



NAVA NEWS

THE NORTH AMERICAN VEXILLOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Vol. III No. 3.

Washington, D.C.

May, 1970

EDITOR

Newton V. Blakeslee
1145 17th Street N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

CIRCULATION MANAGER

William C. Spangler
c/o Dettra Flag Co., Inc.
Oaks, Pennsylvania 19456

FLAGS IN THE NEWS

In the February, 1970, NAVA News, it was reported that a bill had been introduced in the Maryland legislature to institute compulsory daily flag salute exercises in all public schools in the state. Only those with religious scruples against reciting the pledge of allegiance would be excused.

Both the House of Delegates and the State Senate have now passed the bill with large margins and have forwarded it to the governor's office, where it is awaiting his signature.

Before signing, Governor Mandel will send the bill to the attorney general's office for a ruling on its constitutionality.

FLAGS AND POLICEMEN

According to the Christian Science Monitor, police in more than a thousand cities and towns from coast to coast now wear small U. S. flags on their uniforms. In most cases the flag is worn either as a shoulder patch or as a lapel pin. In one city, flag patches replaced the regular police badges on the front of the winter uniforms.

The man credited with originating the idea was Mayor Thompson of Macon, Georgia, who started it more than a year ago. (See: NAVA News, February, 1969, Vol.II, No.2). He did it because so many officers were attacked on the job, 29 to be exact, in the short space of six months. Since that time not a single policeman has been assaulted, he stated.

The idea spread. Now President Nixon has given his support and has written a letter to that effect to the American Federation of Police.

NEW U. S. FLAG BOOK

The Flag Book of the United States, by Dr. Whitney Smith, was published in January of this year by Wm Morrow & Co., New York. Thirteen years in preparation, the book has 320 pages, with illustrations including 206 flags and coats of arms in color, 64 drawings in black and white, plus three appendices, a glossary, an index, and a bibliography. The chapters provide a well-documented history and description of all flags flown in the United States, including civil, military, naval, state, territorial, historical, city, county and Indian tribal flags and coats of arms. It also discusses such topics as flag etiquette, flag design in the United States and its relation to heraldry, seals and other symbols. It costs \$12.95. (Ed. note: the Editor finds this book to be a veritable mine of information. He has a copy on his reference shelf within arm's reach, and finds himself reaching for it every other day).

Letters to the Editor

To the editor of NAVA News:

I am enjoying membership in the NAVA and the newsletter very much, since I have become so deeply involved in flag history and research the past few years.

Schools and clubs enjoy my lectures on the History of the Stars and Stripes and the Illinois State Flag. It gives me a chance to promote good citizenship and understanding of our heritage.

There are a few points I try to state pertaining to the erroneous use of the words "American" and "America."

Our national flag is not THE American flag. It is the flag of the United States. It is just as proper to say "the United Statesian" flag as it is to refer to the Canadian flag or the Chilean flag or the Cuban flag, all of which are just as American as we are.

I would appreciate your calling attention to this flag misnomer, because, of all the people in the world, the members of NAVA should not call the United States "America," nor our flag "THE American flag."

I would like to see a flag developed which would fly as THE American Flag and which would truly represent all the nations in the real America (both South America and North America, as well as the countries of Middle (Central) America). But, could we ever get 26 national governments to agree on one design? This might be a good project for NAVA.

I am opposed to opening any meeting or class by the chairman or teacher saying, immediately after calling the meeting to order, "Let us repeat the pledge of allegiance to the flag," (and especially if he says "to the American flag!"). It seems to me that chairmen use the pledge as an excuse to "get things going," without any critical thinking of what else to say. They use it as an "Ice-breaker" which gives everybody present something to do together. This type of flag salute is meaningless, and would be better left off the program.

Can you say something in the NAVA News that will help sponsor the flag salute as something precious and meaningful when properly placed on a club or school agenda? Once a day in school is probably too much, but a once-a-week special ceremonial would probably be better, especially since the United Statesian flag is required to be in every classroom daily, at least it is here in Illinois.

