by Byron DeLear

The 2017 Annual Meeting, NAVA 51, is fast approaching. This October 13 to 15 we will be in Boston, a location treasured for its historical sites and landmarks pivotal to the birth of the United States, and of our Association. Fifty years ago, on 3-4 June 1967, twenty people who shared an abiding interest in flags got together in Boston to form NAVA. This year, we will celebrate the Golden Anniversary of that first meeting, and also commemorate the life and work of the founder of modern vexillology, Dr. Whitney Smith (1940-2016). Why should you attend NAVA 51? There are important business decisions scheduled for this meeting that will impact the future of our Association. The Annual Meeting information packet was sent out by a Semaphore email and includes resolutions/amendments for consideration, the meeting’s schedule, and nominations for the board. If you haven’t seen the packet, you can view the information packet online. Other reasons to attend NAVA 51 include visiting and sight-seeing Boston, a cultural gem of New England; staying current with the latest flag scholarship; building your network among flag experts and aficionados; expanding your vexillological knowledge; buying/selling flags and related materials; and getting some face time with fellow NAVA members — an opportunity that comes only once a year! NAVA 51 is sure to deliver on the promise of presenting the latest in vexillological scholarship and features a diverse slate of presentations.

Boston to Host Annual Meeting continues on page 5
Visiting London for the 27th International College of Vexillology, my wife and I took the opportunity to visit the State Apartments at Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle, Westminster Abbey and other famed sites.

I made a personal pilgrimage to The City, a square mile area, which forms the financial district as well as being the heart of historic London. A short street there, one of the oldest in London, is now simply as “Cornhill,” which was named for a grain market held there in pre-Roman times. The Royal Exchange sits on the north side of this narrow street, and to walk the length of Cornhill was one of my major goals in visiting London.

The reason I eagerly took time to visit Cornhill? Scrooge's clerk, Bob Cratchit, crossed Cornhill where he slid down the icy street behind a “lane of boys, twenty times, in honour of its being Christmas-eve.” In addition to my interest in vexillology, I have a great interest in Charles Dickens' book, A Christmas Carol, as it encompasses a philosophy that I strongly advocate and recommend to NAVA members.

When the Ghost of Christmas Past suggested that Fezziwig had only spent a few pounds of mortal money to provide Christmas cheer for folks, Scrooge countered:

“It isn't that Spirit. He had the power to render us happy or unhappy; to make our service light or burdensome; a pleasure or a toil. Say that his power lies in words and looks; in things so slight and insignificant that it is impossible to add and count 'em: what then?”

Our Association's lifeblood is the volunteered labor freely given by exceptional NAVA members. These men and women have occupations, families and other interests, and can easily turn their attention from vexillology to other areas. I know that my service has been made "light and pleasurable" by wonderful members, who have donated time, skills and energy to benefit NAVA. They have made difficult times bearable, and happy times joyous. World-class vexillological publications, successful Annual Meetings and completion of a myriad of our Association's projects have resulted from the work of dedicated volunteers.

It seems the nature of humans is to criticize more readily than to express thanks. As I approach my final days of service as NAVA's president, I ask members to make a special effort to thank those who have contributed so much to benefit us all. Let us make the Carol Philosophy, NAVA's philosophy; that we know how to keep the Spirit of Vexillology well. "May that be truly said of us, and all of us!" To re-word Tiny Tim's most famous quote making it perhaps more applicable to us, “May Vexillology Bless Us, Every One!”

President's Column

Walking Along Cornhill

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When I took this assignment in 2013, Ted Kaye reached out to me and sent a trunk load of past copies of NAVA News to peruse. It was an eye-opening education to be sure—fifty years of enthusiastic commitment, excellence, and passion for flags are self-evident throughout the entire NAVA News collection. This is my fourth year serving as Editor-In-Chief and the current issue will be the penultimate distribution before my term is complete. Any detectable trace of quality during this tenure would never have materialized without the contributions, guidance, and example provided by many of my more experienced colleagues in vexillology; including, Charles Spain, Ted Kaye, Ken Reynolds, Steven Knowlton, Scot Guenter, Annie Platoff, Peter Ansoff, Jim Ferrigan, Hugh Brady, Jim Brown, David Martucci, John Hartvigsen, and others too numerous to mention. These are individuals who have always demonstrated a sincere desire to get the vexillology “right”—and this deserves recognition.

Aside from NAVA News being a venue for our Presidential Columns, updates and information from Association proceedings, publications, and each year’s Annual Meeting, I’ve also been pleased to have had the opportunity to present some strong, original content. Some noteworthy examples worth revisiting include: “Je suis Charlie”— A Vexillological Moment in Time” (NN#224/June 2015); “Canadian Maple Leaf Flag has come to symbolize Canada worldwide” (NN#226/Dec. 2015); “Russian tricolor takes center stage in series of vexillological pranks” (NN#230/July 2017); “Cuba Field Report” (NN#221/Jan.-May 2014); “Evolution of the Flag of the Vice President of the United States” (NN#225/Sept. 2015); “Artist Douglas Rowe Features Vibrant Flag Renderings in His Collection” (NN#222/June-July 2014); “The Confederate Flag Question Through Canadian Eyes” (NN#225/Sept. 2015); and, in my first issue, “Political Turmoil in Ukraine Brings Out the Flags” (NN#221/Jan.-May 2014). Each year-end double issue which reported on that year’s Annual Meeting is also worth reexamination and has great value from an archival sense. It has been an honor to serve the Association in this capacity and whether I continue as Editor-In-Chief or in some other role, I want to thank you all for this enriching experience.

