



# A FIRST TIMER AT NAVA-35

by Daniel Broh-Kahn

So you may ask: Why am I writing this, and what the heck was a well bred Maryland boy doing in Norfolk? Well, Norfolk was the site of the 35th annual vexillological convention, and now that I am a full fledged member of the North American Vexillological Association (NAVA) I decided to attend my first



Peter Orenski horses around with our esteemed tour guide and Glenn Compton at Yorktown.

NAVA convention. I arrived at NAVA's 35th convention around 3:00 pm on Friday, October 5th. I had volunteered to help man the registration booth, which actually manned itself quite nicely! The agenda said that there was a Board meeting of the old board starting



New NAVA Executive Board. (L to R) Ted Kaye, Treasurer; Dave Martucci, President; Andy Biles, 1st VP; Rich Monahan, Secretary; and Kevin Murray, 2nd VP.



at 4 pm, and of course, as a first timer, I wasn't invited to that.\* But Gus Tracchia who registered me was as friendly as could be, and was the first of dozens of people who made me feel welcome. Still, I was a little apprehensive: my badge had a black ribbon emblazoned upon it, clearly identifying me as a first timer. Would there be some sort of embarrassing initiation rituals involved? To find out, read on!

The bulk of the convention occurred in two rooms on the second floor of the quaint James Madison Hotel. One room was reserved for meetings and presentations, while the other room held tables for diners and exhibitors. All in all, it seems as if I spent equal amounts of time in each room. The banquet room was great! Flags and Flag stuff everywhere. Even though there was a small turnout, there are some real dedicated flag people out there, and I felt right at home. My first real event was my participation in the NAVA-35 annual meeting. Here all the officers of NAVA made their presentations into the minutes of the meeting. Many of the reports were brief and to the point, but discussions of budgets and money had the affect (desired or not!) of raising people's interest and awareness. I'll leave it to others to summarize the reports, but in a nutshell, NAVA is spending more money than it takes in, and as the outgoing treasurer Peter Orinski pointed out, that can-

not last forever. The last item of business was election of new NAVA officers.

Friday night had a buffet style dinner to welcome the NAVA membership to the convention. After grabbing an appetizer plate, I became engrossed in deep Vexillological discussions, and when my stomach rumbled and I looked up, all the food was gone! You know what they say about he who hesitates. After dinner, there as an auction of some neat Vexillological stuff, including the Iranian flag that flew in the Kennedy Center but was taken down during the



A colonist at Jamestown shows the flag.

hostage crisis, as well as some real esoteric stuff too. Several people presented items from their respective collections.

On Saturday morning, many of the attendees chose to take a guided tour of the triad of nearby historical Virginia sites, Yorktown, Williamsburg and Jamestown. No one seemed to let a little rain deter him or her from this excellent look at our nation's history. First there was Jamestown, the first English settlement in the New World. Then there was Williamsburg, the colonial capital of Virginia, and walking through there is like stepping back over 200 years. And lastly, there was Yorktown, with the highlights, summary, and of course, the final battle of the US Revolutionary War. Interestingly enough,

our tour did them in reverse order!

The first stop on the tour was Yorktown, where the NAVA membership learned about French and American efforts to triumph in the American Revolution. At Yorktown, I personally learned that critical to the success of General Washington on land was the French victory at sea in keeping the English from reinforcing. Although the naval battle of the capes was tactically a draw, it must be considered a decisive strategic victory with its impact! I looked everywhere for Mel Gibson, but he was nowhere to be seen.

The rank and file membership had a chuckle as the "NAVA Flag Police" wrote up citations all over Yorktown. The tourist site signs show not only the French Tricolor (Post French Revolution/Napoleonic era) but also the Union Flag, which came into use in 1801. It is my understanding that the NAVA Flag Police came into being in my very own Baltimore, issuing citations to the Fort McHenry Museum for printing inexact replicas of the "Star Spangled Banner." In the

sites on the way to Williamsburg. After searching in vain for a coffee break, our group debauched in the rain near the old state capitol at Williamsburg. An hour later, soaked to the skin, the intrepid Vexillologists broke up for lunch on the other end of the colonial town. We saw many of the sites of the town, walking on both sides of the street of the main drag, Duke of Gloucester Street. Fortunately,



*Nick Artimovich shows Dave Martucci's Norwegian Post Flag, found in a bale of signal flags, while Carita Culmer observes.*

they don't allow cars! After lunch at various establishments, we boarded our bus-sauna and after waiting impatiently for the last two lost vexillologists, the group headed to our third destination, Jamestown.

At Jamestown they have replicas of the three ships that the initial Virginia Company Settlers came over on from England. One of them (The Constant? The Discovery? I cannot remember!) had a crew of 7 and carried 13 passengers. The passengers stayed mostly below deck, with no natural light or ventilation. The ship was about 25 feet long, smaller than most modern yachts. And yet, these settlers stayed on this tiny ship there for 4 months! Most of us were staggered that a ship that small could even make it across the ocean, let alone carry passengers and cargo as it did. I did notice a lot of the attendees huddled around the cooking fires at the colonial Fort attempting to dry their soaked clothing!

After our trip to the three great historical sites in southeast Virginia, many of the group took a well-deserved rest and freshened up for dinner. I never saw so many

patriotic clothes at dinner, including "Uncle Sam" himself, portrayed by Glenn E. Compton. The group had a fancy dinner (surf AND turf!) and recent arrival Kim won the door prize, a watch with flags of the US and Malawi emblazoned the face. All the first timers at a NAVA convention were introduced and presented with an attractive NAVA 35 flag as a souvenir of their trip.

After dinner, there was a lecture and slide show on flag conservation and restoration at the Museum of the Confederacy. The stories behind some of the flags were interesting, and the details included descriptions of pulling threads from some of the flags! Still, flag preservation is critical to NAVA's mission, and a lot of interesting points were made. NAVA President David Martucci and others contributed to the Flag Conservation Program on the spot, and encouraged others to do the same.

Sunday after a buffet breakfast, it was back to the meeting room for conference presentations and speakers. Gus Tracchia gave a Driver Award winning talk about the Flags and Banners of King Arthur, while Ted Kaye addressed the impact of the first ever NAVA cyberspace flag survey. Andrew Bile did an admirable job presenting John Schmale's speech about 5 Illinois Regimental Civil War Flags. After a brief break, there was a debate about the future of



*NAVA Members observe the Continental Colors flying from the Colonial Capitol at Williamsburg.*

original Star Spangled Banner, the stars point "east" and "west" not "north" as our current flag does. We cannot be too careful around the Flag Police!

After the Yorktown visitor center, our bus took us by the Yorktown Victory monument and past other



*Everyone wore their best to the banquet! (Left to right) Dick Clark, Harry Oswald and Glenn Compton.*



Keynote speaker Rebecca Rose of the Museum of the Confederacy says this conserved color is her favorite of the collection.

vexillology. The panel discussion, hosted by John Purcell, featured inputs by luminaries Whitney Smith and Charles "Kin" Spain.

After lunch, I gave a presentation about Flags and Games, and discussed the design of my flag card game, VEX. Next there was another excellent slide show and presentation by Truman Pope about Flags in Combat in World War II, and then the final presentation by Martin Frances from California who has basically dedicated his life to the History of Old Glory. What more could any Vexillologist want?

I was initially hesitant about all these speeches and presentations, and was concerned that I would not be interested. I needn't have worried, because all of the presentations were informative, and at times, quite lively. I was really impressed that at least five different media were used to present: in technology order, we had overheads from a projector, slides, videotapes, DVDs, and a computer! Once all the formal presentations were complete, Kevin Murray presented information about NAVA 36 in Denver Colorado (Over Labor Day weekend, 2002) and the membership was quick to point out that the Denver flag even looks like a NAVA convention flag! Finally, the formal part of the convention was over, and the new board met to discuss business items.

