



The Unknown Soldier

by *Rogr J. Robicheau*

You need not ever know my name
This unknown soldier seeks no fame.

I'm here to bring out thought from you;
May your heart see more than your view.

America, we marched with pride.
We gave our life, for you we died.

How well we knew the time might come;
When life could sound that final drum.

Please think of us as life moves on.
We tried so hard till that last dawn.

Do let our spirit fill the land;
Pass treasured freedom, hand to hand.

God blessed this country with such love;
Hold in your heart, abundance of,

And when you stand before my grave
Think not of one, but each who gave.



The Tomb of the Unknown

I Stand Before You

by *Rogr J. Robicheau*

I stand before you all today,
But not one eye can see my way.

My time arrived, to leave this earth,
A fact so planned, to every birth.

It happened where I had to go,
My torch for life was so aglow.

I transferred while in uniform,
Protecting freedom, through a storm.

Should I resent I died for you,
Not on my life, red, white and blue.

Please help my family through each day,
Tell all my friends, try not to stray.

And of the country I did love,
Do think of me, through God above.

Your memories, brought forth this day,
Send love to us, who could not stay.



God Bless Our Native Land

by Frances E. W. Harper

God bless our native land,
Land of the newly free,
Oh may she ever stand
For Truth and liberty.

God bless our native land,
Where sleep our kindred dead,
Let peace at Thy command
Above their graves be shed.

God help our native land,
Bring surcease to her strife,
And shower from Thy hand
A more abundant life.

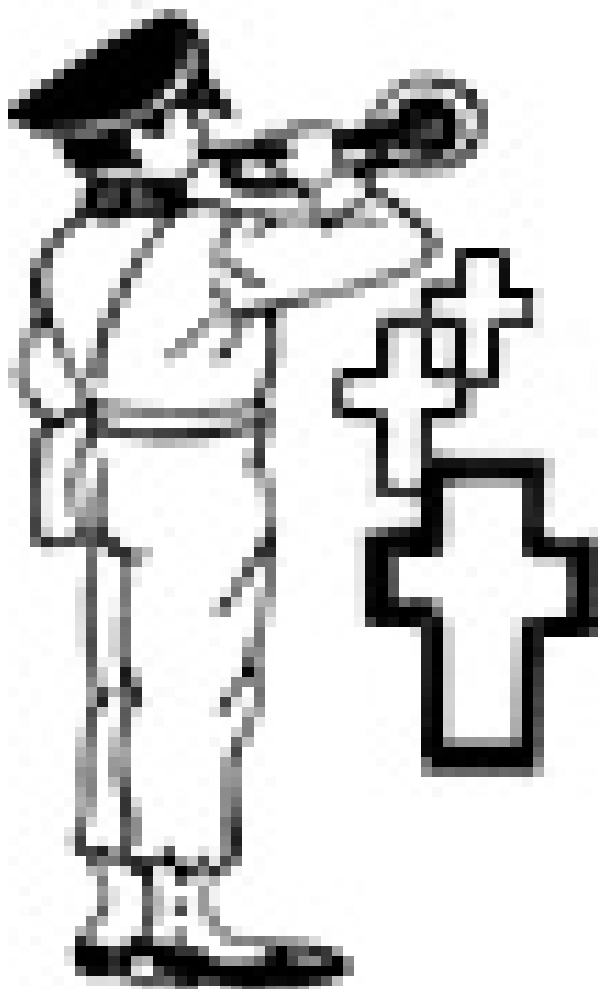
God bless our native land,
Her homes and children bless,
Oh may she ever stand
For Truth and Righteousness.

"surcease" means to stop, pause, halt; bring to an end.

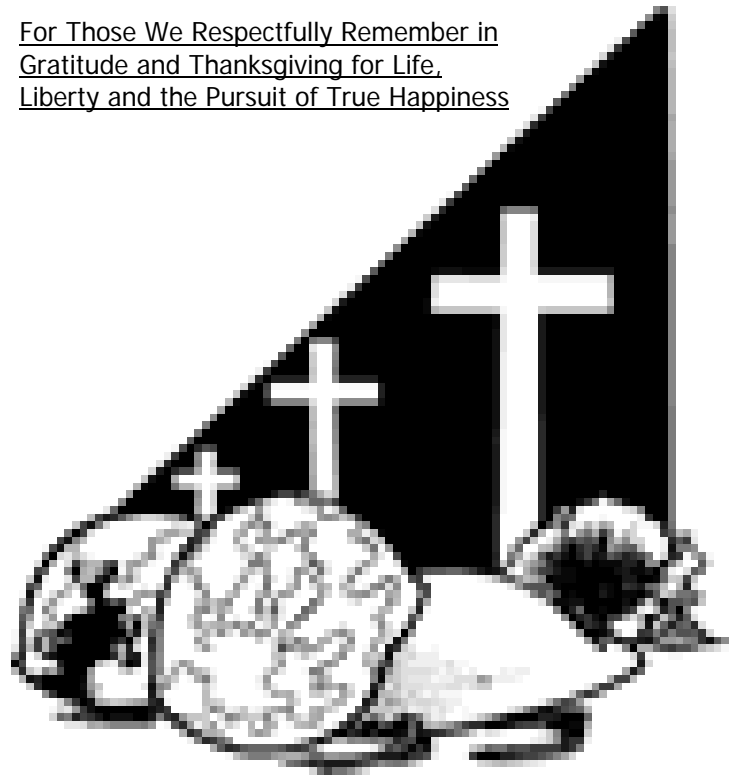


TAPS

"Day is gone,
gone the sun,
From the hills,
from the lake,
From the skies.
All is well, safely
rest,
God is nigh."



