New Light on the First Republic of Texas Flag
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NAVA 41, 38, and 39's flags fly over the meetings' hotels.  Ted Kaye
FROM THE PRESIDENT

Proud of NAVA

Friends:
By the time this issue lands in your mailbox, the annual meeting in Los Angeles will be just about four months away. The academics and the newspapers say that the economy is picking up—I hope that each of you are experiencing the recovery and can plan on joining your vexillological colleagues in the Bear Flag State this October.

The looming date of the Los Angeles gathering also means that the your current board is about four months away from completing two full years of service together. The board, together with past president Peter Ansoff who serves as a board consultant, meets regularly by telephone to plan, supervise, encourage, and deliberate. While we each have different perspectives informed by our individual backgrounds and personal experiences, we are consistently able to reach a consensus that, I think, always places the well-being of NAVA above all other considerations.

Not only has it been my pleasure to serve with this board, it has been my pleasure to serve as your president. I particularly enjoy the communication with members and interested persons from across the United States and Canada and from around the world. It is also a joy to see the fruits of our members work beginning with our earliest days.

I recently visited Baltimore for an academic conference. Visiting the Flag House and Star-Spangled Banner Museum for a talk by Dr. Marla R. Miller about her new book Betsy Ross and the Making of America, I joined Peter Ansoff, Jack Lowe, and Jon Radel in hearing this noted women’s historian discuss the facts behind the myths. Vexillology and our exacting standards for proof and accuracy are such that Dr. Miller even deferred to the vexillologists present for an answer to an audience member’s question! Afterwards, we enjoyed a great dinner in the Little Italy section where we all discussed plans for the International Congress of Vexillology being held next year in the Washington, DC area (and for which you can find more information elsewhere in this issue).

On a free afternoon, I visited the Maryland Historical Society’s museum. While wandering the permanent collection, I happened upon a correct replica of the John Shaw Flag! You may recall the tremendous efforts by Rev. Richardson Libby first to research what the flag really looked like and, second, to have full-size replicas made to fly over the State House in Annapolis. The society’s replica was made by Rick Wyatt of CRW Flags, also located in Maryland. And to see the handsome Baltimore city flag everywhere I went was just an added bonus.

So far from home and my library, yet I was able to be constantly reminded of the value of our work and the vibrancy of our membership. Dr. Whitney Smith envisioned an armadillo as a feature of the first NAVA seal because, he wrote, the animal embodied the qualities of a vexillologist: “slow but sure progress, a tendency to burrow deeply, and imperviousness to outside pressures”. While there may be other qualities we could think of, they have built our credibility and fueled our passions for the past four decades and they will serve us well for the next four decades. These values are just one of the many reasons I am proud to be the president of NAVA.

HUGH BRADY
PRESIDENT
EDITOR’S NOTE

Editorial Musings

Dear NN Readers,

Once again, we present a mixture of articles and features that we think you’ll enjoy. In particular, we’re honored to present a piece of original research by Dr. Avelino Couceiro Rodriguez about the rank flags of the Cuban Navy. Like our earlier features by Raúl Jesús Orta Prado on Venezuelan flags, Dr. Couceiro’s article is an example of how scholarship transcends national boundaries and political divisions. We’re also pleased to publish Tom Green’s research on the minefield-laden subject of early Texas flags, and Roman Klimeš’s installment on the flags of minor U.S. possessions.

Although we have many professional scholars (like Dr. Couceiro) among our ranks, the bulk of the material we publish in NAVA News and Raven is written by amateurs. I mean “amateur” here in the best sense of the word—a person who expends time and effort for the satisfaction of doing it, rather than for professional gain. What I’m leading up to, of course, is that we encourage everyone to document their researches on our favorite subject—that’s what NAVA is all about.

Flaggily,

PETER ANSOFF
EDITOR

Joint Flag Meetings in 2011

Next year’s NAVA meeting will be different for four reasons: 1) it will take place concurrently with 24 ICV, 2) it will take place in August rather than October, 3) it will last a week rather than just a weekend, and 4) three times as many people will attend.

For the first time since 18 ICV / NAVA 33 in 1999, NAVA will host the International Congress of Vexillology—in Washington, DC, 1-5 August 2011.