In a week, we will gather in Boston for our Annual Meeting where we will honor the life of Dr. Whitney Smith (1940-2016) and celebrate our fiftieth anniversary. The early years saw heady and formative actions such as designing and adopting our official flag, seals, urging publishers of dictionaries to include “vexillology” and “vexillologist” in their updated publications, and even consenting on the accepted pronunciation of NAVA—“whose name, according to an Executive Board decision, should be pronounced nah-vah.” Things that today may seem so basic and well-established that fifty years later we take them for granted. In our fifty-year history, our Association has made significant contributions to the advancement of vexillology and has published important vexillological works including 23 issues of Raven: A Journal of Vexillology with special reference compendiums of Canadian City Flags (Vol.18); Russian Regional Flags (Vol.16); American City Flags (Vol.9/10); The United States Flag (Vol. 5); and Flags of the Native Peoples of the United States (Vol.3/4). But what is not so easily documented is another significant accomplishment of our Association, and that’s...
Editorial Musings continued from page 3

the fellowship and comradery we experience in the pursuit of socializing a shared passion for flags. The spirit of fellowship as a shared pursuit, as a more abstract achievement, is palpable throughout the *NAVA News* canon—stories of the intrepid group of founders who volunteered to make our Association a reality. And this spirit lives on and is also felt when we gather each year. As we prepare to join each other in Boston, it is worthy to consider these past accomplishments and reflect on what we would like to see from NAVA in the next fifty years. There are important decisions of an existential nature that will be visited in Boston, in addition to more perfunctory business to be conducted. I find it fitting that during our Golden Anniversary gathering, where we will commemorate the life and work of Whitney Smith, we will discuss broad strategies that will impact NAVA’s next fifty years.

“Since the Association is a democratic organization,” wrote Smith in 1996, “that implies a full and frank discussion of options. Some individuals, of course, will be happy enough with what is being done now and will want no change; others may have very ambitious revisions for the future of the organization in mind. Whatever the outcome of the ongoing dialogue, the important thing is to acknowledge that foresight, goals, and decision-making are as important today and in the future as they were during the first decade of existence.”

I am hopeful that the span of our history and weight of accomplishment will factor heavily in the discussions and choices we will make in Boston; and as we take-in new scholarship and what are sure to be fascinating presentations, the original spirit which brought our group into existence will help motivate an outcome that will continue to evolve and improve the North American Vexillological Association for many years to come.

Byron DeLear
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Utah Healing Field

Each year since the first anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11th of 2001, a massive display of United States flags has flown at the Sandy City Promenade to honor each of the nearly three thousand victims killed that day. Visitors experience a sense of healing that gave the tradition a name, the Utah Healing Field® display.

Now sixteen years later, though memories fade, the need for healing continues with the theme “United in Hope and Healing,” and 3,000 posted flags will still honor and remember those who died on that day when terrorists commandeered airliners which crashed in the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and a grassy field in Pennsylvania.

The 16th Annual Utah Healing Field will—in addition, raise money to benefit the National Alliance on Mental Illness, NAMI Utah, which brings hope and healing to those who need them desperately. NAMI Utah is the state’s voice on mental illness, including suicide prevention.

Top and bottom: 2017 Utah Healing Field display.
JOHN HARTVIKEN

*Utah Healing Field* (continued from page 4)
Currently scheduled presentations include:

- The Changing Use of Flags and a Proliferation of Flag Etiquette by President John Hartvigsen
- Influence of the U.S. and Soviet flag on the Chinese flag by Xing Fei
- Historical shifts and emergent paradigms: Tradition, ideology, sources of power and influence in flag studies by Scot Guenter
- American city flag redesign: A welcome change by Edward B. (Ted) Kaye
- The Minute Man flag and the Army-Navy E Flag: Unifying symbols for the American home front in World War II by Steven A. Knowlton
- The second Continental New Hampshire national and regimental colors of 1777 by David B. Martucci with the assistance of Anthony Wayne Tommell and Wesley Balla
- The Puerto Rican flag—A pilot study in vexillology by Carlos Alberto Morales Ramirez
- Little Leninists: Symbols and the political socialisation of Soviet children by Annie M. Platoff

About the battle. No admission charge applies to the museum or monument.

On June 13, 1775, the leaders of the colonial forces besieging Boston learned that the British were planning to send troops out from the city to fortify the unoccupied hills surrounding the city, which would give them control of Boston Harbor. In response, 1,200 colonial troops under the command of William Prescott stealthily occupied Bunker Hill and Breed’s Hill. During the night, the colonists constructed a strong redoubt on Breed’s Hill, as well as smaller fortified lines across the Charlestown Peninsula. By daybreak of June 17, the British became aware of the presence of colonial forces on the Peninsula and mounted an attack against them that day. Two assaults on the colonial positions were repulsed with significant British casualties; the third and final attack carried the redoubt after the defenders ran out of ammunition. The colonists retreated to Cambridge over Bunker Hill, leaving the British in control of the Peninsula (excerpts from Wikipedia).

For more information and to plan your visit, visit the National Park Service site for Bunker Hill.

**USS Constitution and Museum**

Undefeated in battle, **USS Constitution** is a wooden-hulled, three-masted heavy frigate of the United States Navy, named by President George Washington after the Constitution of the United States of America. She is the world’s oldest commissioned naval vessel afloat. Nicknamed
“Old Ironsides,” climb aboard and viscerally experience this national treasure. The Constitution was built in the North End using material from Paul Revere’s foundry, Old Ironsides is steeped with Boston history (excerpts from Wikipedia).

For more information and to plan your visit to the USS Constitution and Museum, click here.

