

## **I Am Your Flag**

I was born on July 4, 1777.

I am more than just cloth shaped into a design.

I am refuge for the world's oppressed people.

I am the silent sentinel of freedom.

I am the emblem of the greatest sovereign nation on earth.

I am the inspiration for which American patriots gave their lives and fortunes.

I have led your loved ones into battle from Valley Forge to the steaming, treacherous jungles of Vietnam.

I walk in silence with each of your honored dead, to their final resting place beneath the silent white crosses—row upon row.

I have flown through peace and war, strife and prosperity, and amidst it all I have been respected.

My red stripes symbolize the blood spilled in defense of this glorious nation.

My white stripes signify the burning tears shed by Americans who lost their loved ones.

My blue field is indicative of God's heaven under which I fly.

My stars, clustered together, unify 50 states as one, for God and country.

Old Glory" is my nickname, and proudly I wave on high.

Honor me, respect me, defend me with your lives and your fortunes.

Never let my enemies tear me down from my lofty position, lest I never return.

Keep alight the fires of patriotism. Strive earnestly for the spirit of democracy.

Worship eternal God and keep his commandments, and I shall remain the bulwark of peace and freedom for all people.