

“I AM OLD GLORY”

M/Sgt Percy Webb

I AM Old GLORY: For more than nine score years I have been the banner of hope and freedom for generation after generation of Americans. Born amid the first flames of America’s fight for freedom, I am the symbol of a country that has grown from a little group of thirteen colonies to a united nation of fifty* sovereign states. Planted firmly on the high pinnacle of American Faith my gently fluttering folds have proved an inspiration to untold millions. Men have followed me into battle with unwavering courage. They have looked upon me as a symbol of national unity. They have prayed that they and their fellow citizens might continue to enjoy the life, liberty and pursuit of happiness, which have been granted to every American as the heritage of free men. So long as men love liberty more than life itself; so long as they treasure the priceless privileges bought with the blood of our forefathers; so long as the principles of truth, justice and charity for all remain deeply rooted in human hearts, I shall continue to be the enduring banner of the United States of America.

*Updated. Originally written by M/Sgt Percy Webb (1879-1945). Sergeant Webb wrote this famous flag tribute in the original “Our Flag” booklet first distributed at the Chicago World’s Fair, 1933.

Elks Care - Elks Share



Flag Day - June 14th

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is the first and only fraternal body to require formal observance of “Flag Day”. In July of 1908, the Grand Lodge of this Order provided for the annual nationwide observance of “Flag Day” on the 14th of June in each year, by making it mandatory upon each Subordinate Lodge of the Order.

This unique distinction as the strongest promoter of “Flag Day” is most becoming to the Order of Elks. This Order is distinctively American. Only American citizens are eligible to join it and it has no foreign affiliations. It has linked its destiny with the destiny of our country and made this Flag its symbol of self-dedication to God and country.

Courtesy New York State Elks Association • Public Relations/Public Education Committee

“THE FLAG GOES BY”

Henry Holcomb Bennett

Hats off!

Along the street there comes
A blare of bugles, a ruffle of drums,
A flash of color beneath the sky:

Hats off!

The Flag is passing by!
Blue and crimson and white it shines,
Over the steel-tipped, ordered lines.

Hats off!

The colors before us fly;
But more than the flag is passing by.

Sea-fights and land-fights, grim and great,
Fought to make and to save the State:
Weary marches and sinking ships;
Cheers of victory on dying lips;

Days of plenty and years of peace;
March of a strong land’s swift increase;
Equal justice, right, and law,
Stately honor and reverend awe;

Sign of a nation, great and strong
To ward her people from foreign wrong:
Pride and glory and honor—all
Live in the colors to stand or fall.

Hats off!

Along the street there comes
A blare of bugles, a ruffle of drums,
And loyal hearts are beating high:

Hats off!

The flag is passing by!