**Prospect Hill Park**
Visit the site at the center of the Prospect Hill flag debate. Tradition has it that on New Year’s Day, 1776, General George Washington unfurled what is considered the first “unofficial” flag of the United States of America to commemorate the Continental Army’s “new establishment” at Prospect Hill. The Grand Union flag, or “Continental Colors,” featured thirteen characteristic red-and-white horizontal stripes with the British Union Jack in the canton.

The Grand Union flag was hoisted atop a 76-foot liberty pole on Prospect Hill—a strategically important fortified high-ground overlooking British-occupied Boston, now located in the Boston suburb of Somerville. Peter Ansoff has theorized that a British Union flag was flown there without any red-and-white stripes in the field of the flag, while Byron DeLear has rebutted Ansoff’s interpretation affirming the traditional history. For more information, see Landmark: Somerville’s **Prospect Hill Tower**.

**Boston Tea Party Ships and Museum**
The Boston Tea Party was a political protest by the Sons of Liberty in Boston, Massachusetts, on December 16, 1773. The demonstrators, some disguised as Native Americans, in defiance of the Tea Act of May 10, 1773, destroyed an entire shipment of tea sent by the East India Company. They boarded the ships and threw the chests of tea into Boston Harbor. The British government responded harshly and the episode escalated into the American Revolution. The Boston Tea Party Museum is located on the Congress Street Bridge in Boston. It features reenactments, a documentary, and a number of interactive exhibits.

The museum features two replica ships of the period, the Eleanor and the Beaver. Additionally, the museum possesses one of two known tea chests from the original event, part of its permanent collection (excerpts from Wikipedia). For more information to plan your visit, click here.
Boston Freedom Trail

The Freedom Trail is a 2.5-mile-long (4.0 km) path through downtown Boston, Massachusetts, that passes by 16 locations significant to the history of the United States. Marked largely with brick, it winds between Boston Common to the Bunker Hill Monument in Charlestown. Stops along the trail include simple explanatory ground markers, graveyards, notable churches and buildings, and a historic naval frigate. While most of the sites are free or suggest donations, the Old South Meeting House, the Old State House, and the Paul Revere House charge admission. Notable stops along the trail include Benjamin Franklin statue and former site of Boston Latin School, Site of the Boston Massacre, Faneuil Hall, and USS Constitution.

Visit the site to plan your visit: **The Freedom Trail.**

Longfellow House: Washington’s Headquarters

The Longfellow House—Washington’s Headquarters National Historic Site, also known as the Vassall-Craigie-Longfellow House and, until December 2010, Longfellow National Historic Site, is a historic site located at 105 Brattle Street in Cambridge, Massachusetts. For almost fifty years, it was the home of noted American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. It had previously served as the headquarters of General George Washington, 1775-76. The house was built in 1759 for John Vassall, who fled the Cambridge area at the beginning of the American Revolutionary War because of his loyalty to the king of England. In the days after the Battles of Lexington and Concord (April 1775), the home was used as a temporary hospital. Colonel John Glover and the Marblehead Regiment occupied the house as their temporary barracks in June 1775. Initially, General George Washington, Commander-in-Chief of the newly formed Continental Army, used the Benjamin Wadsworth House at Harvard College as his headquarters, but decided he needed more space for his staff. Washington moved into the Vassall House on July 16, 1775, and used it as his headquarters and home until he departed on April 4, 1776.

To learn more and plan your visit to the Longfellow House, **click here.**
The Flags at Charlottesville

On 11–12 August 2017, the Unite the Right rally caused civil unrest and bloodshed in Charlottesville, Virginia. Among the far-right groups engaged in organizing the march were the clubs of the neo-Nazi website The Daily Stormer, The Right Stuff, the National Policy Institute, and four groups that form the Nationalist Front: the neo-Confederate League of the South, the Traditionalist Workers Party, Vanguard America, and the National Socialist Movement. Other groups involved in the rally were the Ku Klux Klan, the Fraternal Order of Alt-Knights, Identity Evropa, the American Guard the Detroit Right Wings, the Rise Above Movement, True Cascadia, and Anti-Communist Action.

Above: Charlottesville, VA. Alt-right demonstrators in foreground with antifa counter demonstrators with placards behind their black banner. Note large “A” in circle on black banner on right, a popular anarchist symbol. JOSHUA ROBERTS/REUTERS

The “Unite The Right” rally organized by white nationalist Jason Kessler in Charlottesville, Virginia succeeded in drawing out a diversity of far-right groups ranging from white nationalists to armed “Patriot” groups.

What follows is a guide to some of the flags and symbols from both sides, as spotted by Southern Poverty Law Center’s Hatewatch analysts:

**ALT-RIGHT**

Above: The “national flag of Kekistan” mimics a German Nazi war flag, with the Kek logo replacing the swastika and the green replacing the infamous German red. A 4chan logo is emblazoned in the upper left hand corner. Alt-righters are particularly fond of the way the banner trolls liberals who recognize its origins. SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER

Left: Schwarze Sonne (Black Sun), sometimes called the sonnerad symbol has become synonymous with far-right groups who traffic in neo-Nazi ideologies. The symbol is based on the ancient sun wheel artifacts that were made and used by Norse and Germanic tribes as symbol of their pagan beliefs. SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER

Above: Vanguard America-Texas flag incorporates the Schwarze Sonne (Black Sun) with star of Texas in middle. SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER

Above: Traditionalist Worker Party. SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER

Above: National Socialist Movement—oldest and most likely largest NS group in USA. SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER

*Source: Southern Poverty Law Center*
In July 2017, the ecumenical and interfaith clergy group Congregate Charlottesville called for a thousand members of the clergy to counterprotest at the rally. Groups counterprotesting included representatives from the National Council of Churches, Black Lives Matter, Anti-Racist Action, the Democratic Socialists of America, the Workers World Party, the Revolutionary Communist Party, Refuse Fascism, Redneck Revolt, the Industrial Workers of the World, the Metropolitan Anarchist Coordinating Council, and Showing Up for Racial Justice. Members of the Antifa movement were also in attendance.

