THE POW/MIA FLAG

In 1971, an MIA wife, toying with the idea for a symbol to represent the POW/MIA's, came across an article in the Jacksonville Times-Union which prompted the idea for a POW/MIA flag. The article quoted Norman Rivkees, Vice-President of Annin & Company, who had been requested to make a banner for the newest member of the United Nations, the People's Republic of China. While Annin and Company did not normally manufacture flags for communist countries, they agreed to provide one for the People's Republic of China as a part of their policy to provide flags to all UN members.

After the article appeared, Mr. Rivkees was contacted and found to be very sympathetic towards the POW/MIA issue. Mr. Rivkees, along with Annin's advertising agency, designed a flag to represent our missing men. Then, with League approval, the flags were manufactured.

Since then, concerned groups and individuals have altered the original POW/MIA flag. Many times, the logo has been changed and the colors switched from black with white to red, white and blue to white with black. POW/MIA has been changed to MIA/POW. These changes, however, are insignificant. What is important is that there continues to be a symbol in the public eye as a constant reminder of the plight of our men.

METHODOISTS OBSERVE BICENTENNIAL

When John Wesley, his brother Charles and several other young men were students at Oxford University in England, they banded together in a religious society, to aid each other in leading better Christian lives.

The members were dedicated to methodical religious practices - such as daily prayer and Bible study, regular fasting and taking Communion - that other students teased them and called them "Methodists." The name stuck. And today, Methodists throughout the country are celebrating the 200th anniversary of the founding of Methodism in America.

Of interest to vexillologists is the insignia of the United Methodist Church which can be found on the denomination's field of white flag. It was adopted on October 1, 1968, by the Division of Interpretation, a part of the Program Council of the church.

The traditional Christian symbol of the cross is combined with the flame. Thus it relates the church to God the Father by way of the second and third persons of the Holy Trinity - God the Son, symbolized by the cross and God the Holy Spirit, symbolized by the flame.

An emphasis on the Holy Spirit is a prominent feature of Wesleyan theology, shared by both the denominations that formed the United Methodist Church.
NOTES FROM GRACE ROGERS COOPER
NAVA PRESIDENT

Did you get your flag design ideas to Doreen Braverman for NAVA 18? We hope so. But if you did not, it is now too late. Because of the necessary lead time for production and for its use in publicity, we had to have the suggestions by the end of April. We hope to have the NAVA 18 flag in the next issue of the News. If you missed your chance to show your creative talents this year, start now to think of NAVA 19 in Kansas City. There is plenty of time for that one and we hope to have many entries.

As you noted in your March-April 1984 NAVA News, Phil Allen is Program Chairman for this year's Meeting. We are looking forward to many good presentations. Be prepared to furnish him with the needed data on subject and needs, such as slide projector, when he calls for this. Presentations may also be in the form of an exhibit. Maybe you have an original idea of storing or displaying your flags. Prepare an exhibit for the meeting and share your information with us; we are all anxious to learn. And we just like to see what other vexillologists are up to.

Sometimes our work and our interests thrust us into national news. Did everyone see Lynn Knights, NAVA's Secretary, on the CBS News in February when President Reagan visited Dixon, Ill. his boyhood home? Lynn was responsible for preserving the President's home as a museum. And I learned, but too late for me to see him, that Lynn was on the Today show in March. We are most pleased to have such a celebrity on our Executive Board.

We are certain there are many other members that are making interesting headlines in their own locale if not Nationally. We always like to hear about it. Send your printable clippings to Editor John Szala or the information to me; we all want to know what you are doing.

A Note of Thank You

The handy MEMBERSHIP list for 1984 that you recently received was prepared by Woody Ridgway and associates; Thank You Woody.

Since our members change in name and address from year to year, it is great to have an updated list. There may be some mistakes. Woody owns up to a few in proofing. Most of these are easy to detect and change. However, if there are errors in addresses, please help us correct these this year. At the meeting in Vancouver in October we will be completing the revision of the By-Laws. With this completed the Editor will be preparing the new NAVA Yearbook. We all want this to be as accurate as possible. We would also like to include a specific interest that each member has in being a member of NAVA. This will help members with "like interests" to get together. Please fill in the form included with the Membership List and send to the Corresponding Secretary Lynn Knights. If you have any "talents" that you wish to contribute to make NAVA a better organization, please tell us about that on the form too.

