On Friday, April 25, 2003, Georgia adopted yet another flag. The debate on what flag to fly to represent the State had been boiling since 2001 when former-Governor Roy Barnes led an effort in the State Legislature that replaced the flag adopted in 1956 that featured the Confederate Battle Flag as the principal symbol. Many felt the flag question should be decided by referendum.

The 2001 flag was an attempt to offer something to every stakeholder by featuring the seal of Georgia, 13 stars, two mottos and five historic flags. Many to whom particular design elements were addressed were not, however, satisfied. The Barnes flag was decried by many as simply being a bad design as well. It came in dead last in the Great NAVA Flag Survey of 2001.

The change in the flag became a major campaign issue in the 2002 elections and is believed to be a key reason Governor Barnes was defeated by Sonny Purdue, who campaigned on a promise to hold a referendum between the 1956 and the 2001 flag designs.

The issue, however, became complicated even further when Governor Purdue attempted to promote legislation that would have authorized a conditional two-tiered referendum process. His proposal was to have a simple “Yes” or “No” decision on the 2001 flag and, if the vote was “No”, then to hold a second referendum to choose between the 1956 and the 1902 flag designs.

Those opposed to including the CSA Battle Flag in the design were supported by many civil rights groups who again threatened a major boycott of the state, which relies on income from major conventions and tourism. They successfully lobbied to prevent the 1956 flag from being a choice in the process.

What passed in the longest State Legislative session since the 19th century, and right at the very end, was the adoption of a new flag, which

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THE FEAR FACTOR

by Stan Mottaz

In his State of the Union Address before Congress in 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt talked about the Four Freedoms, “Freedom from Fear” being one of them. In 1943 these important rights of Civilization were put into an artistic format through a series of dramatic and memorable paintings by Norman Rockwell. But the subject of fear, and dealing with it, was not new to the world with Roosevelt and Rockwell; it has been addressed for centuries, and probably millennia. And it is with us today, especially since the attacks on our country and our people on September 11, 2001. Fear, unreasoning, irrational, abject fear, appears to me to be nothing but unreasoning. It is the concept of copyrighting or trademarking a flag or declaring it proprietary. The copyright law was designed to protect writers and artists and other creative people from those unscrupulous persons who would unjustly benefit from the labors of others. Such a law is the right and proper thing to do. But copyrighting something as public as a City Flag, appears to me to be nothing but unreasoning, irrational, abject FEAR.

The cities which have taken such a step claim they are only protecting their symbols from “improper use”. What is improper use? If a person had ulterior motives and wanted to perpetrate an evil upon the city, he (or she) could get a copy of the City Flag or the City Seal or any other of the city symbols in any one of more than a score of ways. That person would NOT boldly request its use, leaving a name, address, and phone number for anyone to trace with no difficulty.

Some claim that “improper use” includes making a profit from the city symbols. Writers of flag books are not named Ambrose, or Catton, or Tuchman, or a limited number of other great authors who have written best-selling histories. They are lucky to earn from their labors enough to cover their research expenses. What are the lawyers and other fear-mongers so afraid of that they need to protect the flag, not only from “improper” use, but from copying it altogether?

The term “City Flag” implies that it belongs to the city: an organization consisting of people living within a prescribed geographical area and frequently having a common heritage. Those flags that they are protecting are not representative of the people; they are representative of a government that has declared its independence from the people.

Why was the term “alarming” used earlier? In answer to that, let us allow our minds to wander a bit. Suppose that concept caught on and became all pervasive throughout society. How would we then define that abstract idea which we now know as a flag? Suppose that concept had originated earlier in our history? How would it have affected our feelings toward our flag? In other words, let us fancy; let us look at a few scenarios wherein our great symbols might have been protected.

IWO JIMA. This reporter has just learned that a little-known AP photographer by the name of Joe Rosenthal has just been executed by the Marine Corps for violation of the “Security of American Symbols” act. After the “dastardly and unprovoked” attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, the Congress of the United States adopted the aforesaid legislation to protect our national symbols from destruction and desecration by our enemies. And by the fifth columnists and other Quislings from within. According to the unclassified portions of the court-martial transcript, Mr. Rosenthal followed our brave Marines up the steep, treacherous slopes of Surabachi, and not being content with merely witnessing a memorable flag-raising on the heights of that prominence, he photographed it, a minor violation of the aforesaid act.

But what gained for Mr. Rosenthal his ultimate condemnation, was his utter disregard for the entire act. He sent the photograph off to be published in the daily newspapers in this country, cleverly avoiding the censors. This, in contravention of the laws which require that all public displays of American symbols must be approved in advance by the head of the agency requesting the display, and upward through the chain of command to and including the President of the United States.

Most of Mr. Rosenthal’s court-martial remains clouded in National security. All that is known is that the trial lasted some 75 minutes and the judges’ decision was rendered after a lengthy recess of fourteen and a half minutes.