For me, part of the excitement

was the displays that were set up. It seemed as if Hank Gardner had waited all his life to put his flag collection on display. He had about ten tables worth of flag related stuff! Large flags from the original Soviet Republics, lots of philately items, including special stamps issued by Kuwait after their liberation, and a flag card game from the 19th Century! Hank displayed flag shirts, ties, posters, puzzles, medals, cigarette cards, books, patches, everything! He also had a large collection of 4" by 6" flags, including the flags of the United Nations, flags of the 50 states, flags of the Japanese Prefectures, and even a bunch of out of date flags. Plus the traditional Civil War flag stuff. The only problem was that he wasn't selling anything!

Fortunately, that problem was mitigated at some of the other dis-



An original Hessian Flag captured during the American Revolution on display at Yorktown

plays. Several NAVA members, including Glenn Compton, Bernie Couture, Martin Francis, Dave Martucci and Nicholas Artimovich were selling lots of stuff, like books, posters, games and, of course, flags. I personally saw two flag games, and bought them both, as well as a bunch of posters, but what really depleted my bank account was a Flag Recognition Handbook from 1899 produced by the US Navy. I just had to have that, plus the 1938 version as well. My own booth was supposed to have my VEX card game available,



The entrance to the Yorktown Visitor's Center is lined with the State Flags of the USA.

but, unfortunately, it was never delivered to the hotel as promised! Oh, well. At least I generated interest in some potential future customers.

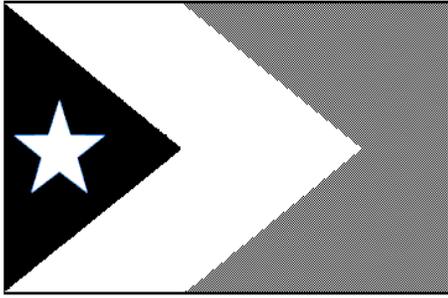
One unmanned exhibit that did catch my attention was for Nauticus, the National Maritime Center and Hampton Roads Maritime Museum, set up by Marc Nucup. As I was leaving the hotel at the end of the festivities, driving around downtown Norfolk looking for a gas station, and just saw it! I

turned; drive a little closer, and signs everywhere pointing towards the USS Wisconsin. So I had to park, and literally ran to the entrance (It was after 4 on Sunday, and I figured they'd close at 5, which they did). As I boarded the Wisconsin, I was overwhelmed. It was staggering. The turrets, which are the first thing you see as you come aboard, were as big as houses. The insides of the ship are sealed up (mothballed) but you can go almost anywhere on the upper decks, right next to the turrets (16" and 5") and also next to the

Harpoon and Tomahawk launchers. Gone, of course, are the zillions of anti-aircraft batteries, which was what the Iowa Class ships were primarily used for in the waning years of WWII. But for me it was interesting to see, since the same time I was at the NAVA convention, the U.S. had initiated retaliatory strikes on Afghanistan.

So that's a first timer's report at NAVA-35. You can bet I'll do everything in my power to get to NAVA-36, and I look forward to the next batch of newcomers there! See you in Denver!

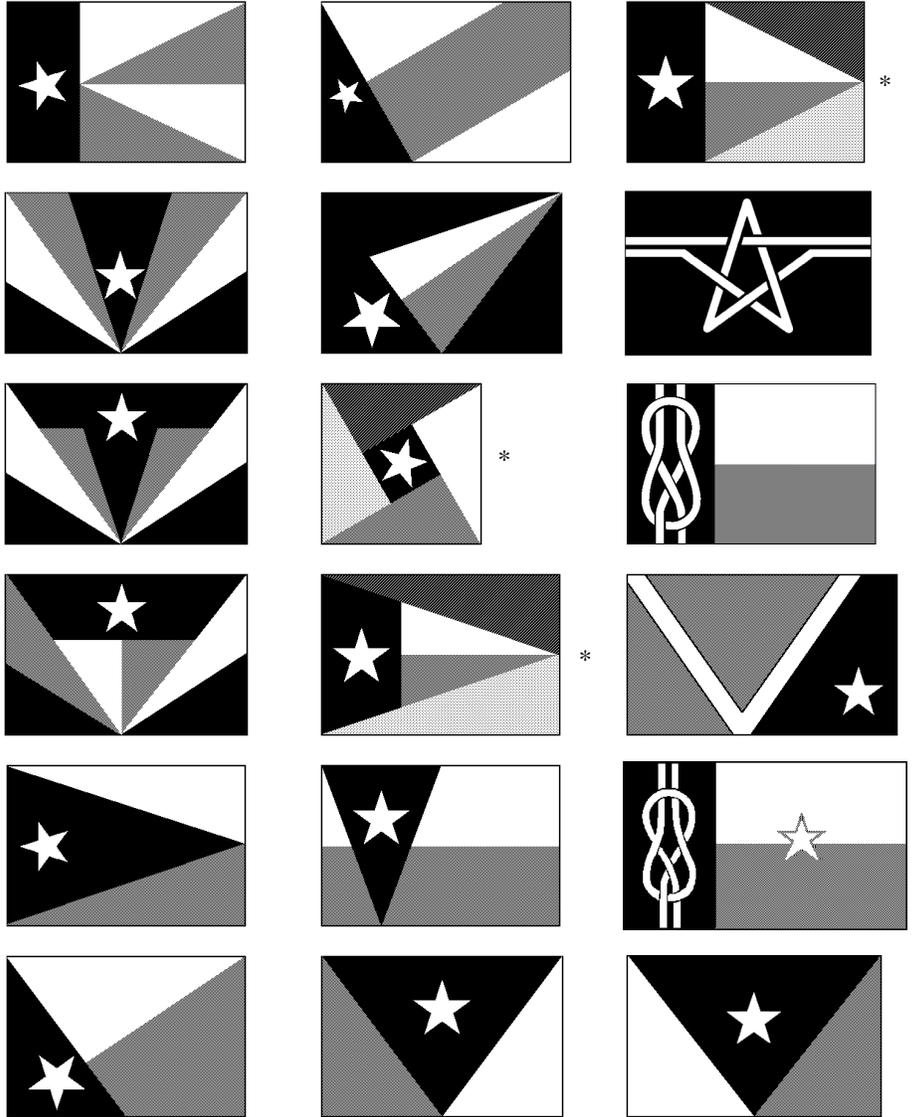
# VAST ADOPTS FLAG and SEAL



W/B W R

The Vexillological Association of the State of Texas (VAST) has adopted a flag designed by Chris Pinette, out of a total of 19 designs submitted. The flag is composed of a dark blue (Pantone Matching System number 281) isosceles right triangle, a white horizontal chevron, and a red fly (Pantone Matching System number 193). The flag's width-to-length ratio is 2:3. The triangle's hypotenuse is the flag's hoist. The triangle's legs form the lines of the chevron nearest to the hoist. The lines of the chevron nearest to the fly are parallel to the triangle's legs, and the lines of the chevron nearest to the fly form a right angle located two-thirds of the flag's length toward the fly. The triangle contains a regular five-pointed star, which points up. The center of an imaginary circle circumscribing the star is located on the flag's horizontal center line, one-

## The Contenders



These designs are all B/W/R except three (\*) that also include Y and V. All stars are W.



Au/B

eighth of the flag's length toward the fly. The flag contains all the elements of the Texas flag, and the chevron represents the "V" in vexillology.