We hope to see all of you at NAVA 18 in Vancouver.

Grace Rogers Cooper

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VEXILLOLOGICAL CARTOON

The above cartoon is by Pat Mitchell and appeared in the 4 April 1984 issue of USA TODAY on the editorial page which gave pro and con views regarding handgun controls.

NAVA 18

The only information which we have regarding costs for the annual meeting in Vancouver is that the regular fee will be $135.00.

All inquiries regarding transportation, accommodations, etc. should be directed to the Registrar:

Kathy Kew
3693 St. Thomas
Port Coquitlam, B.C.
Canada / V3B 2Y9

We regret that we are not able to provide you with further details regarding NAVA's eighteenth Annual Meeting at this time.
Can't Tell the Heavies Without Peek at the Flags

By CLYDE H. FARNSWORTH
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26 — Cabinet officers have flags. So do senators. Not just the Stars and Stripes, but departmental and agency colors that subtly but graphically denote size and sort of authority.

"It's part of a tradition that goes back at least to the pharaohs," said Opal V. Landrum, deputy director of the Institute of Heraldry, which advises the military and civilian bureaucracy, on emblazoned escutcheons and other armorial bearings from its site in Cameron Station in Alexandria, Va.

"When the colonies broke from England," she said firmly, "heraldry did not die."

The flags stand behind the officials' desks. Stars in each of the four corners of a flag usually signify a Cabinet officer. Color and size also give a message.

They Step Down the Line

The flag of the Attorney General is blue with white stars in each corner. The Deputy Attorney General's banner is smaller and white; the Associate Attorney General's is still smaller and teal green. Most modest of all are the flags of assistant Attorney Generals, and they are colored yellow.

All bear the Justice Department seal with its motto: "Qui Pro Domina Justitiae Sequitur, he who seeks justice for the people.

Besides standing behind desks, the flags may also be unfurled on official visits.

In Rockville, Md., for example, the banner of Assistant Secretary of Commerce Arlene Triplett was run up the pole last November. The flag drew some comment because of its size, it was larger even than Old Glory, with a border on the pole next door, and its color, red, which gave rise to inevitable jokes that that the Russians had already come.

The Officer Is Aboard

She was visiting the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which, following naval traditions, flies the flag of a visiting officer when the officer boards its vessels at sea. That an officer's flag was also flown at NOAA's Rockville headquarters was described by one ex officio official as "a courtesy, like saving a parking place, or a greeting at the door."

"It's serious, but not too serious," said an associate deputy attorney secretary.

In any case, Mrs. Triplett did not request the courtesy. In her current job she is an associate director at the Office of Management and Budget. Some who have served in several high level posts over the years keep their flags and display them as medals worn at dinner parties when invitations encourage one to dress formally with decorations.

Sidney L. Jones, the new Under Secretary of Commerce for economic affairs, proudly points to the three flags behind his desk, two of them symbolizing earlier Washington campaigns.

One shows a white clipper ship on a red field, the same as that unfurled for Mrs. Triplett. Mr. Jones got his after he was an Assistant Secretary of Commerce in the Nixon Administration.

Anchor for the Treasury

Another shows a blue anchor against a white background with gold trim that was his due as an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury. And now fitting his rank as an Under Secretary at Commerce, he has the same clipper ship on a red field, but a lighthouse has been added. And it's a bit larger than the others.

Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige's flag is a little bigger still and, besides the clipper ship and lighthouse he has four stars.

Mr. Jones said: "One of the traditions when you leave office is that the Secretary has the prerogative to give you the flag."

He said it was his understanding that "you can take the flag but not the pole."

Actually, an official of the General Services Administration points out, each department sets its rules, more or less in line with a principle laid down by Daniel Webster: "Accompany your own flag throughout the world under the protection of your own cannon."