Since this unprecedented violation of our national security, neither the commander of the Fifth
Marine division nor the editor of the New York Times, in which the photograph in question was published, has been seen. According to one source, who prefers to remain nameless, both are being held as accomplices.

Let this be a lesson to all who would desecrate the symbols of this great people.

WASHINGTON. It appears that one of the first tasks of President Fillmore will be to resolve the issue of the Prussian painter Emanuel Leutze. Shortly before the death of our late, great President Zachary Taylor, this German made a painting of two of our greatest symbols: the flag and our founder George Washington.

This painting, “Washington Crossing the Delaware” is a slur on the father of our country as well as showing a protected work of art: our great American Flag. It showed General Washington standing up in a rowboat. Everyone knows, especially one as wise as our first president, that standing up in a rowboat is not only dangerous, but bad luck as well. And this incident was magnified by what has been described as a “smirk” on the General’s face.

Leutze was not satisfied with portraying General Washington in a bad light, but had to depict an image of our great American Flag, which is protected under a score of U.S. and state laws. And he was not satisfied with slandering this country with a normalized painting, he did it with a mammoth canvas, one which covers a whole wall.

Mr. Fillmore’s task will be to persuade the Prussian king, Frederick William IV, to reverse his decision not to extradite this infamous painter so that he may be brought back here and held for trial in the United States. Such infamies must cease.

SONOMA. Word has been received from our correspondent in Yerba Buena (San Francisco) that troops from the U.S. Frigate Portsmouth (Captain John B. Montgomery) have landed there and have raised the Flag of the United States, claiming California as U.S. Territory. The most obvious result of that action here has been the adjournment of the meeting of the Osos (a Spanish term meaning “Bears”).

Last month, these men stormed into town, took over the town hall and captured General Vallejo. They then gathered around the old flagpole, and lowered the Green, White, and Red flag of Mexico. Then an amazing thing happened.

While two men were holding what appeared to be a flag emblazoned with the symbol of a grizzly bear, the invaders began arguing amongst themselves. They then retreated to the old barracks where they have remained for more than three weeks.

We now know what happened that fateful day. As Henry L. Ford and William B. Ide began to raise the new flag of the “California Republic,” lawyers among the crowd warned them that by raising the flag they could face a multitude of lawsuits. The first would undoubtedly come from Save the Grizzlies a local organization dedicated to the preservation and exaltation of the Grizzly Bear, which might claim that their so-called flag degraded that noble beast.

Another protest might come from the American Civilian Liberties League which was rumored to have a protest ready to file against using the title “California Republic” without having a duly constituted election throughout the entire province of California.

Furthermore, some feared that the Society of Western Pioneers would brand the Osos as a racist organization since there were no Mexican-Americans among its membership. And what about the

Friends of the Land, who might protest against a flag or any other obstacle which could block the view of California’s magnificent mountains.

As the debate progressed over many days, the crowd in the old barracks grew, drawing lawyers and other obfuscatory artists from as far away as Sutter’s Fort and Monterey. And the debate grew more acrimonious as the crowd swelled.

At one point Ford was asked directly what he thought of the idea that once the flag was raised, anyone could copy it and that he—Ford—possibly would no longer benefit from his own artistic talents. Before he could answer, others bombarded the assemblage with other possible dangers of its being copied. Suppose Gen. Castro or Gen. Pico should appropriate the use of the Grizzly Bear as their symbol, who would know which were the real Osos? What would happen if the Russians returned to Fort Ross and replaced their double headed eagle with a Grizzly Bear? And, a number of protesters asked, what about at some time in the future if highwaymen or bandits used the flag for their nefarious acts?

Apparently no resolution was achieved. For after the Osos adjourned and left the old barracks in the possession of Gen. Vallejo’s family, remnants of a tattered rectangle of cloth, emblazoned with the image of a Grizzly Bear and the words CALIFORNIA REPUBLIC were found on the floor, kicked back into a dark corner and forgotten.

Fantasies? Yes! Fantastic? Well . . . ? Let us leave that to the minds of the readers. President Roosevelt said it best in his 1933 Inaugural Address: “... the only thing we have to fear is fear itself—nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance.”

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Dear NAVA,

I have a lifelong interest in visual symbolism, which is why I am currently organizing a club devoted to the study of the swastika. To reinforce the point this has absolutely nothing to do with Hitler. The club is avowedly Anti-Nazi.

This is written also to ask for some help. The enclosed page of illustrations shows a variety of flags that make use of swastika emblems NONE OF WHICH ARE NAZI. I would like to find out the designs of other flags that make use of swastikas but that are NOT Nazi in any way.