The official Seal of the VAST is based on a design submitted by Petr Exner of the Czech Vexillological Club. The original design was square and the colors were blue and white. On July 17, 2000 the VAST Board of Directors modified the design to be a circle adding the words "VEXILLOLOGICAL ASSOCIA-

TION OF THE STATE OF TEXAS" around the exterior circle, and changing the colors to a gold star on a blue background so that the seal recognizes the design of the first national flag of the Republic of Texas.

For more information on VAST or its flags, contact Charles Spain, Sec./Treas., 504 Branard St, Houston TX 77006-5018 USA, (713) 529-2545, or by email at <cspain@alumni.rice.edu>. VAST's web site is at <<http://www.texflags.org>>.

# THE NATIONAL SERVICE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES of AMERICA

by Richard Gideon and Dave Martucci

Since the First World War, the United States has used a flag to symbolize personal service in the armed forces. The concept of the Service Flag was created in 1917 by a former U.S. Army officer, R. L. Queisser of Cleveland, Ohio. The basic design, incorporating the national colors, is a red-bordered white field bearing a star or stars in the white that were either blue for each individual from an institution, community group or family serving in the military or gold (usually bordered blue) for those killed in action. The latter emblem gave rise to the name of the organization of mothers who had lost a son in the war, the "Gold Star Mothers."

The concept of the Service Flag caught on quickly

during the First World War and two examples of specific banners are illustrated from that era. The Ninth Pennsylvania Reserves Room at the Andrew Carnegie Library in Carnegie, PA houses the banner that bears nine stars, eight of them blue and one gold. The gold star was applied directly over a blue star and was probably added later.

NAVA NEWS reported on the Service Banner of the Bureau of Biological Survey in the May/June 1996

issue, page 1. It bore 53 stars, 51 blue and two gold bordered blue. The stars are arranged in a "staggered" pattern and the name of the bureau was added in white letters on the red border. Service Banners or Flags with an identifying inscription are somewhat rare.

The photograph of the "Altar of Liberty" in New York City clearly shows



*This display was created 1917-1918 by Thomas Hasting, and was called the Altar of Liberty. It was situated on the SE corner of 5th Avenue and 26th Street, Manhattan, New York City. The parade route for the various bond drives and other such occasions ran from 58th St., down 5th Ave. to the Altar of Liberty. Photo from "The Flag Paintings of Childe Hassam," submitted by Deveraux Cannon.*

a Service Flag flying. Note the star is pointed at the hoist.

A number of the states adopted the flag and banner during this period. Massachusetts adopted it on May 28, 1918, but expanded the symbols into a system of identifying marks; besides the blue star and the superimposed gold star, a gold cross superimposed on the star indicated Wounded in Service, a superimposed gold ring indicated Decorated for

Distinguished Service, a red ring around the star indicated Captured and a red pentagon behind the star indicated Missing. Designed by Herbert H. Boynton, Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth and proposed to the legislature by Samuel W. McCall, Governor, the symbols could be added together to form additional symbols, such as Wounded,

Missing and Decorated for Distinguished Service. A Laurel Wreath was designated as an option for the gold star. The drawings attached to the resolution indicate the star could be oriented with one point either up or down.

In addition, it was specified in the resolution adopted by the House of Representatives that "rank may be shown by the proper insignia of Of-

ficer or non-Commissioned Officer placed directly above the star. Service in the 'Zone of Advance' and foreign service may be symbolized by a gold chevron placed below the star, one shown for each six months of such service."

World War II revived the Service Flag and Banner. Many thousands of these symbols were displayed throughout the country. Patriotic media also displayed the Service Banner as well as the American Flag.

The July 1942 McCall's Magazine cover is illustrated.

The banners and flags were mass produced during the war years and many of them can be found today in second-hand and antique shops. Illustrated is a three star version stamped "12x18" [inches] and "Style C". This is perhaps the most common size as the vast majority of these banners were displayed in the front windows of private homes.

Also illustrated is a commercially made banner for the Town of Washington, Maine which displays a total of 84 stars, two of which are gold (representing Heber Farrar and Ernest Ross, who died in active service during the war). Although more than 90 men ultimately served during World War II from this small rural town, the banner was probably made in the spring of 1945, contemporary to the "Roll of Honor" which was erected (temporarily) in the center of town that listed 84 names on it. The banner was made by Whittemore Associates, Inc., Boston, Massachusetts.

The Service Banner and Flag saw some use during the Korean War and, to a much lesser extent, during the Vietnam War.

There were reports of its usage during the Gulf War.

The National Service Flag and Banner and Lapel Button is regulated under the Department of Defense Manual of Military Decorations and Awards, DoD 1348.33-M, September 1996, Section C10.3. It authorizes use of these symbols by members of the immediate family as well as churches, schools, colleges, fraternities, sororities, societies, and

places of business for the duration of a period of war or hostilities in which the Armed Forces of the United States are engaged. Only members of the immediate family may wear the NSF Lapel Button.

In addition, these regulations specify the designs to be used. For the immediate family, a flag or banner of white bearing a blue (or gold bordered blue) star or stars within a

point of the star shall point up, that the gold star shall be of a smaller size so that when it is superimposed on the blue star, it appears to have a blue border and that any gold star shall be at the top or hoist side of the flag. Illustrations C10.F1 are reproduced in color in the center of this issue.

The Service Lapel Button, 3/16 inch x 3/8 inch, is also regulated.

Multiple blue stars or numerals on the button are not authorized. A gold star is also not authorized but there is a separate button authorized that bears the gold star on a purple roundel.

Anyone wishing to sell or manufacture these items must follow the regulations regarding applying for and receiving a license. Specification sheets for these emblems are available upon receiving a license, although the drawings do not show the blue border around the gold star as authorized. The official proportions are the same as the US Flag, 10:19, but permission can be received to make them in standard sizes.

Since the beginning of the War in Afghanistan, blue star banners have been available again.

The American Legion advertised this fact around Veteran's Day 2001.

Another use of these emblems is on Memorials involving the Gold Star, for example, recently the Maine Turnpike erected new signs in conjunction with its upgrade stating the highway was dedicated in 1965 as the Maine Gold Star Memorial Highway. These signs incorrectly do not show the blue border around the gold star.

THE FREE PRESS ROCHLAND, MAINE Thursday, November 8, 2001 5

**Nov. 11 is Veterans Day ...**

**... and America is at war.**

**Blue Star Banners are back.**

Since World War I, a Blue Star Banner displayed in the front window of a home told others that a family member was serving in the armed forces.

These signs, displayed in front windows, are being called to war. They are our nation's current reminder, fighting to save our families of service. Lots of these banners in family homes. Every neighborhood has someone serving.

As our men and women face a long and difficult war, the sight of Blue Star Banners in homes will remind us of the personal sacrifices being made to ensure our way of life.

The Veterans Day we signed Americans to remember those in uniform today, as well as the veterans of generations past. Their sacrifice to peace in freedom and opportunity for us all deserves our heartfelt thanks.