Patches and Coats of Arms

At the Institute of Heraldry, a unit of the Army, Col. Gerald T. Luchino, the director, and Miss Landrum stand ready to rescue the bureaucratic acumen with the expertise of a staff of 47, including designers, sculptors, metal specialists and researchers.

Now they are producing shoulder and sleeve insignias for senior and junior members of the Reserve Officers Training Corps, pocket patches for Air Force Officers and a coat of arms for the Vincennes, a newly commissioned frigate.

But their busiest times have come during Government reorganizations. They helped position the oil derricks in the heraldic designs of the first Energy Secretary, James R. Schlesinger, and the acorns and oak trees in the blueprints of Shirley Hufstedler, the first Secretary of Education.

President Carter's daughter, Amy, unfurled the Education Department flag in a May 1980 Rose Garden ceremony in which Mrs. Hufstedler pointed to the acorn as a symbol of "the never ending renewal of life and learning."

WHOOPS ... U.S. Flag on Wrong Side

By Jim Spoerhase

Somebody goofed and 20,000 Spokane Lilac Festival buttons, all set for sale, are being pulled back because of a mistake in the position of the American flag, which is shown with the Canadian flag on the buttons that sell for $1 each.

Buttons with the correct flag positioning — 15,000 of them — have been ordered from the New York firm which supplied the original, faulty 20,000 buttons, Jack Riggins, Lilac Festival president, said at a Tuesday afternoon press conference.

Riggins called the flag etiquette error "very serious, but honest and unintentional.

He said that at least 100 persons who worked on different committees having to do with the button didn't catch the flag positioning error.

The flags are reversed on the original button, Riggins said.

"The United States flag should be where the Canadian flag was placed," he said. "The Canadian flag should be where the U.S. Flag is. The Spokane Lilac Festival Association is very embarrassed by this unfortunate mistake."

In the correct position, the American flag is on the left to the viewer.

Riggins said the fact that the button didn't pass flag code muster was called to his attention last Saturday by Ruth Eldred of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1474 Auxiliary.

The festival will probably suffer a $10,000 loss as the result of the mistake and having to have new buttons made, Riggins said. He said no exact figures on costs of the buttons were available.

He said that the button re-order, with the appropriate configuration of flags, should be here in about two weeks.

"When these corrected buttons arrive," Riggins said, "our 1984 button sales will get underway."

The 1984 festival is "A Salute to Canada," and Riggins said a large Canadian delegation is expected for Lilac Week, which climaxes with the May 19 parade.

Since 1977, Dan Eagle of Spokane has been producing what has become known as "an underground Lilac button," often times poking fun at the regulation button.

Eagle said Tuesday afternoon he is considering another button, but wouldn't say what it would look like.

Riggins said he asked anyone who was offended by the unintended flag oversight to accept the Lilac group's sincere and heartfelt apology.

From: THE SPOKESMAN REVIEW
21 March 1984, Spokane, Washington
Foiled Flag Filchers

For years, the sight of Olympic flags has transformed world-class athletes into souvenir hunters. But in Sarajevo, U.S. athletes had no more success in swiping flags than in winning medals.

The athletes were foiled by Olympic officials, who hope to raise money by selling the flags after the summer games in Los Angeles. To protect their merchandise, they hired Pageantry World, a Pasadena, Calif., company, to design an "athlete-proof" flag. "We don't talk about exactly how we do it," says Pageantry World's Cindy van der Wyk, but the flags are somehow secured to the poles with a special sleeve.

Nearly all of the 4,000 flags survived Sarajevo, although two U.S. athletes were caught making off with one of the few pennants that hadn't been secured with the anti-theft device. Anita DeFrantz, an official of the Los Angeles Olympics, doubts that the devices can truly thwart determined athletes. She recalls that at the 1976 games in Montreal, where she won a bronze medal in rowing, several U.S. team members hauled off some flags even though the poles were greased and protected by armed guards. "Of course," she quickly adds, "I have absolutely no idea who was involved."

From: THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
23 February 1984