For Those We Respectfully Remember in
Gratitude and Thanksgiving for Life,
Liberty and the Pursuit of True Happiness



For Those Living and Defending Our Freedom

A Prayer for Our Troops

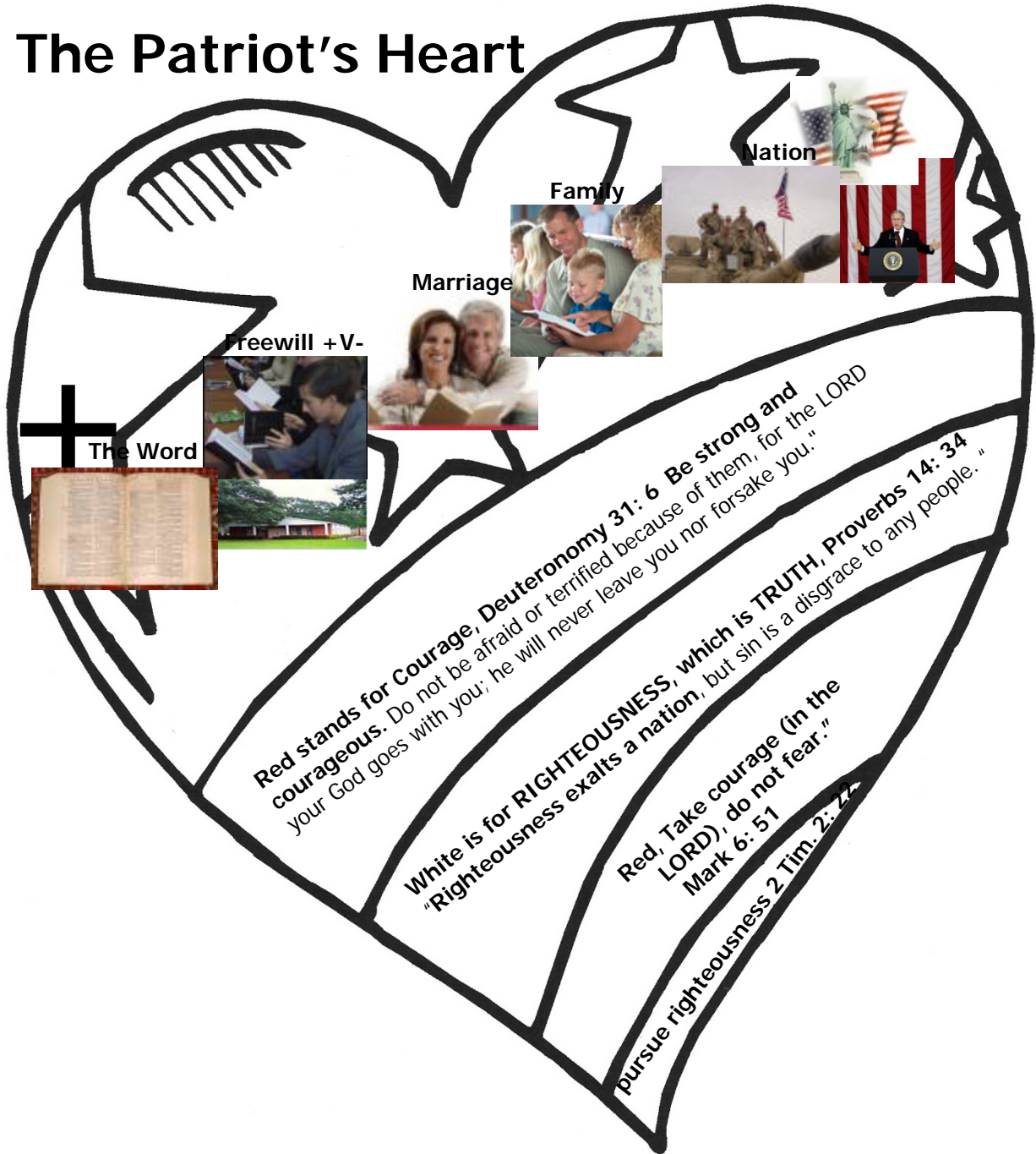
Father, guard and guide the
soldiers who fly
And those who on the ocean
must ply;
Be with our troops upon the
land,
And all who for their country
stand.
Be with these guardians day and
night,
And may their trust be in Thy
Spirit's might.

In Christ Name, Amen.

Author Unknown (1955)

"ply" means to work diligently at something; to travel a route regularly.