Tragically, one person was killed and 19 others were injured on the second day in what police have called a deliberate attack of a car ramming into the unsuspecting crowd. The man then reversed the car and fled the scene. Heather D. Heyer, a 32-year-old paralegal from Charlottesville, was fatally injured in the attack.

Throughout the event, many flags were flown to publicly identify and rally morale for each participating group. In some instances, the flags formed a front line in clashes between groups. Many of these flags have symbolism which animate their respective causes and we present some of those designs as collected from various online sources, including the Southern Poverty Law Center and others with narrative excerpts from Wikipedia.

**ANTIFA**

Above: The ‘red-and-black flag’ is the symbol of the anarcho-syndicalist and anarcho-communist movements. Black is the traditional color of anarchism, and red is the traditional color of socialism and communism.

Below: Anti-fascist counter-protestors shielding clergy in Charlottesville, VA, 2017. IMAGE VIA @ MZFAYY

**ANTIFA cont.**

Above: Anarchist symbols. Anarchists have employed certain symbols for their cause, including most prominently the circle-A and the black flag, although anarchists have historically largely denied the importance of symbols to political movement. WIKIPEDIA / ANARCHIST SYMBOLISM

Left: Three-arrow symbol from Germany’s 1930s Iron Front anti-NAZI movement is used today for Antifa actions. WIKIMEDIA / WILLIAMTHEAKER

Above: American Guard is a group of hardcore nationalists (with aging/former racist skinheads and at least one klansman among its members) dedicated to physically opposing leftists at events and rallies. Some group members have connections to the Proud Boys and to the Fraternal Order of Alt-Knights, the Proud Boys “military division.”

Top right: Identity Dixie Flag. A variation of the neo-Confederate “Southern Nationalist” flag featuring a magnolia flower, the symbol of The Right Stuff’s southern offshoot Identity Dixie. 2nd down from top right: “Southern Nationalist” Flag. Designed by a former member of the Neo-Confederate League of the South (LOS), the “Southern Nationalist” flag is intended to evoke the St. Andrews Cross and the Confederate Battle Flag (CBF). Frequently carried by members of LOS and their allies in the south. 3rd down from top right: A frequent variation features the flag combined with a Confederate Battle Flag (CBF). ABOVE IMAGES: SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER

4th down from top right: White supremacists carry Nazi flags on Aug. 12, 2017 in Charlottesville. HTTPS://TWITTER.COM/ANDYBCAMPBELL

Above: Antifa counter demonstration in Charlottesville. Note the painted severed frog’s head, which refers to “Pepe the Frog,” an alt-right mascot and icon. NURPHOTO / GETTY IMAGES

Below: Members of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) wave red flags alongside black masked anarchist ranks of ANTIFA in Washington D.C. on 1 May 2017. WASHINGTON CITY PAPER / BAYNARD WOODS
Montréal Updates Its Flag to Include First Nations People

by Ted Kaye

Montréal, Québec, has changed its coat of arms and flag to reflect the city's origins more fully, establish a “nation-to-nation” relationship with its indigenous peoples, and recognize their importance and fundamental historical contribution.

On September 13, 2017, celebrating the 10th anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Montréal debuted its new coat of arms with a white pine tree, symbolizing indigenous peoples and standing for peace and harmony. At the same time, the city updated its flag with the same symbolism.

Mayor Denis Coderre unveiled the new flag at a ceremony outside city hall standing with Ghislain Picard, Chief of the Assembly of First Nations for Quebec and Labrador, and Kahnawake Mohawk Council Chief Christine Zachary-Deom. Coderre said the change formed part of a “new chapter toward reconciliation with Indigenous peoples”.

Picard praised the decision to add the indigenous symbol, saying “The raising of the flag is giving me hope that the connection to this territory is finally acknowledged and recognized.” Zachary-Deom added, “When we come from people who have been forgotten for such a long time, it is very touching to find that we are supported.” On Twitter, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau called it a “tremendous and historic step forward for Montréal.”

The white pine, described as the Great Tree of Peace, is a symbol of the unity of the five nations of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy—also known as the Iroquois Confederacy or the League of Five Nations—which includes the Mohawks.

The original city flag was first displayed in May 1939, in time for the royal visit of King George and Queen Elizabeth. The flag bears the same symbols as those of the coat of arms: the St. George Cross in red against a white background and the four iconic flowers in the white rectangles, now with the white pine in the center (in yellow, outlined in black). The bars are one-fourth the height of the flag, which has proportions of 1:2. [See Canadian City Flags, Raven 18, 2011, NAVA, and the website of the City of Montreal.]
Fixing a Glitch—a Car, a Flag, and a Unique Journey of Discovery

by Brody Levesque

The pride of The Henry Ford museum’s transportation collection in Dearborn, Michigan, is its four presidential limousines. Ranging from the custom built 1939 Lincoln K series limousine for President Franklin D. Roosevelt, to the 1972 Lincoln presidential limousine last used by President Ronald Reagan, these magnificent automobiles exemplify the prestige of the office of the President of the United States. Each car proudly displays on its fenders the American flag on the right and on the left, the presidential flag.

So ubiquitous are the modern presidential flag and the seal as symbols of the office that, for the nearly three decades that FDR’s 1939 Lincoln had been on display, no one apparently thought to question if the presidential flag on the vehicle was the correct one.

