

National Patriotic Instruction
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

June 2024



Flag Day commemorates the adoption of the flag of the United States on June 14, 1777 by resolution of the Second Continental Congress.

Charles Sumner (1811-1874), a leading advocate for the abolition of slavery, was a lawyer, politician, and statesman who represented Massachusetts in the U.S. Senate from 1851 until his death. In 1867 he delivered an address entitled *“Are We a Nation?”* Here is an excerpt from that address:

“There is the National Flag. He must be cold indeed, who can look upon its folds rippling in the breeze without pride of country. If in a foreign land the flag is companionship, and country itself, with all its endearments, who, as he sees it, can think of a State merely? Whose eyes, once fastened upon its radiant trophies, can fail to recognize the image of the whole Nation? It has been called “a floating piece of poetry”; and yet I know not if it having an intrinsic beauty beyond other ensigns. Its highest beauty is in what it symbolizes. It is because it represents all, that all gaze at it with delight and reverence. It is a piece of bunting lifted in the air; but it speaks sublimely, and every part has a voice. Its stripes of alternate red and white proclaim the original union of thirteen States to maintain the Declaration of Independence. Its stars of white on a field of blue proclaim that union of States constituting our national constellation, which receives a new star with every new State. The two together signify Union, past and present. The very colors have a language, officially recognized by our fathers. White is for purity; red, for valor; blue, for justice. And all together, bunting, stripes, stars, and colors, blazing in the sky, make the flag of our country, to be cherished by all our hearts, to be upheld by all our hands.”

Does your Camp or Department have a program for recognizing businesses and citizens who proudly, and correctly, fly the U.S. Flag all year long? It can be as simple as a letter or certificate, but such a program is a great way to acknowledge their patriotism and let them know that it has not gone unnoticed! It’s just one more way to reach out to the public in the name of the Boys in Blue!

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Tad D. Campbell, PCinC
National Patriotic Instructor