The Patriot's Heart



"If my people, which are called by my name, shall (will) humble themselves (1 John 1:9, Rebound), and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked (evil) ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

2 Chronicles 7: 14 NIV

The Star Spangled Banner Lyrics

By Francis Scott Key 1814



Oh, say can you see by the dawn's early light
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars thru the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?
And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
Oh, say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

On the shore, dimly seen through the mists of the deep,
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,
What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,
As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,
In full glory reflected now shines in the stream:
'Tis the star-spangled banner! Oh long may it wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

And where is that band who so vauntingly swore
That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion,
A home and a country should leave us no more!
Their blood has washed out their foul footsteps' pollution.
No refuge could save the hireling and slave
From the terror of flight, or the gloom of the grave:
And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

Oh! thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand
Between their loved home and the war's desolation!
Blest with victory and peace, may the heav'n rescued land
Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation.
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
And this be our motto: "In God is our trust."
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

American Flag Etiquette.



Federal law stipulates many aspects of flag etiquette. The section of law dealing with American Flag etiquette is generally referred to as the Flag Code. Some general guidelines from the Flag Code answer many of the most common questions:

- The flag should be lighted at all times, either by sunlight or by an appropriate light source.
- The flag should be flown in fair weather, unless the flag is designed for inclement weather use.
- The flag should never be dipped to any person or thing. It is flown upside down only as a distress signal.
- The flag should not be used for any decoration in general. Bunting of blue, white and red stripes is available for these purposes. The blue stripe of the bunting should be on the top.
- The flag should never be used for any advertising purpose. It should not be embroidered, printed or otherwise impressed on such articles as cushions, handkerchiefs, napkins, boxes, or anything intended to be discarded after temporary use. Advertising signs should not be attached to the staff or halyard.
- The flag should not be used as part of a costume or athletic uniform, except that a flag patch may be used on the uniform of military personnel, fireman, policeman and members of patriotic organizations.
- The flag should never have any mark, insignia, letter, word, number, figure, or drawing of any kind placed on it, or attached to it.
- The flag should never be used for receiving, holding, carrying, or delivering anything.
- When the flag is lowered, no part of it should touch the ground or any other object; it should be received by waiting hands and arms. To store the flag it should be folded neatly and ceremoniously.
- The flag should be cleaned and mended when necessary.
- When a flag is so worn it is no longer fit to serve as a symbol of our country, it should be destroyed by burning in a dignified manner.

Resource: USA Flag Site

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.

Rules for Display of the American Flag

Display Outdoors

Over the Middle of the Street

It should be suspended vertically with the union to the north in an east and west street or to the east in a north and south street.

Flown at Half-staff

Should be first hoisted to the peak for an instant and then lowered to the half-staff position. The flag should be again raised to the peak before it is lowered for the day. By "half-staff" is meant lowering the flag to one-half the distance between the top and bottom of the staff. Crepe streamers may be affixed to spear heads or flagstaves in a parade only by order of the President of the United States.

Flown on the Same Halyard with Non-Nation Flags

The American Flag should always be at the peak. When the flags are flown from adjacent staffs, the flag of the United States should be hoisted first and lowered last. No such flag or pennant may be placed above the flag of the United States or to the right of the flag of the United States.

Suspended Over a Sidewalk

The flag may be suspended from a rope extending from a house to a pole at the edge of the sidewalk, the flag should be hoisted out, union first, from the building.

From a Staff Projecting Horizontally or at an Angle

The flag may be projected from the window sill, balcony, or front of a building, with the union of the flag placed at the peak of the staff unless the flag is at half-staff.

In a Parade with Other Flags

The flag, when carried in a procession with another flag, or flags, should be either on the marching right; that is, the flag's own right, or, if there is a line of other flags, in front of the center of that line.

With Non-National Flags

The flag of the United States of America should be at the center and at the highest point of the group when a number of flags of States or localities or pennants of societies are grouped and displayed from staffs.

With Other National Flags

When flags of two or more nations are displayed, they are to be flown from separate staffs of the same height. The flags should be of approximately equal size. International usage forbids the display of the flag of one nation above that of another nation in time of peace.

With Another Flag Against a Wall from Crossed Staffs

Should be on the right, the flag's own right which is the viewer's left, and its staff should be in front of the staff of the other flag.

Display Indoors

From a Staff in a Church or Public Auditorium on a Podium

The flag of the United States of America should hold the position of superior prominence, in advance of the audience, and in the position of honor at the clergyman's or speaker's right as he faces the audience. Any other flag so displayed should be placed on the left of the clergyman or speaker (to the right of the audience).

From a Staff in a Church or Public Auditorium off the Podium

Custom and not the flag code hold that the flag of the United States of America should hold the position of superior prominence as part of the audience, in the position of honor at the audience's right.

Used to Cover a Casket

It should be so placed that the union is at the head and over the left shoulder. The flag should not be lowered into the grave or allowed to touch the ground.

Other than being Flown from a Staff

The flag should be displayed flat, whether indoors or out. When displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall, the union should be uppermost and to the flag's own right, that is, to the observer's left. When displayed in a window it should be displayed in the same way, that is with the union or blue field to the left of the observer in the street. When festoons, rosettes or draping are desired, bunting of blue, white and red should be used, but never the flag.

