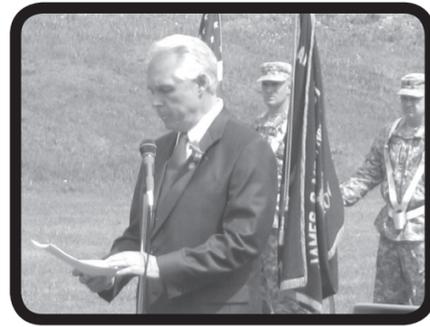


Thinking of Our Soldiers Abroad

How Can You Support Our Troops Overseas?

- ★ Sending Care Packages – For more information, please visit the New York State Department of Military and Naval Affairs website;
- ★ The Gift of Groceries program helps meet the family needs of our Guard and Reserve troops fighting the war on terrorism. Visit the New York State Department of Military and Naval Affairs website for more information;
- ★ Donate a calling card to help keep service members in touch with their families through the military post, ship, and base stores (exchange) system. Please visit Operation Uplink at the Official website for the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States for more information;
- ★ Operation Hero Miles: soldiers stationed in Iraq are given two-week leave periods in the largest R&R program since the Vietnam War; the soldiers can fly to Germany or Baltimore/Washington International Airport for free, but they are responsible for the cost of flights to their final destination. Returning soldiers often have to purchase high-priced, last minute airline tickets so they can spend time with their family. You can help American troops travel home to spend quality time with their loved ones. For more information, please visit the website of Fisher House, Helping Military Families;
- ★ Contribute to “Gifts from the Home Front” Certificates from the Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES). These allow you to send a gift certificate to a loved one, family member or friend associated with the military. Please visit the AAFES website for details;
- ★ Operation USO Care Package, visit their website for more information;
- ★ Send a greeting via e-mail through Operation Dear Abby. Visit their website for more information;
- ★ The “Stars and Stripes” newspaper includes a daily “Messages of Support” section giving family and friends of deployed service members a chance to pass along greetings, announcements, and words of encouragement. Such messages (limited to 50 words or less) will be printed on a first-come, first-run basis. Visit the “Stars and Stripes” newspaper website for more information.
- ★ Make a donation to one of the military relief societies – visit their websites: United Service Organization and the New York State Department of Military and Naval Affairs.

Information provided by the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs



Remembering Our Soldiers and Our American Patriotism

in this brochure:

- > Thinking of our Soldiers Abroad;
- > Legislative Initiatives for our Soldiers;
- > The American Flag History Poster;
- > Customs for Display; and
- > American Holidays to Remember This Year.

Dear Friend:

The American flag has stood as a symbol of freedom and justice since the beginnings of our nation's history. It remains a living piece of our history and a source of pride and unity for all Americans. Our soldiers and veterans are also proud symbols of America and we owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to the heroic and honorable men and women serving this country and to those who have given their lives.

I recently attended a going-away ceremony for the 827th Engineering Company of the New York Army National Guard, who have deployed to Afghanistan. These brave men and women have spent over a year preparing for their mission. We all know how difficult it is to leave our families behind. So let us not forget to thank those families, support them and wish our young men and women a safe trip home.

I have prepared this brochure to help you better understand the significance of the American flag, our soldiers, and the importance of the days that we thank and remember our soldiers for what we have today. This brochure, when unfolded, will turn into a poster for display that can serve as a teaching/learning tool for educators and parents.

As we take time this year to honor the fallen and those that currently serve, each of us should personally thank our young men and women for their honorable and courageous service to this country and give support to their families as well.

As always, if you have any questions or comments about this or other issues, please feel free to contact my office. I hope you enjoy the year and I ask that you help remember and thank the great symbols of freedom in American democracy.

Best wishes,

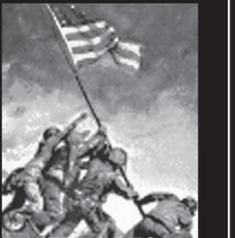


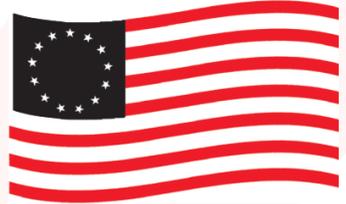
ASSEMBLYMAN
CLIFFORD W.
CROUCH
1 Kattelville Road, Suite 1
Binghamton, NY 13901
(607) 648-6080
crouchc@assembly.state.ny.us

Albany Office:
450 LOB
Albany, NY 12248
(518) 455-5741

Our American Flag And Its History

greatest moments in flag history

<p>The Continental Congress adopts a 13-star, 13-stripe national flag.</p>		<p>Francis Scott Key writes the "Star-Spangled Banner" as he sees the flag flying over Ft. McHenry in Baltimore Harbor after a British bombardment.</p>		<p>Francis Bellamy wrote the "Pledge of Allegiance" which first appeared in the <i>Youth's Companion</i> magazine in September, 1892.</p>		<p>The American Flag is raised over Iwo Jima after the United States captures the island during WWII.</p>		<p>The 50th star is added a year after Hawaii becomes the 50th state.</p>
June 14, 1777	January 13, 1794	September 13-14, 1814	April 4, 1818	August, 1892	June 22, 1942	February 23, 1945	August 3, 1949	July 4, 1960
	<p>Congress increases the flag to 15 stars and 15 stripes after Vermont and Kentucky join the union.</p>		<p>Congress returns the 13 original stripes to the flag and decides to add a new star for each new state accepted into the union.</p>		<p>Congress establishes a code of how the American Flag should be handled and displayed.</p>		<p>President Truman signs an Act of Congress designating June 14th as National Flag Day.</p>	



The "Betsy Ross" Flag
In use June 14, 1777 – May 1, 1795



The 15-Star, 15-Stripe "Star Spangled Banner" Flag
In use May 1, 1795 – July 3, 1818



The 48 Star Flag
In use July 4, 1912 – July 3, 1959



The 50 Star Flag
In use July 4, 1960 – present

Customs for Display

- ★ Display the flag from sunrise to sunset on buildings or flagstaffs and at night, only if properly lit.
- ★ The flag should be raised and lowered by hand and never raised furlled.
- ★ Always hoist the flag briskly and lower it ceremoniously.
- ★ The flag may be displayed on any day, but especially on national holidays.
- ★ On Memorial Day, display the flag at half-mast until noon only; then hoist it to the top of the staff.
- ★ When carried, the flag should be held aloft, never flat or horizontal.
- ★ Salute a flag when it passes by in a parade, during the Pledge of Allegiance or National Anthem and in a ceremony raising or lowering it.
- ★ The flag should never be allowed to touch the ground or floor, nor brush against any objects, nor be used as drapery of any sort.
- ★ The flag should never be displayed with the union down except as a signal of distress in instances of extreme danger.
- ★ When a flag is no longer in a condition to be displayed, it should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.

American Holidays to Remember

- Memorial Day is May 30
- Flag Day is June 14
- Independence Day is July 4
- Veterans Day is November 11
- National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day is December 7



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