YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND NAVA XVI

October 8, 9, 10, 1982
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

The "Golden Triangle" has never glowed a more sparkling WELCOME than it will for your arrival. Do come visit the "Renaissance City of America" on Friday, October 8 (or before) and participate in NAVA XVI.

You will enjoy Pittsburgh, Flag Plaza, the Cathedral of Learning and the world famous Nationality Rooms. The NAVA Program has many of our fine traditional presentators and some new, first-timers whom you will enjoy.

Enclosed is a hotel reservation card from the William Penn Hotel (4 blocks from Flag Plaza). The rates at which accommodations are offered are the first indication of your welcome to Pittsburgh. Please complete the card and send it immediately to the hotel.

Also enclosed is your NAVA XVI Registration Form and a return preaddressed envelope. Please register promptly: complete the form and return it today. Upon receipt of your registration, we will send you a map and helpful information about Pittsburgh.

Your NAVA XVI fee includes:
1. Registration and meeting expenses.
2. Saturday continental breakfast at Flag Plaza.
3. Transportation to and from University of Pittsburgh’s Cathedral of Learning.
4. Luncheon at the Pittsburgh Athletic Association.
5. Saturday banquet at William Penn Hotel.
7. 2 coffee breaks.

Registration will open in the William Penn Hotel at 6:00 p.m. Friday, October 8. At 6:30 p.m. we will walk up the hill to Flag Plaza overlooking the Golden Triangle and observe the unique Historic Flag Ceremony conducted by a Boy Scout Troop. Plan to arrive in time to participate (6:45-7:45 p.m.). Then have dinner on your own and return to our reception area in the hotel for additional registration information, exhibit placement and Board Meeting. A cash bar will be at your service. Enjoy the fellowship of your NAVA associates all evening, continuously 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 9, starts with a 7:45 a.m. Continental Breakfast at Flag Plaza. The Official Flag Raising Ceremony will follow at 8:30 a.m. Then President John Purcell will officially open NAVA XVI. DON’T MISS THIS. We will be greeted by:
1. Our Host at Flag Plaza — Ronald Moranville, Scout Executive, Allegheny Trails Council BSA
2. Edwin H. Gott, Chairman, National Flag Foundation

After three lectures in Flag Room, we will travel 10 minutes by bus to the Cathedral of Learning, the world’s tallest educational building, and one of the most inspiring. At 11:00 a.m. we will be greeted by the Secretary of the University of Pittsburgh and tour the Nationality Rooms. At 12:00 noon we will dine at the Pittsburgh Athletic Association and enjoy a lecture. By bus we will return to the William Penn Hotel. Exhibits must be set by 2:00 p.m. Judging will be conducted during the afternoon.

Lectures will be presented from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Hotel. The NAVA Annual Meeting will be conducted at 5:00 p.m. A 7:00 p.m. Banquet with presentations will conclude the Saturday agenda.

A Continental Breakfast will be served Sunday at 8:30 a.m. in the hotel. The first lecture will occur at 9:00. We will break for religious services at nearby churches and lunch on your own and then reconvene for the final lectures. Adjournment will be at 3:00 p.m. The new Board will then meet.

Presently scheduled lectures include these presentators and subjects:

- Flags in the Commercial World
- The Shrine of Freedom
- National Flag Typology
- Our First Coins—The Flag Connection
- The American’s Flag
- The Arizona City Flags
- The NFL Penalty Flag

AND there are more equally important presentations in the wings not ready for announcement. Advise the Chairman of the title of the paper you intend to present.

Come to Pittsburgh for a delightful, exciting, educational and fun-filled NAVA XVI. Send your hotel and registration forms TODAY.

If you can come early and stay late, we will be happy to suggest the museums, art galleries and places of historical interest you would find most enjoyable.

We are anxious to hear from you and then to greet and welcome you to Pittsburgh & NAVA XVI.

