

## **FLAG DAY**

**(GREETINGS)**

**THE AMERICAN FLAG SPEAKS IN ECHOES OF THE PAST - OF THE FOUNDERS OF THIS COUNTRY MAKING THEIR DEFIANT STATEMENT IN 1776 -- "WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS TO BE SELF-EVIDENT, THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL WITH CERTAIN UNALIENABLE RIGHTS -- OF WHICH ARE; LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS."**

**THE FLAG ECHOES THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS OF 1777, IN WHICH THE DELEGATES SAID, "BE IT RESOLVED: THAT THE FLAG OF THE**

**UNITED STATES BE THIRTEEN STRIPES, ALTERNATE  
RED AND WHITE; THAT THE UNION BE THIRTEEN  
STARS, WHITE IN A BLUE FIELD, REPRESENTING A  
NEW CONSTELLATION."**

**THAT CONSTELLATION NOW HAS FIFTY STARS,  
AND THEY ARE THE BRIGHTEST CONSTELLATION IN  
THE GALAXY OF NATIONS.**

**THE ECHOES CARRY THE SOUNDS OF BATTLE,  
DEDICATION, COURAGE, PATRIOTISM, SACRIFICE, --  
AND VICTORY. THEY CARRY THE SOUNDS OF  
FREEDOM - AND THEY CARRY THE SOUND OF THE  
BUGLE BLOWING TAPS FOR THOSE WHO PAID THE  
PRICE FOR THAT FREEDOM.**

**SOME HAVE SAID IN RECENT YEARS THAT PATRIOTISM IS OUT OF STYLE, THAT THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE IS A WASTE OF TIME. WE IN THE VFW HAVE NEVER FELT THAT WAY.**

**HOW COULD THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE EVER BE OUT OF STYLE? "WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS TO BE SELF-EVIDENT ...."**

**HOW CAN THE CONSTITUTION EVER BE OUT OF STYLE: "WE, THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES, IN ORDER TO FORM A MORE PERFECT UNION, ESTABLISH JUSTICE, INSURE DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY, PROVIDE FOR THE COMMON DEFENSE, PROMOTE THE GENERAL WELFARE, AND SECURE THE BLESSINGS OF LIBERTY TO**

**OURSELVES AND OUR POSTERITY DO ORDAIN AND ESTABLISH THIS CONSTITUTION FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA."**

**AND WHEN HAS THE BILL OF RIGHTS EVER BEEN OUT OF STYLE? "THE POWERS NOT DELEGATED TO THE UNITED STATES BY THE CONSTITUTION, NOR PROHIBITED BY IT TO THE STATES, ARE RESERVED TO THE STATES RESPECTIVELY - OR TO THE PEOPLE."**

**WHEN HAS FREEDOM EVER BEEN OUT OF STYLE? THOSE DOCUMENTS; THE DECLARATION, THE CONSTITUTION AND THE BILL OF RIGHTS, WILL NEVER BE OUT OF STYLE BECAUSE THEY CONTAIN**

**THE FEELINGS, THE HOPES AND THE DREAMS OF  
ALL PEOPLE FOR ALL TIME.**

**THAT FLAG OVER THERE, WHOSE BROAD  
STRIPES AND BRIGHT STARS REPRESENT THOSE  
DOCUMENTS AND THE NATION BASED ON THEM,  
WILL NEVER BE OUT OF STYLE AS LONG AS  
AMERICANS LOVE FREEDOM AND ARE WILLING TO  
FIGHT TO DEFEND IT.**

**PATRIOTISM IS THE APPRECIATION OF THE  
PRINCIPLES ON WHICH OUR COUNTRY IS FOUNDED.  
POLITICIANS AND POLICIES MAY COME AND GO, BUT  
THE PRINCIPLES OF LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE  
PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS REMAIN THE SAME AND  
ARE ALWAYS IN STYLE.**

**OUR PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO OUR FLAG IS  
OUR AFFIRMATION THAT WE KNOW WHAT OUR  
COUNTRY STANDS FOR AND OUR CONFIRMATION  
THAT WE BELIEVE IN THOSE PRINCIPLES.**

**PERHAPS, OF ALL THE SPECIAL OCCASIONS  
WE CELEBRATE EACH YEAR, FLAG DAY, JUNE 14TH  
STANDS OUT AMONG THE MOST IMPORTANT. WE'RE  
NOT JUST HONORING A FLAG, WE ARE HONORING  
THE COUNTRY, THE GOVERNMENT AND THE WAY OF  
LIFE IT REPRESENTS.**

**FROM TIME TO TIME THROUGHOUT THE HISTORY  
OF OUR COUNTRY, MANY MEN AND WOMEN HAVE  
BEEN SENT FORTH TO DEFEND THIS COUNTRY. OUR**

**ORGANIZATION, THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS HAS ALMOST TWO MILLION SUCH PEOPLE IN ITS RANKS. FOR THEM, THIS DAY HAS VERY SPECIAL MEANING. BUT YOU DO NOT HAVE TO FIGHT A WAR TO PROTECT AMERICA, OR BE A VETERAN TO APPRECIATE AMERICA ... YOU JUST HAVE TO HAVE THE INTEREST IN AMERICA THAT EACH OF YOU HAVE SHOWN TODAY. YOU ARE THE REAL DEFENDERS OF AMERICA.**

**- VFW -**