I have come across comments that swastika in the field is Native American, with special American ideals. New World. This identifies the club as distinctively American. It also recognizes Ashanti swastika art. In other words, with use of a limited number of swastika designs the attempt was made to display worldwide interest. The swastika belongs to all humankind and should always represent man and women at their best. One purpose of the Swastika Club is to try and create the conditions that will permit this ancient symbol to live again in popular culture as an artistic inspiration starting with America.

The mass media has no right to award swastika to Hitler and his goons in perpetuity. It is time to re-create swastika traditions in the visual arts, and to create new traditions that help us symbolize a healthy future at the center of which is love of men for women, and women for men.

LATVIA AND ESTONIA ONCE MADE USE OF FLAGS THAT INCLUDED SWASTIKAS. SIMILARLY, ALTHOUGH PERHAPS DOUBTFUL, I HAVE ALSO READ REMARKS THAT INDIA ONCE MADE USE OF A SWASTIKA DEVICE ON A FLAG. AS WELL, SO IT HAS BEEN REPORTED, THE FLAG OF NEW MEXICO PRIOR TO THE CURRENT DESIGN SUPPOSEDLY MADE USE OF A SWASTIKA. FINALLY, THE BOY SCOUTS UNTIL ABOUT 1925 OR 1930 HAD A SWASTIKA MERIT BADGE AND A SWASTIKA FLAG FOR THEIR ORDER OF THE WHITE SWASTIKA. FOR SOME REASON, THOUGH, THE SCOUTS ARE MOST RELUCTANT TO PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION ABOUT THIS MATTER.

WHAT I HOPE YOU CAN DO IS TO SEND XEROX COPIES OF ANY OF THESE FLAG DESIGNS YOU MIGHT HAVE ACCESS TO. IF THERE IS A COST PLEASE LET ME KNOW WHAT IT IS AND I WILL BE HAPPY TO PAY THE AMOUNT. I HAVE ALREADY SEARCHED IN ALL OF THE BOOKS AND OTHER MATERIALS AVAILABLE TO ME FOR THESE DESIGNS. AS YOU CAN SURMISE THEY WOULD BE MOST VALUABLE FOR PURPOSES OF THE SWASTIKA CLUB.

I HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE. NECESSARY TO SAY IF YOU KNOW OF OTHER NON-NAZI SWASTIKA FLAGS PLEASE LET ME KNOW WHAT THESE ARE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE.

SINCERELY,

BILLY ROJAS
PO BOX 282
EUGENE OR 97440
President of Finland (current)

First flag of Tule Republic (Cuna Indians) of Panama

French Republic (1792-1804)

In use in Japan ca. 1200 AD

Second flag of Tule Republic (1925-1934)

Isle of Man

Shimane Prefecture (Japan)

City of Flies (Norway)

Sicilian peoples flag

Family (clan) flag of Japan

Catholic flag during the Neimark Republic ca. 1290

Iceland Steamship Company

Family (clan) flag of Japan

Family (clan) flag of Japan

Both Estonia and Latvia had swastika flags in the 1920s; there are references about the flags but I have been unable to find any pictures.

One of the flags of the medieval (but possibly fictional) land of Worms had a swastika-like flag pictured in flag charts of ca. 1350.
was to be immediately recognized as the official state flag, and which will be offered together with the 2001 flag in a referendum to be held next March. Few believe the 2001 flag will survive the contest.

African-American lawmakers successfully leveraged the governor’s request for an increase in tobacco taxes to force both the change in the first flag vote and the elimination of any vote on the battle emblem. The tax hike was desperately needed to pass a $16 billion state budget and avoid a special legislative session the next month.

The initial proposal was the first Confederate National Flag, the “Stars and Bars,” with the State Seal in the center of the ring of 13 stars and the motto “IN GOD WE TRUST” written in the center of the white stripe. At the last minute, the design was changed by moving the motto to the canton and changing the seal to the Arms of the State.

The history of Georgia’s symbols goes back to 1798, when the current Great Seal of Georgia was adopted by the State Constitution (see centerfold chart for illustrations). On its front appear three pillars supporting an arch, emblematic of the three branches of government—the legislative, judicial and executive. A man stands with a drawn sword defending the Constitution whose principles are wisdom, justice and moderation. This emblem is considered the Arms of the State. The seal adds the name of the State and originally showed the date 1799. The reverse of the Seal shows a ship with cotton and tobacco, and a man plowing, representing the agriculture and commerce of the Seal’s motto, along with the date “1776”.

In 1861, a provision was added to Georgia’s code requiring the governor to supply regimental flags to Georgia militia units assigned to fight outside the state. These flags were to depict the “arms of the State” and the name of the regiment. The code gave no indication as to the color to be used on the arms or the flag’s background. Existing evidence seems to indicate red, blue or white were the primary colors used.