The NAVA XVI Program
And Host Committee
From the days of the nominating convention through the electoral campaign and the presidency, Ronald Reagan has been associated with the United States flag. Both as a candidate and as President, Reagan has often been photographed with or near a flag. When Vice President George Bush held his pre-inaugural reception the setting was under the Star Spangled Banner in the Smithsonian Institution. By this and other symbolic actions the flag has tended to be associated with the Reagan administration more than with other administrations in recent years. It is therefore not surprising that newspaper columnists and cartoonists have often resorted to the flag or to flag symbolism when discussing aspects of administration policy. The range and diversity of such uses continues to grow. It therefore seems fitting to note some examples of this trend as reflected in the Washington Post and to a lesser extent in The New York Times.

Soon after the Reagan forces successfully pushed through its first budget, newsmen analysed the strategy and the ideology of the winning team. There was much discussion of Reaganomics and of conservatism. Richard Taylor, Professor of Philosophy at the University of Rochester, who was a political conservative, grew distressed over the kinds of labelling that was taking place in the press. To set the record straight, he wrote an article entitled: "What a Conservative Really Is. And Isn't," which the Washington Post published on July 3, 1981. As an illustration for this article, the Post had its artist, Sue Cole, draw two men: one standing and holding a flag in his outstretched hands, the other on the ground and holding a burning copy of the U.S. Constitution. (Figure 1)

A month later, when the press and public heard about block grants, and the administration's intention of turning various government programs over to the states, the term "The New Federalism" came into vogue. To illustrate this concept, Herblock, the political cartoonist of the Washington Post, drew Reagan holding the stars and stripes in one hand and a pair of scissors in the other. Speaking to representatives of the state governments, the President says: “Step Right Up — Everybody gets one Star and a Part of a Stripe.” (Figure 2)

One of the casualties of the Reagan budget was the amount appropriated for foreign aid. Washington Post staff writer, Don Oberdorfer, called attention to the serious gap between the low priority in foreign aid, and the growing economic and political interest of the United States in the developing nations. Published with the article was a graph by artist Gail McCory, showing the amount of assistance to developing countries by the United States and other industrialized nations stated in terms of percentages of their gross national product. The level of American appropriations from 1965 to 1980 was illustrated by a graph in the form of a U.S. flag. (Figure 3)

A tight money situation was already affecting the sales of U.S. made automobiles in comparison to those produced in Japan. But in the case of pickup trucks, American auto manufacturers were successfully competing with the Japanese. A story by Peter Behr on his bit of news appeared in the Washington Post of February 28, 1982. Illustrating it was a drawing by William T. Coulter showing U.S. and Japanese pickup trucks decorated with flag symbols. (Figure 4)

The implications of high interest rates in the United States on the European economy was the subject of a column by Steven Rattner in The New York Times of March 14, 1982. The article was illustrated by Ranan Lurie, who showed Reagan standing in a boat marked "Reaganomics" in a manner evoking Emmanuel Leutze's famous painting of "Washington Crossing the Delaware." In this case the boat is being rowed through the ice by various European leaders. Standing behind the President is Secretary of the Treasury Donald Regan, holding the United States flag. (Figure 5)

By the spring of 1982 some attention was being paid by newsmen to the decision of the Reagan administration to enforce the Draft Registration Act. Vic Gold, a national correspondent of the Washingtonian Magazine and an active Republican, was disturbed by this trend. His article, "Put the Draft Registration Act on Ice," was published by the Washington Post on June 6, 1982. Tom Gibson, an artist, illustrated the story by showing the stripes in the United States flag as though they were bars in a jail cell. This was a most arresting and original bit of symbolism.

These stories and illustrations are but a small sample of what the writer has observed in Washington. Similar illustrations may have been used by other newspapers in other areas. NAVA members should be watchful to see if other examples of these themes can be found in their own localities. But whether the use of the symbolism is widespread or not, it is of some interest to historians of the flag to note that the use of such details has increased in the nation's capital.

FOOTNOTES
3. "Detroit Zeros In on Japan's Pickup Sales," by Peter Behr.
THE POLICE MEMORIAL FLAG

The memorial flag was designed and copyrighted, 1977, by the American Police Hall of Fame at the suggestion of a member who felt that a memorial banner should be flown whenever a member of the law enforcement profession is killed in the line of duty anywhere in the nation.