Mrs. Sanford Hutchison
Greenfield, Illinois 62044

(Editor's note: Mrs. Hutchison researched the new design for the state flag of Illinois and actively campaigned for its adoption, which has now been officially set for July 1, 1970. Readers' suggestions about making the flag salute and pledge of allegiance more meaningful are earnestly solicited.)

* * * *

To the editor of NAVA News:

I saw your query in the latest NAVA News as to NAVA members who might collect postage stamps with flags on them. I'm not interested in stamps, but if anybody's interested in trading banknotes with flags on them I'd like to know about it.

Of the enclosed Xerox copies, the top is the reverse of the new Filipino 1-peso note issued last year. The bottom is a Rwandan 20-franc note issued in 1966; I believe it's still the current design in circulation.

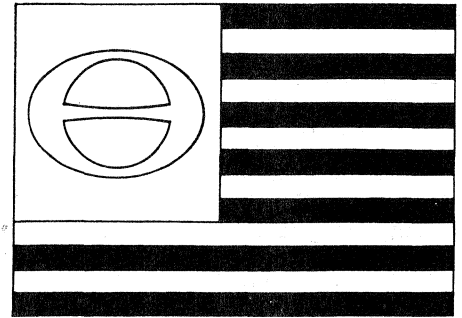
Frederick Patten
11863 West Jefferson Blvd.
Culver City, Cal. 90230

(The bank-note copies mentioned in Mr. Patten's letter each showed a national flag prominently featured in the design.
-Ed.)

* * * *

FLAG FOR ECOLOGY

Concerned citizens for a clean environment all over the nation are rallying around a new Ecology flag at right. Thousands of citizen action groups have sprouted. The green stripes of the flag stand for grass and foliage, the white for air and the blue field for water. The Greek letter theta is a warning symbol for death.



"If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the pollution."

If you would like to indicate your support for this movement, display an Ecology flag. To get your Ecology flag decal, which is 3 x 4 1/4 inches in size, send 25¢ for each decal desired and your name, address and zip number to: Ecology Flag, P.O. Box 1, Des Moines, Iowa, 50301.

FLAGS IN WORLD BOOK

Robert Gauron, NAVA member and Senior Editor with the World Book Encyclopedia, reports that the "Flag" article in the World Book is the fourth most-looked-up article in the set. The 30 pages crammed with color illustrations are a natural attention-grabber; only NAVA members will realize the painstaking details and technicalities involved in keeping the article up-to-date. The contributor of the article, and one of World Book's most active research consultants, is Dr. Whitney Smith, NAVA President and specialist in the field of vexillology.

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

JOHN DOE

IS AN ACTIVE
 ASSOCIATE
 INSTITUTIONAL

MEMBER OF THE

NORTH AMERICAN VEXILLOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

1967

FROM 1/1/70

TO 12/31/70

Robert Gauron
 Corresponding Secretary

NAVA MEMBERSHIP CARD Illustrated at left is the new NAVA membership card, which members will start receiving in the mail immediately. Signed by the Corresponding Secretary, each card will bear the name of the member, his effective dates of membership, and the classification as well.

NATIONAL FLAG WEEK

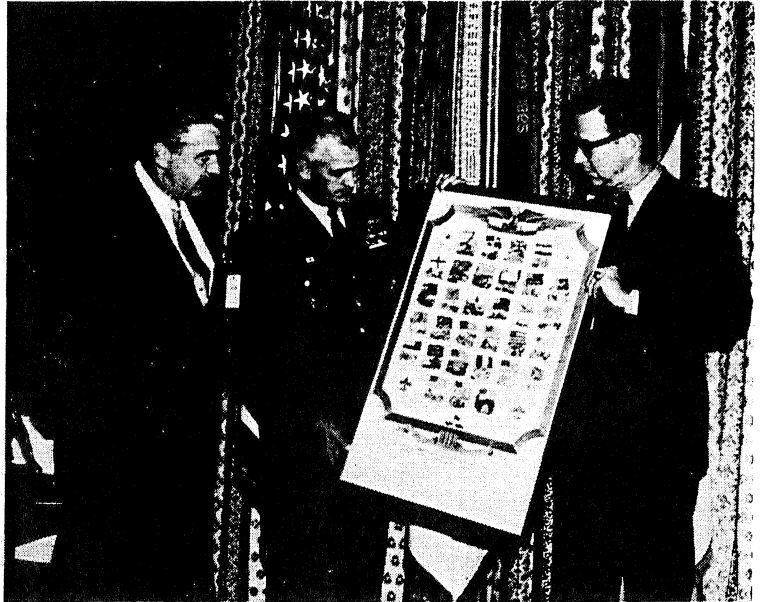
Fly your flag! National Flag Week, sponsored by the Star Spangled Banner Flag House Association of Baltimore, will be the week of June 14th, 1970.

