

MC: "Flag Detail - Present the Colors"

MC: "We are here today to honor the symbol of our country and retire a flag which has served its useful life as a symbol of freedom and our country."

First Speaker: "I am your Flag. I was born on June 14, 1777. I am more than just a piece of cloth shaped into a colorful design; I am the silent sentinel of freedom for the greatest sovereign nation on earth. I am the inspiration for which American patriots gave their lives and fortunes; I am the emblem of America.

I have led your sons into battle from Valley Forge to Vietnam. I have been there through the Civil War, Two World wars, at Gettysburg, Flanders, Korea, the Gulf War, all of them. I was there with George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Teddy Roosevelt, John F. Kennedy, and am I here with you now.

I have flown through Peace and War. Through strife and prosperity, and amidst it all, I have always been respected. My red stripes symbolize the blood spilled in defense of this glorious nation. My white stripes, the burning tears shed by Americans who lost their sons in battle. My blue field represents God's Heaven under which I fly, and my stars, clustered together, unify the fifty states as one for God and Country.

I am "Old Glory" and I proudly wave on high. Honor me, respect me, and defend me with your lives. Never let our enemies tear me down from my lofty position, lest I never return. Keep alight the fires of patriotism, strive earnestly for the spirit of democracy, and keep me always as a symbol of freedom, liberty, and peace in our country.

When it comes the time when I am old and faded, do not let me fly in disrepair, rather Retire me from my duties only to replace me with a new flag so that I may continue to symbolize our country. With this, renew your commitment to what I stand for and pledge your allegiance to me one final time:

MC: "Scout Salute! To the audience: Please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance:"

**"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."

MC: "Two"

Second Reader: As you can see, this banner of freedom before you is worn, tattered, and soiled from use and age. Her broad stripes are no longer a fiery red & pure white, but faded and worn out. The stars and blue background are no longer vivid reminders of our blue skies and great land, of the purity, vigilance, and justice she should represent. She has flown proudly over the years and has done her job well.

Third Reader: The flag of our Nation should always be a strong, vivid symbol of our land and fly brightly in our minds. Our flag is a symbol of our people, our freedom, and our strength. So it is now that I commit this flag, which no longer can fulfill these duties to the fire so that it may be replaced by a new flag to properly symbolize our Nation. May the spirit of this flag be born again in a new flag."

MC: At this time we will retire the colors; "Scouts Salute"

MC: I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people, whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a republic; a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States; a perfect Union, one and inseparable; established upon those principals of freedom, equality, justice and humanity for which American Patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes. I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it; support its Constitution; to obey its laws; to respect its flag; and to defend it against all enemies.

- William Tyler Page

MC: TWO – Pack Dismissed