we Americans have more freedoms that any other people on the earth:

- We are free to say and write whatever we want.
- We are free to practice or not practice any religion.
- We are free to complain to and about our government.
- We are free to own guns.
- We are free to associate or not associate with others.
- We are free to change our government and its leaders.

Our Flag also stands for the proposition that our government has limited powers:

- We are free from invasions of our privacy by the government.
- We are free from unwarranted arrest and in our legal system the rights of the accused are greater than the rights of the government.
- Government doesn't choose the leaders, we do.

All of these rights and freedoms are what our Flag stands for and what we pause to celebrate here today, for without these rights and freedoms there would be no American Flag.