

## Why I Honor the American Flag

The American Flag is one of the most recognized symbols in the world. To some it is a symbol of freedom and the pursuit of happiness. To others it is a sign of oppression and power. All flags are symbols that can be interpreted in different ways depending on your personal experience of what it represents. I honor the American flag because I believe it is the essence of what it is to be an American.

Although it is merely a piece of cloth, it portrays the many characteristics and beliefs of the citizens of the United States. One of the original representations of the flag, the fifteen star and fifteen stripe flag, survived the attack at Fort McHenry and inspired the writing of our national anthem. This is an example of the strength and perseverance of Americans in the face of adversity.

The white stars represent each state and their individuality, yet they are still only one part of the whole flag. It allows for differences which are kept in check by a balance of power that exists to protect the liberties we hold so dear. This is an example of our democracy and illustrates how we are different but still stand together for the same basic principles and are one united nation.

The American flag to me is a symbol of the American military and when we honor the flag we honor them and their service to our country. I have great respect for the military that protects us and our way of life. These brave men and women risk their lives so we can continue to live freely. Some of these brave soldiers have paid the ultimate price of their own life and I believe we owe them a great deal of gratitude and respect.

There are many symbols in society that hold different meanings to each of us dependent on our personal experience. I honor the American flag because it represents to me so much of what it means to be an American. Our flag is a symbol of strength, freedom and protection and I honor it by respecting it and all it represents at all times.