The flag is available at $25.00 to any law enforcement agency or any person who so desires it. This memorial flag is given free of any charge to the family of any officer killed in the line of duty by a grant of the American Police Hall of Fame Flag Fund.

General Rules:
1. The flag may be flown during an official period of mourning whenever any officer in your police, sheriffs or security agency dies either in the line of duty or by natural causes. It can be used to cover the coffin if desired.
2. The flag is made of nylon and under normal conditions should last for a long period of time. These are specially made by hand under careful conditions.
3. May 15th, is Police Memorial Day. It is our desire and hope that every law enforcement agency, courthouse and family associated with law enforcement will display the National Colors and the Police Memorial Flag at half mast on this day of the year to honor all of the men and women who have died to protect life and property.
4. Many individuals are purchasing these flags to present to their local police or sheriffs departments. If a member of that department in the future is killed in the line of duty, a replacement flag to present to the family will be sent without cost if you use the one purchased.

Official Supplier:
American Police Hall of Fame
1100 N.E. 125th Street, Room 100
Miami, Florida 33161
891-9800

Colors: Black, White, Black
Police Badge in Center: Outlined in Black

NOTES FROM JOHN M. PURCELL
NAVA PRESIDENT

NAVA has received official notification that the tenth biennial meeting of the International Federation of Vexillological Associations will take place in 1983 under the auspices of the Heraldry Society in Oxford, England. Mr. J.P. Brooke-Little, Norry and Ulster King of Arms, is the meeting director. More specific details will be forthcoming later, but NAVA members who plan to vacation in Europe that year might try to arrange to include the conference, always a stimulating affair. The 1985 meeting will take place in Madrid, Spain, to coincide with the 200th anniversary of the Spanish flag.

A special note to our Canadian members: we would like to have a good representation from you on the program at NAVA -16. There's still time to send your topic title to George Cahill. Of course, whether you give a talk or not, we hope you'll plan to join us at the meeting and enjoy Pittsburgh's warm hospitality.

Another note to all our members who have personal flags: as Lynn Knights reminded you in his official announcement of the annual meeting, be sure to bring your flag and a stand for display at the annual banquet, Saturday evening, October 11. You might bring your camera, too!

Now that we are in our sixteenth year as an organization, we have been operating under our original Bylaws with only minor changes. Our organization has grown, and with it the need for some modification in our method of operation. Accordingly, I have asked Jeanette Doetsch to chair a committee on the revision of the Bylaws, with Dr. Emmet Mittlebeeler, one of the original writers of the Bylaws, as a committee member. A third member, not yet named, is expected to be added shortly. The committee hopes to have suggested changes ready for members' consideration at the annual meeting. Emmet, by the way, has been busy teaching at the University of Maryland's campus in Munich, West Germany, and has a busy travel schedule lined up for the rest of the year.

From time to time matters are brought to my attention which suggest that I should remind members that NAVA's sole purpose for being is, as our Bylaws state, "the promotion of vexillology as the scientific study of flags." NAVA has no political ties, is not a patriotic organization, and does not support causes that are not in strict conformity with our Bylaws. Confusion sometimes occurs when a member, who does advocate a cause as a private individual, is identified as a NAVA member, and someone else assumes that NAVA as an organization agrees with that member on the issue. Our members individually have many divergent views (that's why we're such an interesting group), but collectively as NAVA members all we promote is the study of flags.

This is the last issue of NAVA News before our annual meeting, so I hope that your summer is a very pleasant one and that I'll have the pleasure of seeing you in October!
Star-spangled banners. "You're a grand old flag," wrote theater whiz George M. Cohan back in 1906. How old? George Washington's tattered irregulars rallied 'round the first "official" American flag in 1775—the Continental Colors, which consisted of a British Union Jack on a red field modified by the addition of six white stripes. In 1777, stars symbolizing a "constellation of states" replaced the Union Jack. Many fanciful designs followed (including stars arranged in a circle-within-a-circle pattern). But what the flag stood for—the uniquely American brand of democracy—has endured. Which is why on Flag Day—Monday, June 14—the Stars (one for each state) and Stripes (13, for the 13 original colonies) will be flying all over the country. And why we want to "flag" for your attention a 1940 New York Times editorial. Its message, we feel, is as grand today as it was back then.