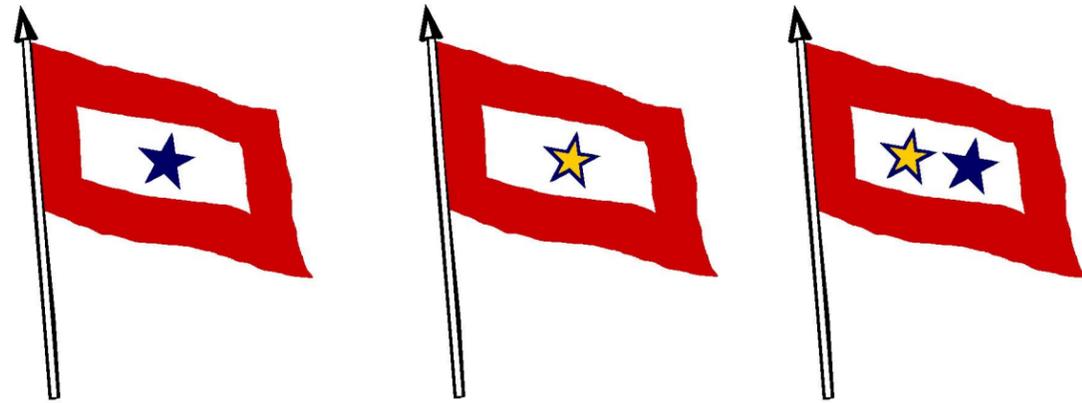
**The American Legion**  
www.legion.org

red border, the number of stars corresponding to the number of family members serving in the Armed Forces (number killed in action of gold stars). For organizations, the same rule applies except that they may elect to have only one star (or one blue and one gold star) with the appropriate number of members of the Armed Forces written below in blue numerals.

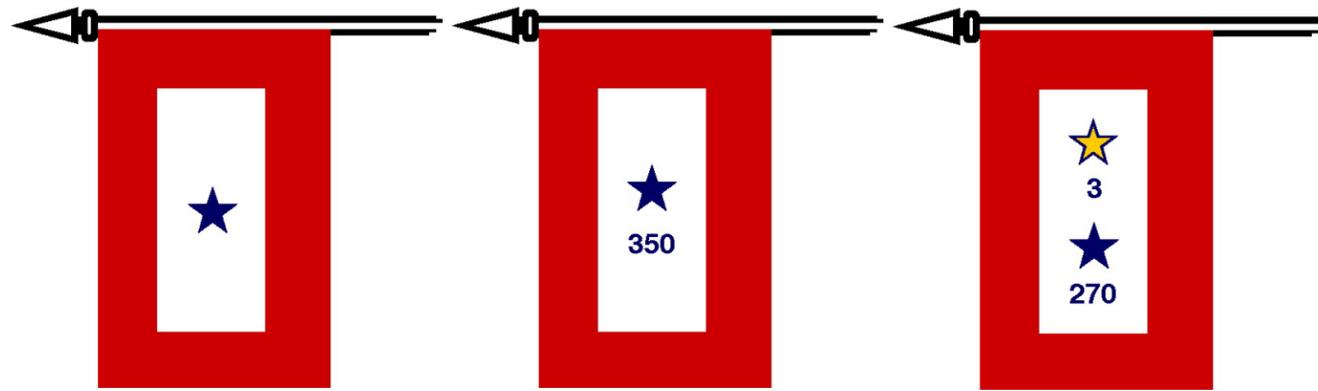
These regulations specify that one

# THE NATIONAL SERVICE FLAG OF THE USA

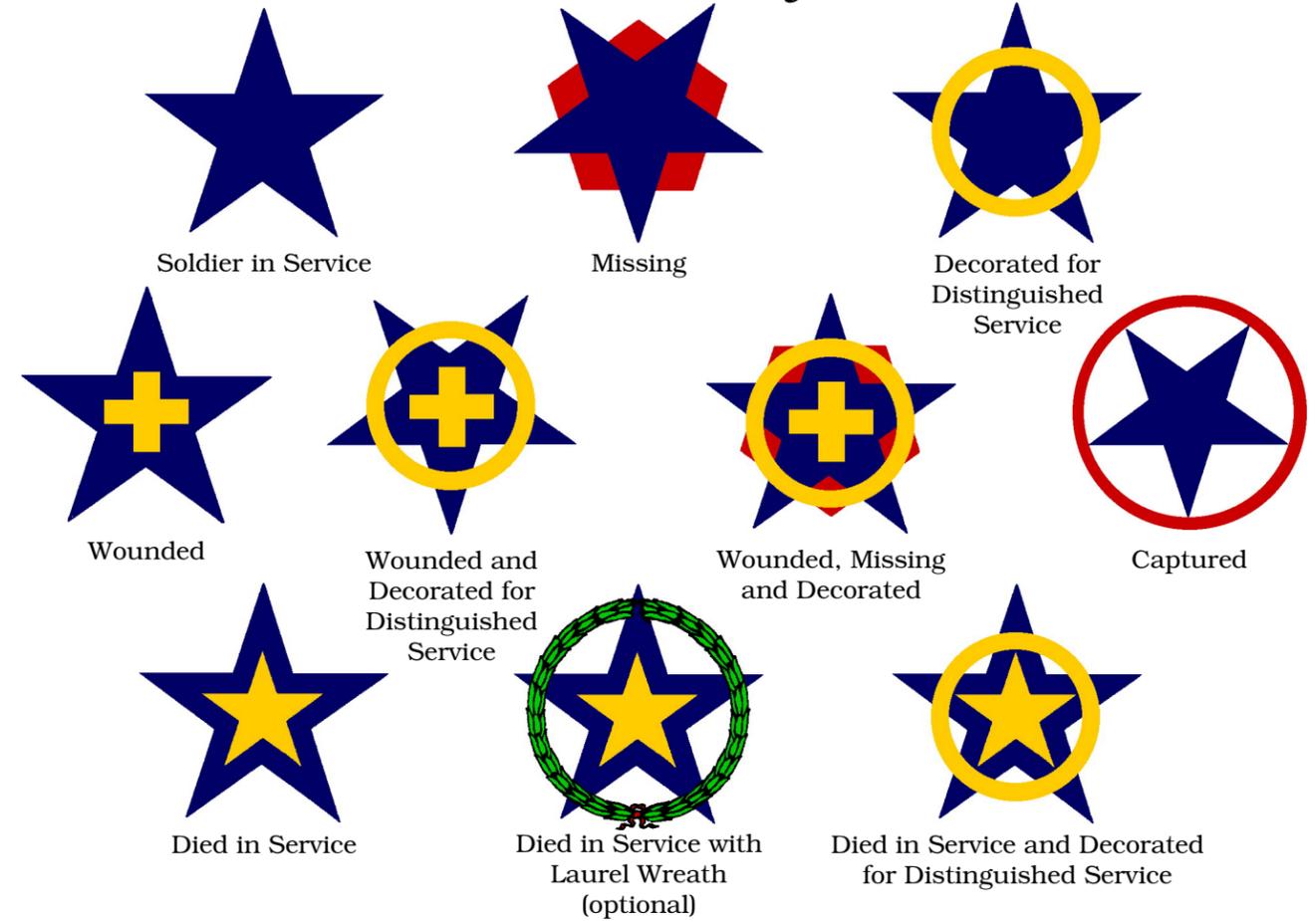
## Massachusetts Symbols



Examples of the manner of display of the National Service Flag and Banner



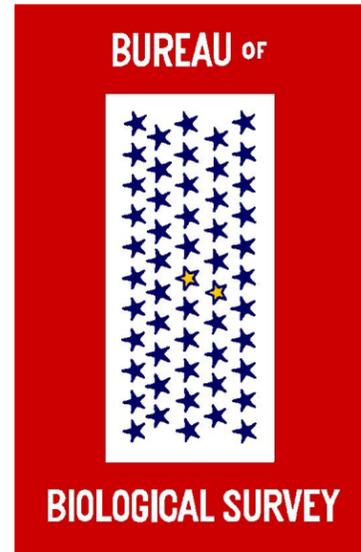
Drawings from the Manual of Military Decorations and Awards (DoD 1348.33-M )



## WORLD WAR I

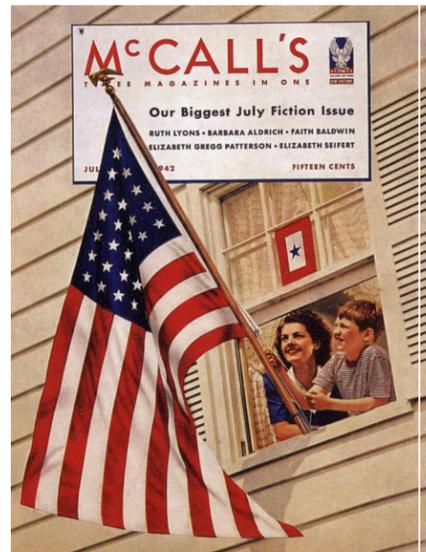


Ninth Pennsylvania Reserves



US Bureau of Biological Survey

## WORLD WAR II



McCall's Magazine cover, July, 1942.