In 1879, state senator Herman H. Perry introduced legislation to adopt an official state flag. Colonel Perry was a Confederate veteran, which probably influenced his proposal to take the Stars and Bars, remove the stars, extend the blue canton to the bottom of the flag, and narrow its width slightly. The legislation provided no height vs. length dimensions, but it did stipulate the width of the blue band to be one-third the length of the entire flag. Also, the red of the flag was specified as scarlet.

Why had Georgia adopted this state flag? On the previous day, the 1879 General Assembly had passed a law recodifying state law regulating volunteer troops. Included in the revision was a provision that: “Every battalion of volunteers shall carry the flag of the State, when one is adopted by Act of the General Assembly, as its battalion colors.” Governor Colquitt approved this state flag on October 17, 1879.

In 1902, as part of a major reorganization of state militia laws, Georgia’s General Assembly changed the state flag. The amendment provided: “On the blue field shall be stamped, painted or embroidered the coat of arms of the State; and every regiment and unassigned battalion shall, when on parade, carry this flag.”

The de jure flag illustrated is a reconstruction of how Georgia’s state flag would have appeared if the coat of arms from the actual state seal then in use had been applied to the blue field of the 1879 flag. However, by 1904, the coat of arms was being portrayed on a white shield, and it may be that technically accurate versions of the 1902 flag were never produced.

In their 1904 volume, The Story of Georgia, Katharine Massey and Laura Wood included a color plate showing Georgia’s coat of arms being placed on a gold-outlined white shield, with the date “1799” shown below the arms. Additionally, without any statutory authorization, a red ribbon with “Georgia” was added below the shield on the blue background. Several examples of this flag survive today, attesting to its use.

In 1914, the General Assembly changed the date on Georgia’s state seal from 1799 (the year the seal was adopted) to 1776 (the year of independence). By 1917, however, Georgia state flags began appearing with the state seal rather than the coat of arms on a white and gold shield. Such a flag design is shown in the October 1917 issue of the National Geographic Magazine. Once again, the change came without official authorization of the legislature, and there is no record of who directed the change or exactly when it took place.

The first state publication to show Georgia’s flag with a seal was the Georgia Official Register for 1927, which showed the flag with a color seal. In some cases, the flag had a seal that was predominantly gold. In most cases, however, the seal is simply a blue line drawing on white background. In some cases, the seal’s outer edge touches the blue background, while in others the seal is situated in a larger circle of white. Also, until the mid-1950s (when a new seal was drawn), various versions of the Georgia seal were used on state flags.

In early 1955, Atlanta attorney John Sammons Bell (who later served as a judge on the Georgia Court of Appeals) suggested a new state flag for Georgia that would incorporate the Confederate Battle Flag. At the 1956 session of the General Assembly, state senators Jefferson Lee Davis and Willis Harden introduced Senate Bill 98 to change the state flag. Signed into law on February 13, 1956, the bill became effective the following July 1.

A copy of the new flag displayed at the 1956 signing ceremony shows slight differences from the state flag commonly produced. In the 1956 version, the stars are larger, and only the center point of the central star points straight up. Also, the first copies of the 1956 flag used a different version of the state seal. In the summer of 1954, a new redrawn state seal had begun to appear on state government documents.

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end of the decade, flag makers were using that new seal on Georgia’s official state flags.

The Georgia state flag adopted in 1956 had long been the subject of controversy. Calls to change it began in 1969, with opponents criticizing the symbolism expressed by the Confederate battle flag image that dominated the design. Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, numerous bills to return to the pre-1956 flag were introduced in the General Assembly—but none were successful.

In 2000, Atlanta architect Cecil Alexander designed a new state flag consisting of the seal of the state in “Dahlonega gold” surrounded by 13 white stars above a gold ribbon containing small images of the three state flags that had flown over Georgia, as well as the first and current versions of the U.S. national flag. Above the five small flags was the phrase “Georgia’s History.” On Jan. 24, 2001, the Georgia House approved H.B. 16, adopting Alexander’s flag design as the new Georgia state flag with an amendment to add “In God We Trust” beneath the ribbon of flags. H.B. 16 was transmitted to the Senate, where it passed without amendment on Jan. 30, 2001. On Jan. 31, Gov. Roy Barnes signed the bill into law.

Former Gov. Roy Barnes was named a recipient of the 2003 John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award on March 12, 2003 for risking his career by taking principled stands. Barnes will receive the accolade at a ceremony in Boston in May.

The committee that selected the awardees acknowledged that their opposition to the Confederate battle emblem wasn’t the only factor in their defeats. But the bipartisan pairing was also intended to send a message, said its chairman, John Seigenthaler, founder of the First Amendment Center at Vanderbilt University.

“The committee was very much aware that the issue is still red hot—especially in Georgia,” Seigenthaler said. “By giving these two awards it was thought that it might make people stop and think.”