Oh, say can you see? "What's a flag?" asks the Times editorial. "Maybe it begins with love of the land itself.... It is lazynoon tide in the pines of Carolina, it is a sea of wheat rippling in Western Kansas, it is the San Francisco peaks far north across the glowing nakedness of Arizona, it is the Grand Canyon and a little stream coming down out of a New England ridge, in which are trout."

"Tomorrow's forecast calls for a large surge in American spirit, followed by scattered acts of rampant patriotism."

Union, Jack. And for every Dick and Jane too—for all Americans, the flag symbolizes a diverse, yet cohesive nation: "...the farmer riding his great machine in the dust of harvest, the dairyman going to the barn before sunrise, the lineman mending the broken wire, the miner drilling for the blast....the locomotive engineer bringing the train in on time, the pilot in the clouds...the clerk in the office, the housewife...the teacher, doctor..."

Stars & Stripes forever. The flag can also mean subtle things: "It is voices that are remembered only, no longer heard. It is parents, friends, the lazy chat of street and store and office...." And it's patriotism—"the minute man standing his ground at Concord Bridge, and dying there." That's a feeling still going strong today, more than two centuries after Concord, in a nation whose people enjoy freedom and one of the world's highest standards of living. The flag—"a symbol of what humanity may aspire to." You don't have to be a vexillologist, or flag expert, to salute that notion. Or to feel the "glory" in Old Glory every day of the year.

Maryland's Flag Called Perfect

The State of Maryland has long been proud of its flag, for many reason. Still another plaudit has been added. No less an authority than Walter Angst, expert vexillologist (flag scientist), at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., in an article published in the July 1973 issue of the Smithsonian monthly magazine, compared Maryland's flag with others and called it a "perfect example of a state flag."

Maryland's flag is an armorial banner, bearing the shield of the Calvert family. It consists of four equal quarters, the Calvert family in the first and fourth quarters and the Crossland family, (Lord Baltimore's maternal family) in the second and third quarters. Correctly adapted from the shield of its colonial proprietors, and properly rendered it is, as Mr. Angst says, a reminder in bold design and bright color, that calls out—"I am Maryland! Look me over!"

Maryland's state flag was adopted by the General Assembly in 1904 but is to have had considerable official use much earlier, and is the only state flag to carry the cross bottomly affixed to the top of the flagstaff, in place of the usual staff of undorned wood.

The cross bottomly was made the official ornament in 1945.

from: Maryland State Highway Administration monthly magazine via Nicholas Artimovich II

It's free: For a reprint suitable for framing of the full New York Times editorial, Flag Day—1940, mail a postcard to Box P, at the address below:

Observations, Box P, Mobil Oil Corporation, 150 East 42 Street, New York, N.Y. 10017. ©1982 Mobil Corporation

via PARADE MAGAZINE
6 June 1982
Flagging Down Betsy Ross

Betsy Ross did not sew the first American flag. The story is a myth, and Betsy was not what she seems. She was a businesswoman who survived three husbands and never lived in the historic Flag House in Philadelphia.

The story goes that in 1776, George Washington, Robert Morris and George Ross—members of the Congressional flag committee—visited Betsy’s shop in Philadelphia and asked her to make the first Stars and Stripes. She redesigned their rough sketch to include a symmetrical arrangement of five-pointed stars. Ergo, the first American flag, from the mind and needle of a simple seamstress. All untrue.

In 1870, Betsy’s grandson, William Canby—who said he had heard the seamstress herself—told the story to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. It was the first public appearance of the myth, and by 1885, Betsy Ross was a textbook heroine.