This was a detail that escaped the notice of not only the museum’s professional curatorial staff, but also the millions of visitors that have passed through the transportation section, which included several former and current occupants of the Oval Office, as well as current and former members of the White House staff and the United States Secret Service.

During the spring of 2015, a group of White House correspondents engaged in a discussion regarding presidential motorcade protocols and previous presidential limousines, after an online internet search on the subject matter, (using Google), stumbled across the discrepancy in the flag displayed on FDR’s limousine. The presidential flag displayed on the 1939 custom built Lincoln K series convertible, lovingly referred to by the nickname bestowed on it by the White House Press Corps during the Roosevelt Administration, ‘The Sunshine Special’, did not exist when FDR was President of the United States.

One of the journalists present pointed out that the version of the presidential flag as displayed on the limousine at The Henry Ford was incorrect, given the context of the limousine’s display signage referring specifically to it being built especially for FDR, and it was also the wrong size, it was too small.

A quick phone call to the curatorial staff at The Henry Ford confirmed that its staff was unaware of the glitch, but also hadn’t realised that there was a mistake in the first place. This led to a campaign to replace the limousine’s presidential flag, which was successfully completed in August of 2015, when a professionally hand and machine crafted museum quality replica of the (circa, 1941) 1916 version presidential automotive flag artifact located in the FDR Library, was donated for display on the vehicle.

The flag of the President of the United States

Nothing makes the power and prestige of the modern American presidency more evident to any observer than the trappings of its office. From the Raymond Loewy inspired blue and white livery paint scheme of the fleet of presidential aircraft, to the white topped dark green presidential Marine helicopters, and even the White House itself, the visual power of the office of the President of the United States is globally recognized through these symbols.

Arguably, the more ubiquitous symbols are the colorful presidential flag and the official seal of that office. Every speech given by an American President invariably has those two items in attendance.
The seal is affixed to a special presidential podium and the presidential flag is either behind the president or affixed to a staff on the presidential limousine.

The symbolism of presidential prestige and honours did not exist prior to 1882; there weren’t any authorized symbols of office for the President of the United States. Although discussions about a President’s Flag had occurred during the deliberations for the Flag Act of 1818, a presidential flag was not officially adopted until the administration of President Harry S. Truman in 1945, for use as both a military standard and a civilian symbol of the office itself.

The earliest flags were solely military standards, which featured the pre-1885 Great Seal, with eagles in white, with bent legs and white olive branches and arrows. In 1885, the Great Seal was redesigned, and at some point before the turn of the century, the eagle was updated to the full color 1885 Great Seal design.

In the spring of 1882, President Chester A. Arthur, was concerned that while other heads of state had flags to symbolize their offices, the President of the United States did not. Arthur, like his four predecessors, was a former Union Army officer, who had served during the American Civil War as a quarter-master general, and had a keen sense of the pomp and ceremonial roles that were filled by an American president as the commander-in-chief. At his suggestion, the U.S. Navy adopted a navy blue flag in 1882, featuring a stylized eagle design for official use on naval vessels when the commander-in-chief was aboard.

The Navy order of August 9, 1882, reads:

“The flag of the President of the United States shall consist of a blue ground with arms of the United States in the center, and shall be of the dimensions prescribed for the admiral’s flag, [10.2 by 14.4 feet]. The flag shall be hoisted at the main of vessels of war while the President is on board, and shall be carried in the bow of his boat.”

In 1898, just prior to the outbreak of the Spanish American War, Russell Alexander Alger, the Secretary of War, determined that the U.S. Army required a flag to represent the commander-in-chief. Alger ordered the Army to design a ‘presidential standard’ for its use. It was decided that the Navy’s flag of the heraldic eagle on blue ground too closely resembled the Army’s various regimental colours.

Frederick D. Owen, a civilian engineer working within the War Department, came up with a design that met the approval of the Secretary of War, as well as President William McKinley. On March 28, 1898, McKinley issued General Order 13, which, prescribed a scarlet silk flag with a large blue star in the middle, outlined in white, which contained the Great Seal. There were four white stars in each corner, and in a cluster surrounding the large central star were forty-five smaller white stars, representing the forty-five states.

Then, in early 1901, President Theodore Roosevelt ordered that a unified design, based on the U.S. Navy version with the Great Seal of the United States, be used exclusively by the chief executive. “[...] On November 12, 1901, Roosevelt’s secretary sent out a letter with the decision, saying it was primarily because the Navy flag was older. While the Army later updated its regulations to use the Navy design for its flag, they retained their own definition of the presidential color, so its design lived on and was still used in many situations.” (The Library of Congress)

By late 1915, President Woodrow Wilson decided that having the two separate flags was too cumbersome and wanted a unified design, similar to that of the U.S. Navy’s version.
The task fell to a young naval officer and aide to the Secretary of the Navy, Commander Byron McCandless. McCandless participated in the discussions along with Assistant Secretary of the Navy Franklin D. Roosevelt, and the Assistant Secretary of War Henry Breckinridge. McCandless was considered an expert in flag origins, design, and etiquette in a field later called vexillology.

After a series of discussions and layout of preliminary designs, McCandless met with the president and suggested a design which added four stars to the Navy’s 1902 version (which used the Great Seal on a blue background), as this would be enough to distinguish it from the Army infantry flag.

Wilson was amiable to the design but told McCandless that he wanted to incorporate the presidential seal’s eagle, which faced left instead of right, based on the Martiny plaque of the seal of the office, which was embedded in the entrance floor of the White House. Wilson also provided McCandless with a full colour print of that seal, which the President had obtained, that had been executed by the Philadelphia firm of Bailey Banks & Biddle. That drawing ended up becoming the final design along with the added 4 stars in each corner that Wilson made official by issuing Executive Order 2390 on May 29, 1916, to officially define it.

