

THE AMERICAN FLAG

Have you ever noticed how the honor guard pays meticulous attention to correctly folding the American flag 13 times? You probably thought it was to symbolize the original 13 colonies but we learn something every day!

The first fold of our flag is the symbol of life.

The second fold is the symbol of belief in eternal life.

The third fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing our ranks who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of our country to attain peace throughout the world.

The fourth fold represents our weaker nature for, as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in time of war for His divine guidance.

The fifth fold is a tribute to our country, for in the words of Stephen DeCaur, "Our Country," in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but it is still our country right or wrong.

The sixth fold is for where our hearts lie. It is with our heart that "We 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."

The seventh fold is a tribute to our Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that we protect our country and our flag against all her enemies; whether they be found within or without the boundaries of our republic.

The eighth fold is a tribute to one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day.

The ninth fold is a tribute to womanhood and mothers. For it has been through their faith, their love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great has been molded.

The tenth fold is a tribute to the fathers, for they too have given their sons and daughters for the defense of our country since they were first born.

The eleventh fold represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies, in the Hebrew eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The twelfth fold represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in the Christian eyes, God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

The thirteenth fold or when the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost reminding us of our nation's motto, "In God we trust."

After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat; ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington and the sailors and marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones; who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States; preserving for us the rights, privileges and freedoms we enjoy today.