The truth? No record exists of a 1776 flag committee or of any Betsy Ross connection with the first U.S. flag. It was not until August 1777 that the Second Continental Congress set the design of the Stars and Stripes and passed a resolution making it our official flag. The first American flags, moreover, often had stars with six or eight points. And no one knows who made them.

Neighborly salute

OTTAWA — From its vantage point overlooking Parliament Hill, the U.S. Embassy will make its own small contribution to tomorrow morning’s constitutional proclamation ceremony.

The embassy will welcome Canada to the community of nations who have their own constitution — the Americans got theirs two centuries ago — by raising the Canadian flag above the embassy roof.

The embassy has never before flown any flag except the Stars and Stripes.

The red Maple Leaf flag will be raised early in the morning — side-by-side with the Stars and Stripes — by the U.S. Marine flag detail.

Quakers are more than a bunch of do-gooders...Some even carry flags

There are 198,816 Quakers in the world—118,097 in the United States. Not one prescribes the kind of flag (if any) another Quaker carries. Or drum. Or piccolo.

Quakers (members of the Society of Friends) are religious. No flags for that.


That’s been going on for 330 years. There’s nothing static about it. The search goes on always and in many ways.

FRIENDS JOURNAL in its modest way tries nineteen times a year to reflect Quaker life and thought today and raise a flag here and there about the human condition.

Even if you do not want a flag, the coupon below and a few dollars may give you something important: Inspiration. Comfort. Hope. Love.

We will not try to make a flag-waver, a Quaker, or anything else out of you. Maybe together we can do some good.

Argentine flag run up as Scilly Isles slumber

ST. MARY’S, England (Reuter) — An Argentine flag flew briefly over a remote British isle yesterday.

In the dead of night a practical joker ran an Argentine flag up a flagstaff outside a hotel in this picturesque tourist town on the Scilly Isles off Cornwall. The joker also left two empty Argentine wine bottles at the foot of the pole, police said.

An indignant gardener later climbed up to remove the flag.

from: THE GLOBE and MAIL 16 April 1982
via The Ambassador of the U.S. of A. in Canada

The Conchs Have Had It

The non-conformist inhabitants of Key West, Florida, symbolically seceded from the Union on April 23, 1982, then declared war and asked for foreign aid.

About 700 Key Westers and tourists gathered in Old Town square at high noon to watch as the colorful banner of “The Conch Republic” was run up the flag pole.

The flag, a field of blue with a pink conch shell and a yellow sun, received roaring approval by those assembled.

The island’s natives were nicknamed Conchs because they settled in the Keys in the 1700’s and subsisted on the shellfish instead of living under the tyranny of northern nations.

City leaders, angry over aliens, drugs and traffic jams, decided to make public their frustration by forming their own nation.

from: THE BOSTON GLOBE 24 April 1982
Home is where the flag is

Artimovich

Missy Zane

Home, they say, is where the heart is. Or, in Nick Artimovich’s case, where the collection is. And when you look on “home” in that way, Artimovich actually has two of them—one in Columbia and another in Massachusetts, where most of his collection of American flags is stored by his parents.

Collections, of course, have a way of taking over the houses where they’re kept. And someday, it’s possible that Nick Artimovich’s flags will do just that. But for now, most are packed away, with just a few providing neatly framed touches of Americana in the family room of his new house.

Not that Nick really wants it that way. “If it was up to me, I’d probably turn the place into a museum,” he laughs. “But my wife, Pat, has ideas about decorating that don’t include red, white and blue everywhere.”

Consider the “early American room,” with the framed flags, the American eagle weather vane perched beside the hearth and the case full of books about flags a compromise.

Actually, Pat Artimovich shares her husband’s interest in flags and US history. In fact, the two met on a tour of the Petersburg battlefield in Virginia.

He was attending a Civil War collectors convention in Petersburg; she was taking a course at Fort Lee. The two met while waiting for the guided tour to begin.

“A relationship that starts at a battlefield can only improve,” quips Nick. He and Pat have been married just over 10 years since he got his first flag. It came from his high school, which was replacing its old flags with new ones.

Now, Nick Artimovich has more than 250 US flags, not to mention the red, white and blue parasol, the patriotic sheet music, the postcards, the red, white and blue envelopes ....

