



Flag Day



Celebrating Old Glory

1777 The first American flag was introduced on June 14, 1777 by the Second Continental Congress. There is debate among historians about who actually designed the first flag.

1795 The number of stars and stripes on the U.S. flag was increased to 15 each when Vermont and Kentucky became states.

1814 It was the 15 star/15 stripe version of the "Star Spangled Banner" that inspired Francis Scott Key to write his famous poem during the British attack of Fort McHenry during the War of 1812.

1818 Congress declared the flag was to have a new star added for each new state and the flag would be official the first July 4th following admission. The number of stripes was reduced to 13 to honor the original colonies.

1916 President Woodrow Wilson issues a proclamation establishing June 14 as Flag Day. In 1949, National Flag Day was established by an Act of Congress on the same date.

1960 The most recent change, from 49 stars to 50, occurred in 1960 after Hawaii gained statehood in August 1959.

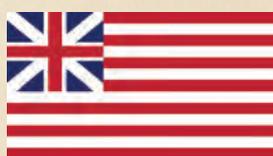


The stars on the original American flag were in a circle so all the Colonies would appear equal. The 13 stripes alternate red/white.

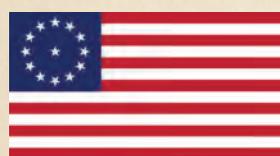
Who? The man credited with designing the 50 star American flag is Robert G. Heft.



Did you know the largest consumer of American flags is our southern neighbor Mexico? In 2012 the U.S. exported \$188,824 worth of flags to Mexico.



The Continental Colors were first hoisted on the USS Alfred, in Philadelphia on December 2, 1775, by Lieutenant John Paul Jones.



The "Cowpens" flag was said to have been carried by William Batchelor of the 3rd Maryland Regiment at the Battle of Cowpens, January 17, 1781.