That was to remain the official flag of the U.S. Commander-in-Chief until 1945 when circumstances again caused a need for a change in the design.

Global events and a world at war became the impetus for the next design overhaul of the presidential standard. In late 1944, the Congress of the United States, at the urging of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, created the five-star flag officer ranks: Fleet Admiral, U.S. Navy, and General of the Army. This had been done as a matter of political expediency and etiquette, as the American commanders of the Allied forces were in some cases “outranked” by their British counterparts, who had the ranks of Field Marshal and Air Marshal RAF, along with a comparable rank in the Royal Navy. FDR pointed out that it was awkward to have that disparity and it could create tensions within the allied commands.

With the final approval of the five-star flag officer ranks in December of 1944, the flag of the Commander-in-Chief with its four stars needed redesign. FDR wondered if the four stars were still appropriate, and despite initial feedback, which recommended no change (the stars were not supposed to be indicative of rank), the President persisted and in late March of 1945, he reached out once again to Byron McCandless. McCandless, now a Commodore and commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet’s Naval Repair Base in San Diego, California, was unable to respond to Roosevelt’s request in time, as the President had died on April 12th.

This is the version of the presidential seal as requested by President Woodrow Wilson with his penciled sketch of the flag’s layout in the upper left corner.

Scanned from page 452 of The Eagle And The Shield, 1978, by Richard S. Patterson and Richardson Dougall.

The original color copy is filed in Series 2 of the Woodrow Wilson Papers in the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress, along with a May 24, 1916 letter from Assistant Secretary of the Navy Franklin D. Roosevelt to President Woodrow Wilson regarding the flag.
President Harry S. Truman had received the McCandless Memorandum of recommendations for changes in the presidential flag, based on FDR’s March inquiry, not long after he took office and the President decided to proceed with the flag’s design overhaul. On May 29th, 1945, McCandless sent Truman a long letter containing a history of the President’s flag, dozens of attachments, and several recommendations for a redesign.

The President suggested the presidential eagle first used by President Rutherford B. Hayes in 1877, but surrounded by 48 stars. McCandless accordingly made up a new drawing with this design. Further alterations (turning the eagle’s head to its right, and changing the eagle to full color) were made by Arthur E. DuBois of the Heraldic Section of the Army’s Office of the Quartermaster General (the forerunner of the Army Institute of Heraldry). This design was used for the presidential coat of arms, seal, and flag, and was officially defined with Executive Order 9646 issued on October 25th, 1945. For the first time an official flag was intended for the office of President of the United States, instead of used solely as a symbol for the president’s role as the U.S. military’s Commander-in-Chief.

The design has only been changed twice since then, to add an additional star for the new states of Alaska in 1959 and Hawai‘i in 1960 as the 49th and 50th states. President Dwight D. Eisenhower is the only president to have had three different presidential flags; one each with 48, 49 and 50 stars.

**Fixing a glitch**

The quest in the spring of 2015, to obtain a proper and authentic period flag artifact to replace the incorrect flag that was currently on display on the ‘Sunshine Special’, ended up taking on a life of its own, and turned out to be a bit of a saga.

Numerous emails and phone calls located several verified FDR car flag artifacts. Three were in the possession of The National Archives, Presidential Libraries and Museums system, one was in the collection of a private family museum in Florida, and another was in the collection of The U.S. Army’s Quartermaster Museum, which is located on the grounds of the U.S. Army’s Combined Arms Support Command, Fort Lee, near Petersburg, Virginia. Two more were located in private collections, of which one individual was unwilling to donate or sell the flag and the other collector, while willing to part with the flag, wanted $7,500, a sum way beyond the scope and financial abilities of the folks involved in the effort to replace the flag that was currently displayed on the ‘Sunshine Special’.

Then, with the assistance of Thomas J. Carrier, a vexillologist & presidential collectible artifacts expert, from Vienna, Virginia, and the co-founder and past president of the Chesapeake Bay Flag Association, along with a fund raising drive from that group’s membership, and the gracious assistance of a few other interested individuals, a campaign was launched to create a historically accurate and museum quality replica flag for The Henry Ford.

Carrier contacted Al Ulmer, and his wife Joanne, the owners of ‘The National Capital Flag Company’ of Alexandria, Virginia, a U.S. Government GSA certified contractor, which provides flags for the five branches of the U.S. military and numerous U.S. agencies, including the White House.
Based on curatorial photographs and the artifact information sheet provided by Herman Eberhardt, the Curator of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum in Hyde Park, New York, the flag company went to work to produce a combination hand sewn and machine crafted replica flag.

The finished piece, a hand-sewn and machine crafted exact replica flag, was accepted by Carrier on behalf of the Chesapeake Bay Flag Association in late July of 2015, and was conveyed to Matthew Anderson, Curator of Transportation at The Henry Ford, in early August for display on FDR’s limousine.

Note: A part of the process of manufacturing the replica flag is documented as shown in the following selection of photographs courtesy of The National Capital Flag Company of Alexandria, VA.

This article is an excerpt from the book, “The Sunshine Special, FDR’s 1939 Lincoln K-Series presidential limousine, by Brody Levesque. Published by The Henry Ford, Dearborn, Michigan, 2015.

