

VFW POST 7383 FLAG DAY RETIREMENT

June 14, 2019

I would like to welcome and thank everyone here at the VFW Flag Day Retirement ceremony. Many of you could have been somewhere else, but you chose this ceremony.

Flag Day celebrates the official symbol for the United States: our Stars and Stripes. On May 30, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a presidential proclamation establishing a national Flag Day on June 14. However, it was not designated as National Flag Day until August 3rd, 1949, when an Act of Congress designated June 14th of each year as National Flag Day.

Flag Day was first recognized by Congress on June 14, 1777 but it did not become official until 172 years later on August 3rd, 1949. On June 14, 1777, the United States Army was formed. Happy birthday Army.

On June 14, 1777, John Adams spoke about the flag at a meeting of the Continental Congress in Philadelphia. He said, and I quote, "Resolved, that the flag of the thirteen United States shall be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the Union be thirteen stars, white on a blue field, representing a new constellation." end quote. Congress later would add a star for each state that joined the union.

The colors used in the flag give special meaning to the flag: Red for valor and zeal; white for hope and cleanliness of life; and blue — the color of heaven — for reverence and loyalty.

The American flag has been carried by our armed forces in every field of battle. We can never fully repay our debt of gratitude to the more than 650,000 American service members who died in battle or the 1.4 million wounded. We can, however, recognize and thank the 25 million veterans still living today and their families and friends who have supported them.

It is only proper that on this Flag Day, as we remember all those men and women who have fought for our country and freedoms, we take time to retire worn flags that have completed their service representing our great nation and everything it stands for. These flags have served as a symbol for all the freedoms we have. They are tattered and torn and no longer able to honor our country. They will be retired with the dignity and respect they deserve.

The flags from the gravesites of PFC Carl E. Franklin and Marine Platoon Sgt William P. Sloan will be placed on the fire to represent all flags to be retired today. I will lead everyone gathered here today in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence,

I then welcome anyone from the audience to place a flag on the fire in memory of a loved one lost.