Mass produced Service Banner with 3 stars, 1943



Town of Washington, Maine Service Banner, 1945



NSF Lapel Button



Maine Gold Star Highway sign 2001



## AUTHORIZED NSF FLAGS & BUTTONS BY RRG FLAGS

On 31 October 2001, Richard R. Gideon Flags received approval as a certified manufacturer from The Institute of Heraldry, the licensing arm of the Secretary of the Army, to make and sell the Service Flag, Banner, and Button (Department of Defense Directive 1348.20).

In addition, so that these items may be used with "standard" commercial US flags, Gideon Flags was granted a variance to the regulations. This variance permits flags and banners to be made in the common 3' x 5' size, thus permitting them to be flown alongside the typical US flag. However, since Gideon Flags is a custom flag maker, the Service Flag may be ordered in proportions conforming to regulations (10:19), or with aspect ratios between 2:3 and 1:2. The variance also applies to the button. In addition, Gideon Flags is making a special 24k gold plated lapel flag pin, featuring the US flag crossed with the Service Flag.

For more information concerning these special products visit <http://www.gideonflags.com> on the Internet, or call Richard R. Gideon Flags at (412) 276-7689.

## UTNE READER ANNOUNCES: BRAND NEW FLAGS!

The magazine *Utne Reader* has announced the top 7 winners in their flag design contest (*NAVA News* # 170, April-June 2001, page 2). Two of NAVA's members are among the winners.

Jessica Coulter, Editor at *Utne*, wrote "At a time when American flags are flying everywhere across the land, we proudly present our readers' ideas for new flags to honor their home states. These are the winning entries in our 'It's a Grand New Flag' contest from the July/August 2001 issue."

NAVA members Marcel Stratton and John Karp won with their designs for Minnesota and Nevada, respectively. In addition, *Utne* choose winning designs for Utah (by Jim Hayes), New York (by Scott Lyon), Vermont (by Sarah Healy), Virginia (by Jennifer Faison) and California (by Josh Roden).

*Utne Reader* labeled its flag design contest a raving success. Newspapers and magazines across North America picked up on the contest

and fantastic flag designs still continue to come into their offices.

"Our contest might be finished but don't let that stop you from trying your own hand at designing a symbolic flag for your state, province, neighborhood or even your family. Share your flag ideas with your friends and neighbors, bring them to your representatives, send them into your local newspapers!" says the magazine. NAVA fully agrees.

Stratton's winning design is identical to the personal flag design he has submitted to NAVA's Member Flag Registry (see article elsewhere in this issue) and Karp's design was featured in the last issue of *NAVA News* (#171, page 14) which also has won another flag design contest. See separate article elsewhere in this issue.

To see the other flags, pick up the November/December issue 108 of *Utne Reader*. You can also discuss flags in the *Utne Reader* Society forum in Café *Utne's* <cafe.utne.com>.

## VEXILLOLOGICAL QUESTION

To the editor,

It is my belief "history shared is history saved." Some people collect stamps, or trains, and others collect baseball cards; as for me, I enjoy collecting information on a given subject and then studying the "how and why" or the symbolic meaning that inspired it. I am developing a "Glossary" of vexillology and am currently working on a few projects that may be of interest to NAVA. "A vexillological review of movies" I plan on developing as a means of reviewing a movie, such as *The Patriot*, and then providing a written statement from a vexillological standpoint. The purpose will be to explain and identify the symbolism portrayed in the film. Another project is called "Zoological Vexillology" in which I hope to document and record information about flags used by zoos around the world.

I have truly enjoyed working on my

glossary of vexillology, terms, phrases and facts. My glossary will never truly be completed; I plan to correct, up-date, and revise it, as I gain new information. For me, a glossary provides the best means of cataloging information on a given subject.

A vexillological question: is there a word, term or phrase used to describe a flag that is used on a flag's face? Clarification: not as a charge or on a flag's field, but on the face of the flag itself. I believe the term 'union' or 'impaled' would be incorrectly used.

When a flag is placed on top of another flag, what is the correct position of honor?

When the U.S. Flag is represented on a crest, emblem, shield or shoulder patch the U.S. Flag is crossed from right to left. When the U.S. Flag is placed or used on a flag, why must the U.S. Flag then be crossed from

## MINDEN MAN DESIGNS NEW STATE FLAG

Ray Hagar  
 RENO GAZETTE-JOURNAL  
 12/18/2001 11:41 pm

Nevada's secretary of state said Tuesday lawmakers should debate the adoption of a new state flag, designed by a retired defense contractor from Minden.

The design of Robert Karp, 65, has won two flag designing contests — including one sponsored by Nevada magazine — but is a radical change from the state's current flag.

"We could see what comes from the Legislature, give the public a chance to ring in and give an argument for or against," Republican Secretary of State Dean Heller said. "If Nevada can produce a better flag, lets take a look at it."

Nevada's flag was ranked 55th among the 72 banners from every state in the United States, its territories, Washington, D.C., and all the provinces of Canada earlier this year in a survey by North American Vexillological Association (NAVA).

That group likened Nevada's current flag to "a blob on a bed sheet" and its survey prompted contests to change the flag by the Utne Reader and Nevada magazine, with Karp sweeping both.

Flag expert James Ferrigan of Carson City, a NAVA officer, gave Karp's design high marks but questioned whether Nevadans want a new flag.

"We have to ask, is there a com-

pellling need to change our flag?" Ferrigan said. "Changing state flags isn't easy. Recent attempts in Montana and Rhode Island have either failed or have gotten sidetracked in the Legislature."

"Could we come up with a better flag? Probably," Ferrigan said. "Do we have a need to? That is open to debate."

A story by editor Richard Moreno in Nevada magazine reported many respondents said, "Don't mess with Nevada's current state flag."

Leo Horishny of Sun Valley wrote Nevada magazine saying, "I found nothing amusing about this bogus group (North American Vexillological Association) and their ranking, nor should a millisecond of anyone's consciousness be devoted to changing Nevada's flag design."

Karp said "only in his wildest dreams" would he ever think his design would become the official state flag. His intentions to enter the contest stemmed from a "intellectual exercise," not a need to change the state flag.

"I took this project pretty seriously and I am proud of my design, but I am not in a position where I would want to badger people in the state assembly or state government to get it accepted," Karp said. "I'm not interested in that."

Although he likes Karp's design, Heller said he has received no petition or Legislative directive to put the

question of a new flag on an election ballot. He also doubted the Legislature would approve the design without adding a few touches.

"I do like the simplicity of the design. It says a lot," Heller said. "But what it lacks is the (state motto) Battle Born. I could see that being an issue with the Legislature. If you sent this flag over to the Legislature, you would see some amendments to it."

Heller said he would anticipate "pockets of resistance" in any effort to change the flag.

"You would have a lot of opposition to it in this area because it is the capital city and people here are more attuned to the flag. In other parts of the state, like Clark County, where people come and go a lot, they probably would not have such an opposition to it."