Brody Levesque is a veteran journalist and currently serves as the Chief Political Correspondent for The New Civil Rights Movement Magazine. Additionally an amateur historian, he published his first book on early U.S. presidential automotive transportation in 2015 and is working on his second book detailing the rise of a closeted gay American religious figure in the early to mid twentieth century. He lives and works in New York City.
Much-Maligned Pocatello Flag Gets an Upgrade  by Ted Kaye

Pocatello, Idaho, may win the prize for the biggest gain on the flag-ranking charts. Derided as the worst city flag design in the country, its 2001 design was replaced in July with a new flag.

Pocatello’s chamber of commerce civic pride logo was never intended to serve as its flag, which apparently long flew only at the city sewer plant. After over two years, the city has finally replaced it, with NAVA playing a role.

Stung by its flag’s rating as the worst in the country by NAVA’s 2004 American City Flags survey and the negative publicity spurred by the 2015 TED Talk by 99% Invisible podcast host Roman Mars, several community members approached Mayor Brian Blad asking for change. “I was the mayor for what, five and a half, six years before I realized that we had a flag”, he later said.

The Pocatello flag had finished dead last in NAVA’s survey—the 481 respondents gave it an average rating of 1.48 on a scale of 0 to 10. And Roman Mars singled it out, saying “So maybe all the city flags can be as inspiring as Hong Kong or Portland or Trondheim, and we can do away with all the bad flags like San Francisco, Milwaukee, Cedar Rapids, and finally, when we’re all done, we can do something about Pocatello, Idaho, considered by the North American Vexillological Association as the worst city flag in North America…That thing has a trademark symbol on it, people…That hurts me just to look at.” The flag also received negative national attention from media outlets including CBS Sunday Morning with Mo Rocca.

The “Proud to Be Pocatello” logo had been designed for a city pride campaign in 1999 by Michael Jones, a graphic designer with Rave Communications. The motto and design were donated to the chamber of commerce by Greg Gunter, Rave’s owner. While the logo itself successfully represented civic pride in its original applications, Gunter commented that as a flag “It violates all the principles of good flag design”, clearly dismayed that somebody literally had run it up the flag pole. “To this day we don’t know who did it,” says Gunter. The flag was formally adopted as the city’s flag on 5 May 2001 before the citywide clean-up and the kick-off for the “Proud to Be Pocatello Week” celebration.

John Hartvigsen, NAVA’s current president, told BYU-Idaho Radio that the wording on the flag had won it the recognition of worst in North America, saying “There’s just an awful lot on it… It has writing on it, which is one of the most difficult things to do with a flag.”

In June 2015, an art teacher, Pocatello native Michael Bingham, began using NAVA’s Good Flag, Bad Flag to lobby for an update through the civic advancement organization Portneuf Valley Pride. Others, including Bingham’s father-in-law Arlo Luke, of Varsity Facility Services, and Kasi Beorchia, a high school counselor, approached the mayor asking for change. In response, in January 2016 Mayor Blad launched a redesign effort, which lasted throughout the year, through an ad-hoc design committee and an expert committee composed of local and national experts in design, history, vexillology, advertising, and art.

Logan McDougall, the city’s public information officer, led a process that brought in 709 entries from 31 states and 26 foreign countries, categorized as Professional, Ages 18+, Ages 13–17, Ages 7–12, and Ages 1–6. “We don’t want worst. We want first!”, he said. By the beginning of 2017, the City of Pocatello Flag Design Ad Hoc Committee began narrowing down the submissions—first to 330, then to 19, making changes to some. It received over 1,000 comments, then presented the final six to the public in May, asking for ratings on a 10-point scale of 0.5 to 5.0 stars by 30 June 2017.
After a four-week-long public comment period, the committee chose the design with the working title “MountainsLeft”. It is a compilation of several designs as well as important symbolism highlighted by the community. On 20 July 2017, the city council adopted the committee’s recommended winning design.

“This flag directly acknowledges the natural beauty of the area,” said McDougall. “Like any good flag, there is also a fair amount of abstract symbolism such as acknowledging the area’s Native American history, our city’s role in transportation, and our local economy.”

The red mountains stand for the three prominent peaks in Pocatello—Scout Mountain, Kinport Peak, and Chinese Peak. They also symbolize the three pillars of the local economy—industry, education, and recreation. The blue line that runs through the mountains represents the Portneuf River and the golden compass rose indicates the city’s leading role in transportation and trade (and points to the past, present, and future). The white part of the compass rose also creates an abstract arrowhead, acknowledging the area’s Native American history, and conveys upward motion, signifying positive hope for the future. The flag’s colors also carry meaning—white stands for the snowy mountain peaks, blue represents the sky and the river, gold represents agricultural ties and prosperity, and red serves as a subtle tribute to Red Hill in Pocatello.

“This flag does well to adhere to the rules of good flag design set forth by NAVA”, affirmed McDougall. “I am grateful for the work the volunteer committee members put into this effort, as well as for the time the expert panel members spent on the project,” said Mayor Blad. “I’m excited we’ll have a flag that our community can rally behind.” He added, “It’s amazing how much money we spent on this project…I have to tell you, it’s incredible how much we spent. It was a grand total of $234.06, so it’s great to have this kind of an outcome for that amount of money.”

The city raised its new flag in a ceremony on 19 September 2017 during which a color guard raised the U.S. and Idaho flags and the new city flag to the top of the flagpoles in front of Pocatello City Hall. “It was so surreal”, said Kasi Beorchia, one of the effort’s instigators, about watching the raising of the new flag. “It’s been two years since we watched the video, so it seems crazy that this is actually happening.” The city has distributed flags to all of its departments with flag poles.

Pocatello is just one of scores of U.S. cities currently replacing their flags with better designs. Portland Flag Association webmaster Scott Mainwaring tracks them on the PFA website’s Municipal Flag Improvement page at portlandflag.org.

Pocatello provides full specifications for the new flag and ordering instructions on its website.