Barnes’ successor, Gov. Sonny Perdue, was elected in part on the promise of offering a statewide vote on the flag. “We congratulate former Governor Barnes for receiving the award,” a Perdue spokesman said.

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WHEN IS A FLAG OFFICIAL?

Flags are often adopted officially by a legislative or executive act. In republican forms of government, acts or legislation by the governing body, often called an Assembly or Congress, are then validated by the executive.

In studying flags, one sometimes encounters “shadow” flags, that is, flags that seem to have been adopted but which are not clearly defined. The flag authorized by the Georgia Legislature in 1861 is a good case in point. Georgia’s code was altered requiring the governor to supply regimental flags to Georgia militia units assigned to fight outside the state. These flags were to depict the “arms of the State” and the name of the regiment. The code gave no indication as to the color to be used on the arms or the flag’s background, nor any exact pattern to be followed.

Maine is another example. In 1822, the Legislature directed the Quartermaster-General to supply “State Colors” to the 100 or so regiments, which was done. However no design was specified. In fact, although most of the flags supplied at this time were essentially identical, there were some hand-painted flags supplied that most likely were not of the same exact pattern.

How about the first US Flag? It was vaguely described by a resolution of Congress that did not give an exact pattern to be followed. Were the stripes horizontal or vertical? How many points on each star? How were the stars to be arranged? Mixing up these variable design elements and you can come up with some significantly different patterns that meet the legal definition of the official flag.

Were all of these official flags? Probably. In the case of Georgia, any color flag with any version of the state “arms” (which were, in turn, not very well defined) would be official in terms of the 1861 legislation. In Maine, any flag procured by the Quartermaster-General were so.

What do you think? Your editor invites you to send your views and comments on this subject. navanews@nav.org or mail to Dave Martucci, 240 Calderwood Rd, Washington ME 04574-3440 USA.
"On My Mind"

General Johnston rallies a Georgia regiment at the First Battle of Bull Run, 1861 (published 1884).

Georgia State Flag captured at Savannah in 1864 by Union Troops. Museum of the Confederacy.

First Confederate States of America National Flag, 1861-1863.

Georgia State Flag 1861-1879, variant.

Georgia State Flag 1879-1902.

Georgia State Flag 1902-1956 (de jure).

Georgia State Flag 1904 as published.


Gov. Marvin Griffin (seated) signs S.B. 98 into law changing Georgia’s state flag, February 13, 1956. Standing (left to right), Frank Toby Etheridge, Sen. Jefferson Lee Davis, John Summors Bell (who designed the flag), and Sen. Willis Harden.

Georgia State Seal (obverse).

Georgia State Seal (reverse).

Georgia State Coat of Arms.

Alabama State Seal (obverse).

Alabama State Seal (reverse).

Georgia State Flag as published in the Georgia Official Register, 1927.

Georgia State Flag as published c. 1917-1956 (de facto, variant).

Georgia State Flag c. 1917-1956 (de facto, variant).

Georgia State Flag c. 1910.

Georgia State Flag variant c. 1950. Photo by Herb Pilcher.

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NAVA NEWS #177 - Jan-Mar 2003
MEMBERS SHOW PERSONAL FLAGS

Six more members have sent in the designs for their personal flags.

J.E. Beard of Lutsen, MN, member since 1991, has adopted an orange flag with an image of a black-outlined orange Triceratops on it. “Orange is a highly visible color, a safety color, and my signature color living in the backwoods of NE Minnesota. The Triceratops: I’m a science teacher, I like dinosaurs and collect rocks. I may be smaller than a T-rex, but am not defenceless! I have stamina and endurance but am not a speed-demon.”

Joe Donovan of Seattle, WA, member since 2003, has adopted a tricolor of (top to bottom) green-yellow-red with a black harp in the center. The green and yellow are traditional colors found in the regional harp flag of Ireland. His grandfather was of Irish heritage. His grandmother was Prussian; black, yellow and red are frequently seen in German flags. The longest string of the black harp and the bowed arm of it on the fly end describe an elongated “D”, the first letter of his last name.

Raymond R. Jett, Jr. of Yucaipa, CA, member since 2003, shows the colors maroon (blood), black (iron which is strong and unbreakable) and gold (victory, success, wealth...) The symbols are crossed field marshal batons (highest Military rank) and 5 stars in a circle, which is the symbol for the U.S.A.’s “field marshal” rank (called “General of the Army”). “I am ‘into’ militaria and would not want to be outranked by anyone so thus the Field Marshal’s flag.” It is 3x4 proportions (without fringe) which is military standard.