Nevada has had four different designs for a state flag, since Gov. John Sparks helped design the first one in 1905.

The current flag was adopted in 1991 and, except for a few minor changes, is almost exactly the same flag adopted by the state in 1929.

"It would actually be interesting to see what it (Karp's flag) would look like flying," said Denise Evans, art director at Nevada magazine.

*Symbolism of John Karp's redesign of Nevada's state flag*

Overall symbolism: The dominant design element is the snowcapped mountain, which represents how Nevada got its name. Nevada is Spanish for "snowcapped."

Colors: The colors silver and blue represent the official state colors. Silver represents Nevada's history as a producer of silver and the state's nickname is the Silver State. Blue represents Nevada's lakes and clear skies. White represents snow.

Snowcap: The shape of the snowcap suggests an arrowhead, symbolizing the state's Native American history and culture.

Star: It is taken from the current flag. It represents Nevada's five key natural resources and five major industries.

left to right?

The best example I can offer would be the U.S. Army Flag (compare to the seal). Many governmental flags also use the U.S. Flag on branch flags and other official flags, also crossed from left to right. The U.S. Flag, when placed on a flag, often looks incorrect.

There must be a word, term or phrase a vexillologist can use to sum up the stated question.

Thanks for your assistance.

David K. Luke  
 <dлуkingood@aol.com>



# UNKNOWN WWII FLAG



N/W/R/W

To the Editor,

This flag was presented to my father during WWII after he was rescued by the Chinese from capture in China. He was a "Hump Pilot," shot down in December of 1944 and rescued a few months later. The flag was presented to him on his birthday in 1945 while still seeking American rescue.

In the corner of the flag is an inscription in Chinese characters. Here is the translation of it:

"This flag was proudly put on the high rooftop by the shameless Japanese captain in Dong Ping Chen (1), by claiming their achievement of building big eastern Asia (2). He (the Japanese captain) gathered almost 15,000 foot-soldiers; 800 mounted

(horse-back) soldiers; 1,000 trucks; more than 200 tanks; several aircraft; and 20,000 Chinese soldiers of the (Taiwanese) Guomindan (Kuomintan) to attack our territory from the perimeter in order to destroy us. They robbed the farmer's staple food(s), destroyed all their tools, and seized the young men (3) to become their soldiers or labourers. The enemy who stayed in Hua Bei (4) had planned to destroy us in a month but our army and our people fought back bravely. We broke through their defences and then from both inside and outside we attacked. So finally their plan became their tears of mourning, for their great loss (5).

"Our team (Group 1) attacked

Dong Ping city after two days and two nights marching. We won a lot of necessities for the army, and broke (6) this flag. We then put our own country's flag on the rooftop. We had finally won!

"Especially presented to Mr. Fisher for his memory. Your dear comrade, Li Jue. January 23rd, 1945."

*Footnotes:*

1. Dong Ping Chen, Dong Pin Chen, Chen Dong Pin — a decent map of China may use any of these spellings. 'Dong' possibly means 'East' whilst 'Chen' is the old Chinese word for 'City;' the modern-day word is 'Shi.' As far as I know, Dong Ping Chen is somewhere in Northern China, although I've been unsuccessful locating its exact location. This city might also be called Chen Dong Ping seeing as the Chinese often put 'City' first when it comes to the word-order; this remains true for many place-names as well as people's names. To the Chinese way of thinking, my name would therefore read: 'Fisher Doug.'
2. 'Big Eastern Asia' was a Japanese 'concept' which included China.
3. I guess this means 'Shanghai-ed!'
4. Hua Bei was once a vast area of central-northern China which included inner Mongolia; Bei Jing (or Beijing, the new name for Peking — the nation's capital); Henan; Shanxi; Hebei; and other areas.
5. My friend translated this sentence as: "So finally their plan became 'pouyin'." 'Pouyin' means (somewhat poetically) 'became just like a beautiful and delicate soap-bubble blown by a child and which must inevitably burst very quickly.'
6. Or 'flag-break' which means to lower the flag, to bring it down. The opposite of hoist.

Any information as to type, regiment or another other would be very thankful. Also a rough value.

Doug Fisher

3399 Branson Rd

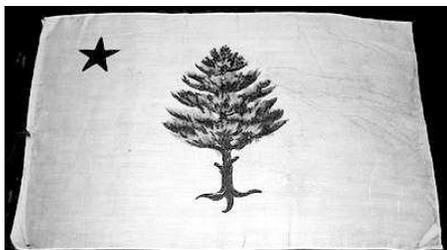
Poteau OK 74953

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(918) 647-4555 [work]

## PERIOD COPIES OF MAINE'S FIRST FLAG SOLD

In late October and early November, two copies of the 1901-1909 Maine State Flag were auctioned off on the eBay Auction Site on the internet. Each of them were purchased



by NAVA members. This flag, previously only known through a written description and reconstructions, is silk and features a buff (tan) field with a blue star in the canton and a finely detailed pine tree in the center. The tree has a brown trunk and branches and the needles are depicted in shades of green. Believed to have been made c.1908 by the Kimball Co. in New York, the seller also has retained one copy of this flag.

# MEMBERS FLAGS

## BILES, FYLES and STRATTON SHARE PERSONAL FLAG DESIGNS

October — December 2001  
 FLAGS SOLD AT  
 SOTHEBY'S  
 AMERICANA SALE  
 OCTOBER 11, 2001  
 NEW YORK CITY



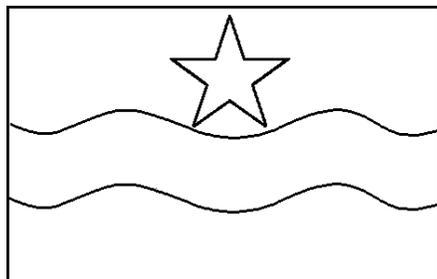
Andy Biles shows his flag.  
 Hoist to Fly: B-R-V; Stars=Au; Fleur=W

**The personal flag of Dr. Andrew Biles**, NAVA's First Vice President, of Washington State.

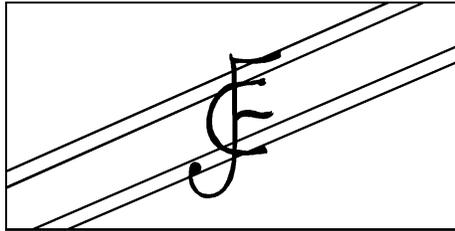
Designed 12 April 2001 by David B. Martucci

The hoist design is in the shape of the same design on the Louisiana Acadian flag, a trapezoid whose point is towards the fly. It is blue because of the flag of Louisiana and because it is one of the two favorite colors. A red chevron next to the blue is for "Vexillology" and also to remember the independence flag of Louisiana (1861), which had a red canton with a yellow star. The rest of the fly is green because of the flag of Washington State and also it is the other favorite color.

A white fleur-di-lys is on the blue to remember the French ancestry, so dear to the heart, and again to re-



Marcel Stratton's flag.  
 Top=B+, Star=W; Bottom=V; Stripe=W.



Elaine Fyles' Flag. Field=B-; Bend=Y  
 Fimbriated W; Monogram=N.

call the Acadians. Also on the blue are two yellow stars pointing to the upper and lower hoist respectively. On the red chevron, centered and pointing to the hoist is another yellow star. The three stars have many meanings. One could stand for the Star of Mary found in the Acadian flag of Canada, one for Washington State and one for Louisiana. Or perhaps they could stand for England, France and the USA, the mother countries.

