

"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America..." so begins the oath of loyalty to our country that Compatriots recite at the beginning of each Chapter meeting. This national symbol is as old as symbolic standards used by ancient Egyptians, Assyrians and Jews usually depicting religious significance. In medieval times numerous flags were used as battle field banners bearing the arms of the person entitled to carry it. In the armies and navies of various nations of the world, flags are used for signaling.

The week of June 14 is designated as National Flag Week, upon which the President will issue a proclamation urging U.S. citizens to fly the American flag. The SAR is actively involved in proclaiming Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup> Allegiance Sunday, as it commemorates the adoption of the flag of the U.S. which happened that day by resolution of the Second Continental Congress in 1777.

In the British colonies before the Revolution, each of the 13 colonies had its flag. On January 2, 1776, George Washington raised the Grand Union flag, consisting of 13 stripes, alternate red and white with a blue canton bearing the crosses of St. George and St. Andrew. The Second Continental Congress adopted the flag of the U.S. with 13 stripes alternate red and white, and that the Union be 13 stars white in a blue field representing a new constellation. Congress in 1818 enacted that a star be added for each state after its admission to the Union. In 1916, President Wilson issued a proclamation that officially established June 14 as Flag Day.

Throughout our history we have carried our national symbol into battles, stood beside her at grave sites, watched her waving over homes and buildings, saluted her as she passed in parades or ceremonies, and held firm to this pledge "...with liberty and justice for all."

As Compatriots, participate in activities during National Flag Week and/or on Flag Day and in so doing encourage others to renew, refresh, or reaffirm their commitment to a strong Republic. This is our sacred duty.