Patrick Ka’ano’i of Las Vegas, NV, member since 1987, has adopted a flag of two red vertical stripes representing the old and new generations of Hawaiian ali’i—chiefs. The white vertical strip represents the sacred bond between the two. The letters in the crest represent “K” for Ka’ano’i—meaning “Loving Heart and The Beloved,” while the golden letter “H” stands for the chiefly name Ha’o. The white spheres atop the vertical part of the letter “K” represent the sacred taboo (kapu) sticks called pulo’ulo’u and symbolise a star to represent “the eyes of our divine ancestors.” The red heart symbolizes the meaning of his family name Ka’ano’i. The 3 stars above the heart form a crown or lei haku in honor of his ancestors name. The two golden heart shaped leaves are taro (kalo) leaves—the taro plant is the Hawaiian staff of life. The color green represents life; the gold is for the first ancestral parent of all Polynesians, Kane and black for Po—the night sky, the Hawaiian ancestral realm. The crest is surmounted with a golden coronet to represent an ali’i—chief. Pantone colors are: red - 185; green - 354; gold - 116. Ratio 1:2 (3’x6’).

Thomas Ring of Roseville, MN, member since 2002, has adopted a flag that is an unequal bicolor of Irish green at the hoist and Old Glory blue in the fly. The central feature of this flag are three distinct but interlocking white rings that run vertically the height of the flag centered on the line.
where the colors meet. The center ring is whole, while just over half of the other rings are depicted. The diameter of the rings is approximately one-third the flag’s width. He writes, “My surname is the obvious source of the emblem. The use of three rings and their vertical arrangement reminds of the interconnectedness of family, and signifies a hope for continuing progress over time. In this regard, the bottom ring is meant to honor my parents; the center ring represents me and my generation, while the top ring signifies my children and the hope that they will do even better in life. In sum, the emblem is intended to symbolize strength, solidarity, and achievement. As it does in the flag of Ireland, green covers the leading one-third of the flag because Ring is an Irish surname. Consistent with heraldic practice, green conveys ‘joy’ and ‘hope’ while the blue represents ‘truth’ and ‘loyalty.’ The blue also signifies a career spent primarily in law and law enforcement. Lastly, the combination of green, white and blue seem to appear often in flags relating to Minnesota, my home state.” Proportions 3:5.

Ron Strachan of Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia, member since 1989, has adopted a flag of blue bearing the “Strachan” Scottish arms, which are not exclusive to him. The blazon is “Or, a stag at gaze Azure attired Sable; Crest: a demi stag springing Or holding a thistle in his mouth Proper.” The motto is “Non timeo sed caveo” (“I do not fear but am cautious.”) The flag is fully sewn appliqued, defence quality poly bunting, 90 cm x 150 cm (3:5).

NAVA offers its members a registry of their personal flags (or organizational flags for organizational members) as a service. This registry can serve to protect your design from adoption by others and also lets the other members see your colors! Please send a line drawing, sketch or other illustration or a photograph for inclusion in the Registry, along with its meaning and symbolism. Contact us if you need help designing a flag. Send your info to: NAVA Member Personal Flag Registry, PMB 225, 1977 N Olden Ave Ext, Trenton NJ 08618-2193 USA.

Your flag may also be shown on NAVA’s award winning web site at http://www.NAVA.org/ Graphics and photographs in GIF or JPG format may be emailed to navanews@nava.org.

MORE NEWS ABOUT THE COMPANION FLAG PROJECT

The Companion Flag (NAVA NEWS #175) has been adopted by Hamilton International Middle School in Seattle, Washington. The adoption assembly, held on September 11, 2002, culminated in the creation of a permanent display of 36 national flags (representing the 36 nationalities in the student body) each with its own Companion Flag! The ceremony began: “These flags help symbolize the basis of our international program. The national flags show that we celebrate the diversity of our wonderful student body and the world. At the same time, the Companion Flags remind us to honor our similarities and the humanness we all share. The heroes of 9-11 provide a great example to us all of individuals who showed great pride in country and an amazing compassion for other human beings.”

Photos of the event can be viewed online in the Companion Flag Scrapbook. To access the scrapbook, go to the Companion Flag home page <http://www.companionflag.org/> and click on “Companion Flag Scrapbook.”

Scott Wyatt delivered an address to the City Council of Quesnel on September 3, 2002. Quesnel is the first municipality in the world to formally adopt the Companion Flag (1999).

The Unity Church of Kent, Washington, has adopted the Companion Flag, and displays it beneath a specially-made flag depicting the earth on a green background. Photos can be viewed in the online Companion Flag Scrapbook.

Newport Heights Elementary School, Bellevue, WA, has adopted the Companion Flag, and flies it below the US flag outside the school, and in the gymnasium, as well. The Companion Flag has been a topic of classroom discussions and art projects, and was featured at this year’s Festival of Cultures on November 26.

Carriage Crest Elementary School, Kent, WA, has announced plans to adopt the Companion Flag as part of its Martin Luther King Day celebration in January.