**The personal flag of Miss Elaine C. Fyles**, of the United Kingdom.

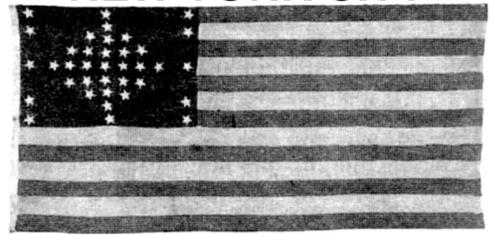
Ratio 1:2

White represents silver, an heraldic colour of the name Fyles. Blue is for serenity but also sharp coldness. Yellow is madness through serenity. Also happiness. The symbol is a monogram of the initials E, C, F representing a love of calligraphy. The ratio 1:2 is to honour the Union Flag.

**The personal flag of Mr. Marcel Stratton** of Minnesota.

© 1997 Marcel Stratton

Flag design of 1997: "I live in the hills East above the valley of the Red River of the North. The Red is the boundary between Minnesota and North Dakota and flows north to Lake Winnepeg in Canada. My flag is a symbol of my love of Minnesota. Out here, the night sky is vast and dark and constellations shine brightly with the North Star as the main attraction. I chose a 'waving-flag' stripe of white to separate the dark blue from the bright green. The one curving white stripe evokes both rolling hills clothed in wintry white and, simultaneously, the same in summer green."

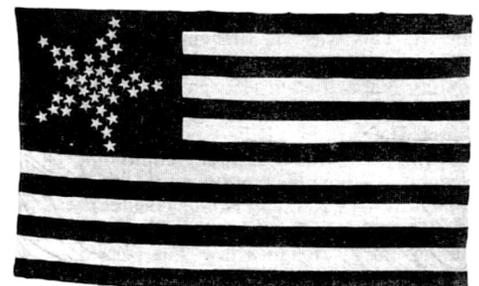


The 37-star "American Bunting" flag, 6' x 12', presented to President Abraham Lincoln by General B.F. Butler of Lowell, Massachusetts, on April 11, 1865, sold for \$58,250 (est. \$50,000/75,000) to Ames Stevens, great-great-grandson of General Butler. Stevens said it would be presented by the Ames Textile Company to the American Textile History Museum in Lowell.

According to Sotheby's catalog, three days before Lincoln's assassination, General Butler sought approval by the president for the first flag made entirely of wool bunting produced in the United States, as mandated by Congress on March 2, 1865. General Butler was the owner of the Middlesex Corporation, Lowell's first woolen mill, later the United States Bunting Company. Anticipating the imminent admission of Nebraska Territory to the Union as the 37th state, he had the flag made with 37 stars. (This configuration of the stars is similar to the flag with fewer stars that was taken down from Fort Sumter after the Union surrendered the fort.)

The catalog notes indicated that on June 14, 1865, General Butler gave the flag to Mr. Thomas Winter of Brighton, England, for his outstanding work in Anglo-American business relations. The flag was displayed in 1877 when former President Grant visited Brighton and again in 1893 when Mr. Winter was the agent for European exhibitions at the Chicago World's Fair.

The last time it was offered at auction (Sotheby's, London, February 18, 1966), a group of records and letters accompanied the lot, and they remained with it at this sale. Dr. Jeffrey Kenneth Kohn said an autograph dealer consigned it to Sotheby's, and the price paid might be a record for an American flag at auction. Confederate flags have sold for more.



This large (6'5" x 10'9") circa 1876 American "Colorado" flag sold for \$12,000 (est. \$5000/8000) even though it was faded, showing the strength of the market for American flags. The two-piece cotton canton has 38 handsewn double appliquéd muslin stars arranged in the "great star" or "great luminary" configuration. It was not until 1912, after Arizona and New Mexico entered the Union, that President Taft specified an official configuration of stars on the flag in an executive order.

# FLAG SALE TO BENEFIT NAVA

## COMOROS

Prior to 1995: Green field, White crescent and stars angled across field.

4' x 6' \$20



1995 - 1996: Green field, White crescent has horns upright, white stars go horizontally above the crescent. This is a scarce design, only in use for a couple of years.

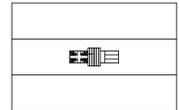
2' x 3' \$10  
3' x 5' \$15  
4' x 6" \$ 1\*



## SOUTH AFRICA

Horizontal orange / white / blue with triple flag emblem in the center.

4' x 6" \$ 1\*



## ZAIRE

1971-1997 Green field, yellow disc, brown arm holding red torch.

2' x 3' \$10  
3' x 5' \$15  
4' x 6' \$15  
4' x 6" \$ 1\*



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NAVA association flag..... \$3.00 

NAVA 35 Norfolk 2001 .....	\$1.00		NAVA 26 San Antonio, TX 1992.....	\$3.00	
NAVA 34 Lansing 2000.....	\$1.00		NAVA 25 Minneapolis, MN 1991 .....	\$3.00	
NAVA 33 / 18ICV Victoria 1999.....	\$1.00		NAVA 23 Dallas, TX 1989.....	\$3.00	
NAVA 32 Québec 1998 (size 5"x10") .....	\$2.00†		NAVA 18 Vancouver, BC 1984 (size 3"x6") .....	\$3.00	
NAVA 31 Chicago 1997.....	\$3.00		NAVA 15 / 9ICV Ottawa, ON 1981.....	\$3.00	
NAVA 29 Cincinnati / Covington 1995 .....	\$1.00*		NAVA 14 St Louis, MO 1979.....	\$3.00	
NAVA 28 Portland, Oregon, 1994.....	\$3.00		NAVA 11 / 7ICV Washington, DC 1977 .....	\$3.00	
NAVA 27 Portland, Maine, 1993.....	\$3.00		5ICV London, UK, 1973.....	\$3.00	

\* These flags are available in "investment" lots of one dozen for \$8.00 †\$15.00/dozen.

## UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION BICENTENNIAL FLAGS

White with logo. Three sizes available: 2' x 3' \$10.00 each, 3' x 5' \$15.00 each, 4' x 6' \$20.00 each.

## STATUE OF LIBERTY COMMEMORATIVE FLAGS 4" x 6"

Red / White / Blue with blue Statue of Liberty sketch in center. 1,176 available (yes, that's 98 dozen!!) These make great give-aways for those of us who make presentations to school, social, or civic groups. \$1.00 each  
\$6.00 per dozen (12 at 50 cents each) \$40.00 per ten dozen (120 at 33 1/3 cents each)

Flag Items only available from  
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Portland OR 97210-1218 USA

**PLEASE NOTE:** Payment must be made to **NAVA** in U.S. dollars, drawn on a USA bank, or by international money order for U.S. dollars. All prices of full-sized flags include postage. Orders of 4" x 6" flags totaling less than US\$10 are subject to a \$3.50 postage fee. Fee is waived for orders of \$10 or more. All sales final. 100% of sale benefits NAVA.

## NEW WASHINGTON FLAG?

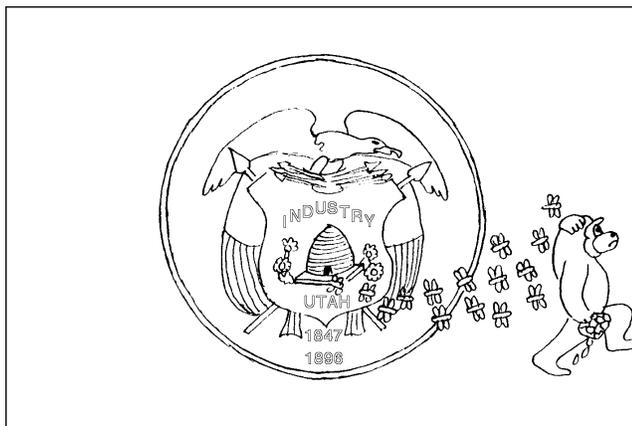
7/24/01

Dear Mr. Peter Callaghan,

This letter is to comment on your recent column (7/17/01) in the *Tacoma News Tribune* (Tacoma, Washington) about a proposal to change the Washington State flag. It was quite interesting and I'm glad to see that someone else in this state thinks there is room for improvement in our symbols. There are a few points to consider in this matter.

