



Old Glory Flies for Us All

The American flag does not belong to any one political party, nor does it represent any one political view. The American flag belongs to all the people of the United States. Nothing told us this more than the way we came together as a people after the tragedies of September 11, 2001.

Never had we seen more homes, more cars, more companies waving Old Glory than in the autumn of 2001. The flag was no longer an icon of our grandfather's era but became once again an emotional symbol galvanizing ordinary citizens of all generations, creeds, and ethnic origins to stand united as Americans.

In reality, our Flag has always been there for all of us. It never abandoned us. Not even for a minute. What the flag truly represents is not war, not the government, not an attitude, or a policy or a political stance. Our Star Spangled Banner represents the rights and freedoms we all cherish as American citizens; the right to an education, the freedom to worship as we choose, the right to speak out in protest, the freedom to assemble, the right to petition and be heard, the freedom to publish, and the right to vote for change.

We should all remember that having the freedom to dissent is the very reason we should love our country even more and not turn against her. Standing united as a country does not mean we all agree. Patriotism is defined differently depending on your point of view. One of the basic principles represented by this fluttering symbol is that our nation is indivisible, with liberty and justice for *all*.

Remember, no matter what your point of view, Old Glory flies for us all. Don't take your freedom for granted. Fly Your Flag.

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