THE EDITOR'S IN-BASKET

In Sitka, Alaska, a museum found a historic flag. The United States flag that was raised at Sitka upon the transfer of Alaska from Russia on October 18, 1867, was found in the recesses of the Sheldon Jackson Museum
. . . In Mineola, New York, a suburban housewife flew the Stars and Stripes upside down as a sign of distress over the Viet Nam war. (Any upside down flag is an International distress signal). She was haled into court and faces a sentence of up to one year in jail and a fine of \$1,000 if convicted. The comic-strip character "Pogo" recently displayed the flag the same way for the same reason. He was not convicted
If you're a serviceman overseas and come from Maryland and want a Maryland state flag, the Governor will send you one free of charge. . . . In Christiansburg, Virginia, a freshman student was arrested for wearing an American flag sewn to the seat of his pants. If his appeal fails he will soon be sitting in jail for 30 days. (Source: various newsclips).

The photograph at right was taken at the Pentagon, Washington, D. C., as Brig.Gen. Charles D. LeCraw, Jr., U. S. Army Reserve, of the United States Steel Corporation and member of the Board of Directors, Allegheny Trails Council, Boy Scouts of America, presented a personalized copy of the FLAGS OF AMERICA CHART to the Army Chief of Staff, General William C. Westmoreland. George F. Cahill, NAVA member and Scout Executive of Allegheny Trails Council, looks on.

General Westmoreland was a recent visitor at Flag Plaza, Pittsburgh. He held his press conference in the same room where NAVA will hold its 1970 Annual Meeting (see photo in NAVA News, February, 1970).



At the Pentagon: (left to right) NAVA member George Cahill, Gen. William C. Westmoreland, and Gen. Charles D. LeCraw, Jr.

PITTSBURGH
ANNUAL NAVA
MEETING

Don't forget the upcoming NAVA Annual Meeting at the Flag Plaza in Pittsburgh on October 10 and 11 of this year. Be sure to mark the dates on your calendar and plan to attend.

President Whitney Smith is planning another exciting and unusual meeting. Early expressions tend to indicate that 1970 will be our largest meeting ever.

George Cahill, Chairman of the Committee on Arrangements, reports that plans are rapidly firming up for a full schedule of events, including a Saturday morning tour that will take in the tallest educational building in the world. Those who arrive in Pittsburgh on Friday night, Oct. 9, will have an opportunity to enjoy a tour of the Cultural Center of Pittsburgh on Saturday morning. The tour will include the most unusual and beautiful Frick Fine Arts Building, containing the Lochoff copies of great Italian masterpieces, the Heinz Memorial Chapel, and the Nationality Rooms in the Cathedral of Learning. If time permits, they will also see the Hall of Architecture in the Carnegie Institute.

Housing arrangements for those attending the NAVA meeting will be at the Chatham Center (with indoor pool) across from Flag Plaza. ~~A motel brochure is enclosed with this issue of NAVA News.~~

FLAG DAY AT
BALTIMORE

FLAG DAY ceremonies in Baltimore will center around historic old Fort McHenry. According to tradition, a replica of the fifteen-star, fifteen-stripe flag will be raised on the ninety-foot staff in the same spot where the British bombarded the Star Fort during the crucial War of 1812. Flags will be flown on every ship in the harbor, as well as on every building in the city. On Sunday morning, church services will be conducted aboard the United States Frigate CONSTELLATION, which is moored at a pier within the inner harbor.