Do you know of a group that would like to hear about the Companion Flag Project? If so, please contact them at feedback@companionflag.org.
BIG APPLE UPDATE

In response to the material presented in the last NAVA NEWS on the municipal, sub-municipal and departmental flags of New York City, two NAVA members have sent in additional material.

James Barr of Stockton has sent us information on an additional departmental flag, that of the Department of Sanitation. On a light blue field, the flag’s insignia is a gold caduceus, a symbolic staff surmounted by two wings and entwined with two snakes. Among the ancient Greeks, the caduceus was carried by heralds and ambassadors as a badge of office and a mark of personal inviolability. Superimposed on this device is a capital “S” in red, standing for “Sanitation,” of course. Arching above and below the symbol are the inscriptions “THE CITY OF NEW YORK” and “DEPARTMENT OF SANITATION,” both in gold. The flag is fringed in gold. According to Kathy Dawkins, the Department’s Bureau of Public Information and Community Affairs Director, in a letter dated 11 October 2001, “Its official dimensions are approximately 4’ x 10’ [from the photos supplied, apparently incorrect; probably more like 4’ x 6’]. The flag is used for all departmental ceremonies and parades in which Sanitation is represented.” No information was available regarding “documentation or by-laws pertaining to the flag’s adoption.”

Whitney Smith has sent a correction regarding the pre-1915 New York City Flag. He writes, “Prior to 1915 there was a flag of white bearing the arms of the city [not the seal] in the center either in dark blue or, when the flag was an elegant one, painted in full color.” An 1865 photograph shows it flying on City Hall, with a black mourning border in memory of the death of President Abraham Lincoln. Smith continues, “I have now discovered an even earlier use of the flag, flown on a ship in New York Harbor on 26 October 1825. Grand festivities were held at that time to celebrate the completion of the Erie Canal, which was a major engineering triumph and economic asset for the city and state of New York and for the United States as a whole. The illustration appears on the lithograph “Grand Canal Celebration: View of the Fleet Preparing to Form in Line” which appears after page 185 in the book Memoir, Prepared at the Request of a Committee of the Common Council of the City of New York ... at the Celebration of the Completion of the New York Canals by Cadwallader D. Colden (New York: Corporation of New York [City], 1825). The caption on the facing page refers to “… the steam boat Washington bearing the City Flag, and having the Corporation on board ...”

Another piece of evidence for the arms on this flag as opposed to the seal is the 1910 Annin & Co. Flag Catalog which offers the flag with the “Coat-of-arms” either “painted and shaded” or “sewed on in blue.” The information that the seal was on this flag is taken primarily from a book entitled Seal and Flag of the City of New York by John B. Pines and published in 1915. It is possible the terms “seal” and “arms” were synonymous in the mind of Mr. Pines, as was all too common in America throughout the latter 19th century.
TREASURER’S REPORT

2002: Good News NAVA has concluded its 2002 fiscal year in the black, thanks to the hard work of its board, good graces of its volunteers, and continued support from its members and donors. The conservative budget for 2002 adopted at the annual meeting in 2001 (NAVA 35) had projected a deficit of nearly $4,000. However, the combination of cost controls, additional contributed and earned revenue, and volunteered services brought in a small surplus of $600 instead. A more detailed discussion of these efforts appeared in NAVA News 35/4 - #176. Many thanks to all who made that success possible.

2003: A Budgeted Surplus The 2003 budget, adopted at the 2002 annual meeting in Denver, calls for income and expenses resulting in a small surplus, and provides for a contingency as well. Because Raven volumes for 2002 and 2003 will be combined into a double issue, the full 2002 budget for Raven was expensed and reserved, to be combined with the 2003 budget. The NAVA Board will seek underwriting for some of the expected costs of Raven 9/10.

Current Challenges With our publications back on schedule, we hope to shift the receipt of membership renewal payments back to the beginning of the year, as called for in NAVA’s by-laws. However, we remain overly dependent on a core group of volunteers for some of the most significant tasks in NAVA. Please consider what talents you can bring to NAVA: we especially seek help with NAVA News and NAVA’s award-winning website, http://www.nava.org.

Please contact Treasurer Ted Kaye (treas@nava.org) or any board member with any questions or concerns.

NORTH AMERICAN VEXILLOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Budget Summary

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To Whom It May Concern,

My husband was in Vietnam 1970/71 as a MACV Advisor. After one of his more serious fire fights one of his troops presented him with a North Vietnamese Flag he had found. This flag had a picture of Ho Chi Minh embroidered on it and was his most treasured possession. Sadly, it got stolen while we were in California, and even though I know I can never replace that particular flag, I wonder if I can get a replica of it anywhere. It is something I would dearly like to be able to do for my husband and any help or advice you could give me would be most greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Gillian M. Stone
2410 1/2 Hidden Valley Dr
Grand Junction CO 81503

—14—

NAVA MEMBER PROVIDES FLAG EXHIBITS

With the celebration of the birthday of Jefferson Davis, NAVA member Richard T. Clark provided 45 Confederate flag exhibit on Saturday, June 1, 2002, at historic Loudon Park Cemetery in Baltimore, Maryland. Sponsored by the United Daughters of the Confederacy, the 90-minute program paid homage to both Davis and the more than 250 Maryland Confederate soldiers buried there.