One of the envelopes says “Jeff Davis Pres.” Another, from the same era but a different part of the country, shows Davis hanging from the gallows.

The 1800s were the “flag waving” years, Artimovich says. Flags, Pat adds, were almost folk art. There were flags with advertising messages, flags with political campaign slogans.

In fact, before 1912, people could do almost anything they wanted with US flags, including arranging the stars in different patterns. Some flag makers “didn’t even care if they didn’t have the right number of stars.”

Nick Artimovich has done a lot of research on the subject. He could go on for hours, sharing flag facts and trivia.

For instance: “There’s no evidence that Betsy Ross had anything to do with the first flag. And the story that she arranged the stars in a circle and gave them five points instead of six was made up by her grandson 100 years later.”

Now, of course, it’s nearly impossible to find one of the original 3-star flags. “Most are in the hands of museums and probably should be,” Pat says.

Still, she and Nick keep searching. They go to the shows for collectors of patriotic and military memorabilia, and search antique shops.

“We both enjoy antiques,” Pat says. “You can’t go just looking for flags because you don’t find that many. But you can always hope you’ll find one in something else—a bit of material can turn out to be a flag.”

So far, Nick’s finds include a flag with Grover Cleveland’s picture on it (“You can get a full set, with Cleveland, his vice presidential candidate and his opponent”), a flag used during the Republican convention that nominated Abraham Lincoln, one that is said to have flown over Old Ironsides and a silk embroidered eagle.

The eagle, made in China between 1876 and 1900, hangs over the fireplace. Some flags, of course, are difficult to display because of their age and size. Just their weight would cause the aging threads to deteriorate if they were hung without reinforcement.

But that’s not to say Nick doesn’t have plans for more decorating in red, white and blue. Since he flies a flag “as often as I decently can,” he wants to put a flagpole in his front yard (“I’d like to have one big enough for a 15 by 23 flag—it would have to be 100 feet high,” he teases).

And then, there’s the front door. The house is blue with white shutters. Now, all it needs is a red door.

“I’m a patriot,” Nick says. “I’m not the John Bircher type, but I am a patriot.” Or, call him a “vexillologist”—one who studies the history and symbolism of flags.

from: THE COLUMBIA (Maryland) FLIER
8 October 1981
THE GREAT SEAL

After delicate fiddling, Thomson and Barton completed a design that Congress approved on June 20, 1782.

The dollar bill (below) is where citizens most frequently encounter these formal symbols of the nation.

...on its 200th anniversary.

It took six years and seven tries — by such men as Franklin, Jefferson, and Adams — to come up with the official symbol of the United States.

But what in the world does it mean?

Citizens of the United States of America are observing this year as “The Year of the Eagle,” the anniversary of the adoption of the American Bald Eagle as the symbol of their nation. Vexillologists will find particular interest in this event as the eagle has appeared on not only the Great Seal of the nation, but also on numerous flags.

Two articles dealing with the history and evolution of the symbol have recently appeared and are of special note: 1) “Bald Eagle Thrives As Our Symbol, Survives in the Wild” by Jim Doherty in the July 1982 issue of The Smithsonian Magazine; and 2) “The Great Seal” by E. McClug Fleming in American Heritage, June/July 1982.

NAVA XVI
October 8, 9, 10 1982

The Gateway Clipper and the Three Rivers Stadium in Pittsburgh, Pa.
TO: NAVA XVI Registrar  
c/o Flag Plaza  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
(412) 261-1776

PLEASE REGISTER ME FOR NAVA XVI - I DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS ONE!

Please send advance materials to me:

NAME__________________________________________

ADDRESS__________________________________________

PHONE # __________________________________________

I will be accompanied by ________________________________

I enclose my registration fee made payable to:  
"National Flag Foundation - NAVA XVI Account"

OR please charge the fee indicated below plus a $3.00 service charge to my

□ VISA CARD            □ MASTERCARD

# ________________________________

Signature ________________________________


NAVA XVI Registration and Participation Fees:

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