I've always been interested in flags, symbols and the powerful messages they can convey. Considering all fifty state flags, roughly one half are merely representations of the state arms on a solid color background. Many of these were hastily arranged when each state was asked to provide troops (and thus marching colors) for the Civil War. Just considering these very simple flags it isn't hard to reach the conclusion that a great deal of thought was not provided with respect to their design. The fact that none of these designs is fully distinguishable from a distance is truly unfortunate. As an example look at the flags of Minnesota, Idaho, New York, Pennsylvania, Utah, Virginia, and Wisconsin. I challenge anyone to recognize each from a distance of greater than 20 or 30 feet. In contrast, the flags of Arizona, Tennessee, and Maryland are instantly recognizable at all distances.

With regards to Washington



Chumley, the Vexi-Gorilla © Michael Faul, 1999. All rights reserved.

## Chumley the Vexi-Gorilla™

... Is the creation of Michael Faul, Editor of *Flagmaster*, the distinguished journal of The Flag Institute in the United Kingdom. To a field not

often blessed by humor's grace, Mr Faul brings a delightfully light touch, deep vexillological roots, and sparkling whimsy.

State's, flag and seal we have the worst of two worlds. The state seal was designed in 1889 by Olympia jeweler Charles Talcott. He simply drew a circle around the perimeter of an ink bottle, drew a smaller, concentric circle within this and placed a postage stamp of President Washington in the center. His brother L. Grant Talcott lettered the words "The Seal of the State of Washington, 1889" between the two circles. The only consideration given was who our state was named after—nothing denoting our physical beauty or the people who lived here.

The state flag has a similar history. In 1923 state law merely mandated that the flag consist of green field with a state seal in the center. From

*Continued on page 16*

## NAVA News

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## HALF STAFF THE FLAG

NAVA has just learned of the passing of two of its members.

**Robert Coykendall** of Youngstown, NY, member since 1984; and **James Lipinski** of Alexandria, VA, member since 1988 have both died. We will try to feature a complete obituary on both in the next issue of *NAVA NEWS*.

**Derkwillem Visser**, manager of the Flag Documentation Center Netherlands, died on 11/24/01. His publication *Flaggen Info* carried on a long tradition of Dutch-

English reporting on flags.

His wife writes, "Only 50 years of age, after fighting an uneven battle my dear husband passed away. Derk was a very special person and the knowledge that he was loved dearly by a great number of people who will always keep him in their hearts may soften the sorrow of this loss."

The address is:

De Kempenaerstraat 163  
NL-1051 CM Amsterdam  
THE NETHERLANDS

## NAVA News 34/4 - #172

Continued from page 15

a distance the only noticeable characteristic is the green color and, less so, the portrait of our first president. Washington is unique in the green color but also has the distinction of using a portrait on its flag—a very rare symbolic device for flags.

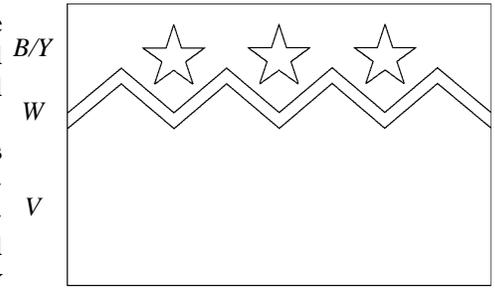
The point is this, our flag and seal could represent much more than who the state was named after. More attention should've been paid to our natural beauty, our people, and our aspirations as a distinctive indication of all this state represents. It's time for Washington to enter the 21st century and design new means of communicating our characteristics to the national and world community. In addition, at a time of contentious issues between Eastern and Western Washington (e.g. the Transportation Problem), our symbols should more accurately represent collective responsibility and unity.

My proposal for a new state flag is shown on the enclosed pages. It consists simply of a rectangle divided into green and gold by a jagged white fine. The green portion comprises

roughly 2/3 the total area and the gold portion 1/3. Within the gold portion are three blue stars spaced equally apart.

The symbolism of the design is as follows: Green represents the verdant forests and plant life of Washington, "The Evergreen State". Gold represents the agricultural bounty of Eastern Washington's Inland Empire. The jagged white fine denotes the Cascade mountain range which geographically divides our state. The blue stars denote the sky, the Ocean which we border, Puget Sound, the mighty Columbia River, and our many lakes and streams. I suppose it could also denote our fishing industry. One star is for Western Washington, one for Eastern Washington, and one star is for unity between both.

There is uniqueness in the blue stars. Currently no state or foreign country has a blue star represented in its flag. The closest is Israel with a blue outline of the six-pointed Star of David. The jagged white line representing mountains is also unique. Not even the rugged countries of



Nepal, Pakistan, Bhutan, and Tibet in Asia have represented this physical feature in their flags in this manner. Washington, therefore would be unique in the world if this proposed banner was our state flag.

In closing, I again thank you for running the article about state flags. It was fascinating reading. I will take your advice and submit a copy of my design to the Utne Reader, The Secretary of State, and the Vexillological Association.

Thanks very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Anthony J. Forte, Ph.D., M.D.

2109 N Prospect St

Tacoma, WA 98406

(253) 759-6381

eMail: penguin472@home.com



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## CALL FOR PAPERS

If you wish to present a paper or set up a display at the **36th ANNUAL CONVENTION of NAVA** (30 August - 1 September 2002 in Denver, Colorado), please mail the following information to 1st Vice President Andrew R. Biles, Jr. by **1 JUNE 2002**:

- 1) Your name, address, telephone number, and email address if available;
- 2) Title of paper, presentation, symposium, workshop or exhibit;
- 3) Abstract of same; and
- 4) Type and size of exhibit area and/or equipment needed, including tables, electrical requirements, AV equipment, etc.

**NO EXHIBITS OR PRESENTATIONS WILL BE ALLOWED IF THE NOTIFICATION LISTED ABOVE IS NOT MADE IN A TIMELY MANNER.**

A COMPLETE COPY OF THE PAPER (in both hard copy and electronic form) OR PRESENTATION OR NATURE OF EXHIBIT MUST BE RECEIVED BY **1 AUGUST 2002**.

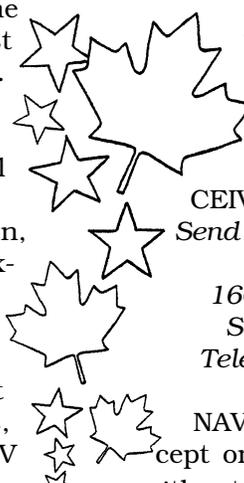
Send to:

Andrew R. Biles, Jr.  
16035 Maple Wild Ave SW  
Seattle WA 98166 USA

Telephone: (206) 244-1666

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NAVA reserves the right to accept or reject any presentation without prejudice.



## EXHIBIT POLICY

The NAVA Executive Board has established a policy for exhibits at NAVA Meetings.

- 1) Type and size of exhibit area and/or equipment needed, including tables, electrical requirements, etc. must be arranged in advance of the meeting.
- 2) Only one table will be available free for NAVA Members who have non-commercial exhibits. Each additional table will cost \$10.
- 3) Commercial Exhibits will be charged \$10 for each table for members and \$20 each for non-members.
- 4) The best display in commercial and non-commercial categories will be voted on by the members attending and announced at the close of the convention. The Board will present the awards.