A shorter version of this article first appeared in the August, 2017 issue of the Vexilloid Tabloid, the newsletter of the Portland Flag Association.

Ted Kaye compiled NAVA’s flag-design guidebook Good Flag, Bad Flag and oversaw its 2004 American City Flag survey. Both are accessible on NAVA’s website. He will present on “American Flag Redesign—a Welcome Change” at NAVA 51 in Boston.
My Brother Peter
by David B. Martucci

Peter Joseph Orenski, born 21 April 1940 in Czernowitz, Province of Bukovina, then part of Romania (today the city of Chernivtsi in Western Ukraine), died due to complications of prostate cancer on 13 August 2016 in New Milford, Connecticut, USA.

Just 6 days after he was born, his family fled the advancing Russian troops to Bucharest, Romania. In 1960 the family emigrated to the United States. His father, Stefan Walter Orenstein (who changed his name to Orenski in 1945) was a biological scientist who was born in Vienna and his mother Herta Bendetz Orenstein was a musicologist born in Bukovina.

Peter and his father both became United States citizens in 1965 after his mother's death. Peter was educated as a chemical engineer, graduating from Columbia University in 1963 and attaining the degree of Ph.D. in chemistry in 1967. From 1967 to 1987 he worked for Union Carbide in Tarrytown, NY and afterwards he eventually settled in New Milford, Connecticut. Upon retirement, he devoted himself to all things vexillological.

I first met Peter in 1996 due to North American Vexillological Association issues. When I was elected President of NAVA in 1998, he was on the Board with me serving as Treasurer. Two years later, he stepped down from that position and served as the chair of NAVA's membership committee, in which capacity he was responsible (along with the late Harry Oswald) for the sharp increase of membership from well south of 400 to more than 500 members.

Peter was a hard critic, being quick to point out where he thought we were failing and full of ideas on how to move ahead. But always he was positive and thoughtful in every way possible. Full of mirth, he became an important friend and advisor and ultimately I came to look on him as my brother. He could always make me laugh, especially with his stories of having escaped the Three Bad C’s, Communism, Catholicism, and Cancer (although that last one caught up with him in the end).

The author of a number of important works such as “A Flag for New Milford: The Practical Guide to Creating a Successful Civic Flag” and “Quo Vadimus” (an essay on the State and Future of Vexillology) and co-author of “Native American Flags”. He also gave presentations to International Congresses of Vexillology, such as “VEXILOGORRHEA: A culturally determined amerikanische Flaggensünde” at ICV-22 in Berlin. Orenski has left us a wealth of information and his superb design work will live on at the TME Company.

Peter was known as “Flag Dancer” by Native Americans, “The Flag Man of New Milford” by the citizens of that municipality and region and as “The Flag Dude” by nearly everyone else in the world. He travelled extensively, was fluent in a number of languages, and had close friends on every continent except Antarctica (and I’m not certain he did not have friends there).

I don’t know what else I can add to this evidence of a life well lived except that I loved him very much and will miss him sorely. I am comforted in knowing I am not alone.

Memorial Service: The New England Vexillological Association (NEVA) invites everyone to attend their meeting on Sunday, October 15, 2017 at 2:00 pm in the Omni Parker House. A memorial to two important members, Dr. Whitney Smith, a co-founder; and Dr. Peter Orenski, a major benefactor, will be held. In addition, NEVA will celebrate its 25th Anniversary! All are welcome. Additionally, On Monday morning, David Martucci will be organizing a car pool trip out to the Bedford Free Library to see the Bedford Flag. Anyone who wants to go should connect with David at the meeting.
NAVA 51: 2017 Annual Meeting / Réunion annuelle 2017
Boston • 13–15 Oct. 2017

Friday, October 13 at noon, registration will begin and continue that afternoon. Activities at and around the Omni Parker House will be available that morning and afternoon.

At 11:00 a.m. a tour of the Hall of Flags and the Great Hall will introduce our members to fascinating rooms in the Massachusetts State House located a short walk from our hotel. The Preble Lecture is scheduled for 3:00 p.m. in the Parker House’s famed Press Room, which will be delivered by local historian and photographer, Susan Wilson. The Presidents’ Reception will welcome everyone beginning at 7:00 p.m., with opportunities to greet old friends and make new ones.

The Golden Anniversary opening and presentation of papers will fill the day on Saturday until 5:00 p.m., with a memorial service for Whitney Smith—the founder of both vexillology and the Association—at 6:00 p.m., followed by the Whitney Smith Dinner at 7:30 p.m.

The annual business meeting will begin activities from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. on Sunday morning, followed by final presentations and the meeting’s closing. A gathering will be held following the meeting where positive ideas can be shared with the new executive board to consider for the coming year.

The New England Vexillological Association will gather at 2:00 p.m. to honor the late Peter Orenski. Lunch groups, dinner groups, and opportunities to visit sites on the Boston Freedom Trail will fill the afternoon and evening to complete NAVA’s celebration of its 50th year.

NAVA 51: Flag Concept

Inspired by the flag designed by Whitney Smith for NAVA 3/ICV 3, held in Boston in 1979, the flag displays the Continental Blue and Buff colors of the city of Boston. Three golden crowns first appeared on the arms of Boston, England, the place that gave the city its name. They also symbolize that NAVA 51 is our third annual meeting held in Boston. The three connected chevrons come from John Winthrop’s arms and symbolize the three mountains on Boston’s peninsula that gave Winthrop’s settlement its first name and are memorialized by the modern city’s Tremont Street, while also representing the three annual meetings held in Whitney Smith’s home town.

NAVA 51 registrants

as of October 6, 2017

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†First time attendee