Clark’s display included in addition to the usual Battle flag and the three National Colors, a number of company and regimental flags, in an effort to show the incredible diversity of design among Confederate units. Highlighted in the display were a number of hand-painted Confederate Maryland flags, some painted in as many as 14 colors! Legends on these banners were no less colorful: “Maryland Expects Every Man to Do His Duty” found on the 1st Md. Frederick Volunteers flag, or “Hope is Our Watchword, Truth Our Guiding Star” seen on the Co. E., Winder’s Cavalry color.

A similar display was presented on the following afternoon at the Confederate Monument in Jackson Circle at Arlington National Cemetery. Dedicated June 4, 1914, the monument is the largest in the cemetery. Sculpted by VMI (Virginia Military Institute) graduate Moses Ezekiel, the monument stands in the center of where nearly 500 Confederate soldiers and their wives are buried. Ezekiel, who took part in the Battle of New Market, Virginia, in 1864 as a member of the VMI Corps of Cadets, is himself laid to rest at the base of the monument. To mark his grave, a large VMI flag like the one carried in 1864, was prominently displayed.

One month later, on July 3rd, Clark ventured to Gettysburg to mark the 139th anniversary of Pickett’s Charge, sponsored annually by the Confederate Heritage Brigade, an educational organization. Mr. Clark presented a 25-flag display, ten of which were carried across the mile-long field to the Union positions on Cemetery Ridge, precisely at 3 pm. In all, nearly 40 flags were carried in the “charge”. And as in the other flag exhibits, nothing seems to draw people, their cameras, and plenty of questions, like flags and more flags!

The following day, the 4th of July, Clark spearheaded a flag-raising ceremony at the Old Circuit Courthouse in Ellicott City, Maryland. The accompanying flag pole has not been in use for more than five years. Mr. Clark and other members of the Howard County Historical Society encouraged the county government to refurbish the pole and provide illumination so that the flags (U.S. and Maryland) could be displayed 24 hours a day.

In return, the historical society provided a beautiful 8’x12’ U.S. flag donated by Lieutenant Governor Townsend and a 5’x8’ Maryland banner. The brief ceremony included a flag display by Clark of some 18 historic U.S. Flags, including a 31-star flag which marked the admission of California on July 4, 1851, and the 151st anniversary of the birth of Howard County.

Mr. Clark is now giving serious consideration to checking into a mental institution!
SBV Presidential Flag

Dr. Philippe Rault has sent us the design of the President of the Breton Vexillological Society. Dr. Rault, a NAVA member, is the current President of the SBV. The design is the Society’s flag, a black saltire on white with ermine spots between the hoist arms of the cross, with the addition of three orange stars.

N A V A N E W S

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TWO NEWLY ADOPTED NATIVE FLAGS

Peter Orenski

Two tribes encountered by Lewis & Clark's expedition, the Chinook of Chinook, Washington, and the Shoshone-Bannock of Fort Hall, Idaho, have recently adopted flags. This is good vexi-news indeed for this first stage of the Bicentennial commemorations that honor the Corps of Discovery's 1804-1806 voyage. The new designs bring to 26 the native flags that will flutter from the leading edge of the Corps of Discovery II trailer, as it retraces Lewis & Clark's original course across the country.

The Shoshone-Bannock Nation—whose Cameahwait band, family to the legendary Sacagawea, met the explorers on August 17, 1805, and lent them horses for crossing the Rockies—had been rumored to have a flag for several years. The author received formal permission from the Tribal Council to obtain a copy of the flag on January 23, 2003, and proposed a simplified version, which the council approved on February 23. The flag—with gold-yellow detail on a medium-brown background—illustrates the primary activities of the Shoshone-Bannock on land set aside under the Fort Bridger Treaty of 1868: farming and cattle raising. The foreground is dominated by Vannock Peak of the Putnam Mountain, the dominant topological feature on the reservation.

The flag of the Chinook Nation, hosts to the Expedition during the late fall of 1805 and winter of 1805-1806, is the work of Chinook artist Tony Johnson and shows a king salmon (named 'Chinook salmon' after the Tribe) in traditional tribal colors of black and red on a white field. Salmon has been the mainstay of Chinook sustenance for many generations. Johnson's memorable design in the totemic tradition of the Northwest—skillfully encasing a red human visage within the contours of a salmon, their fates inextricably linked—elevates the Chinook flag to uppermost rank of Native vexillographic depictions in the world.