

**Flag Day 2012**

**On June 14, 1777 the Continental Congress resolved that: the Official flag of the United States of America would be 13 stripes of alternating red and white with a blue field of 13 white stars. The stars on the blue field would symbolize a new constellation. In 1782, the Congress of Confederation recognized the meaning of each color on the flag.**

**The RED stripes symbolize hardiness and courage; the hardiness of the early pioneers, the courage of the common working man. As we retire the red colors, let us remember those who came before us.**

*(Place the red stripes on the fire – pause.)*

**The WHITE stripe signify purity and innocence; the purity of the idealists who believe that each person is a child of God, and the innocence that one strives for in their daily life. As we retire the white colors, let us remember those who care for us and protect us from the enemy.**

*(Place the white stripes on the fire- - pause.)*

**The BLUE field is indicative of vigilance, perseverance, and justice; the vigilance to protect man's freedoms, the perseverance that rejects all defeat, and justice, the goal of free people everywhere. The stars on the field of blue embrace the states as one unified for the good of mankind and country. As we retire the blue colors let us ponder the future and what it holds.**

*(Place the blue field on the fire – pause.)*

**None of these individual parts of our flag is as meaningful and strong as the flag as whole. The American Flag, like America, is much greater than the sum of its individual parts. This flag that stands for the greatest nation on earth.**

**Today we gather to keep alive the fires of patriotism and remember our obligation to democracy and the rule of law. It is particularly fitting that this year is a Presidential Election Year and we can be proud that our flag represents a nation of laws where power changes in a predictable and orderly fashion every two, four, six and eight years. With this we look upon our flag with renewed allegiance, honor and respect for our fellow Americans and the spirited public debate we call democracy.**