For many NAVA members, this will be their first opportunity to connect with leaders and members of dozens of vexillological associations from around the world. While a typical NAVA meeting might have ten presentations, an ICV will have three to four times as many, covering a broad range of flag topics.

You can find initial information on the Washington Flag Congress at www.nava.org; this will be a major source of more detail as plans proceed. A substantial early-bird discount rewards those who make a prompt decision to attend—consider your 2011 plans now!

Producing an ICV takes a significantly larger pool of volunteers than does a NAVA meeting. Members of the CBFA (Chesapeake Bay Flag Association) are the “presence on the ground” for the ICV, but there are many opportunities for NAVA members to help from a distance. For example, these areas need volunteers: name tags, registration, public relations, group photo, arrival packets, presentation technology, and more.

Contact 24 ICV coordinator Ted Kaye at treas@nava.org to explore how you can help.

FIELD REPORT: URUGUAY

Send your field reports to navanews@nava.org

NAVA 44 Flag

William M. Belanich, Jr., of Hamilton, Ohio, designed the flag for NAVA 44, inspired by the flag of Los Angeles, the host city. The fly is red and the hoist green, separated by a serrated gold stripe recalling the “V” for vexillology. (The colors on the Los Angeles city flag are red for vineyards, golden-yellow for orange groves, and green for olive trees; they come from the flags of Spain and Mexico.) The stylized gold design in the hoist, two stylized and mirrored “4”s (in AR Destine font), denotes the 44th annual meeting of NAVA and suggests angels’ wings, recalling the city’s name. The committee adapted the concept of the angels from a design submitted by John C. Karp, Jr. of Minden, Nevada.

The NAVA 44 Flag Design Committee: Peter Ansoff, Will Levin, Marlene Little, and John Purcell.

Flown at a protest encampment near the governmental palace in Montevideo is a simplified flag of the Departamento de Paysandú, Uruguay (without its central device, a Mburucuyá flower). Identification by NAVA member Francisco Gregoric. TED KAYE
Rank Flags of the Revolutionary Cuban Navy

By AVELINO VICTOR COUCEIRO RODRIGUEZ, Ph.D.

INTRODUCTION

As organized vexillology and the Cuban Revolution both arose only about 50 years ago, little research into modern military rank flags in Cuba has occurred. This represents a gap in the nation’s history after January 1959. Bibliography on the subject hardly exists, with even less available on the current rank flags of the navy.

On 13 January 1959, legislation under Bill No. 13 suspended all rules and regulations relating to the Army of the Republic, making obsolete all rank flags then in use. All books published outside Cuba after 1959, including some as recent as 2003, show obsolete Cuban rank flags.

In fact, the idea of rank flags ran counter to the philosophy and doctrine of the regime that took power in Cuba after January 1959. Later, however, a new suite of rank flags was introduced to identify governmental authorities and officers of the Revolutionary Armed Forces (FAR). These were formally adopted after 1992 when a new constitution was approved.

At that time the chief of staff of the FAR set out in the Regulations of Revolutionary Cuban Navy (RCN) the flags and badges for the navy. However, it is likely that these symbols were in de facto use before their formal de jure adoption. Because the regulation has not been made public, verification of their origins is problematic.

The regulation specifies that “when the flags are used by mobile units in combat or on parade, they are called banners”, a definition showing the current deficit in Cuba regarding vexillological terms (although not a problem exclusive to Cuba or military hierarchies). In its Article 185, the regulation identifies the emblems of rank of senior officers used in the units and ships of the RCN, but with inadequate vexillological terminology. For example, one flag includes this description:

…Its longitude will be five-eighths of the width of the flag; in the bisector of its right superior angle a red five-pointed star, inscribed in an imaginary circumference its radius will be similar to an eighth of the width of the flag and its center at a distance of the angle similar to the diameter of the circumference; from the inferior border of the flag, a red fringe its width will be similar to a fourth of the width of the flag...

This technocratic style pervades the regulation. However, what follow are paraphrases of the official descriptions in more conventional vexillological language, and converting proportions from “1:1½” to 2:3.

THE RANK FLAGS

Commander-in-Chief

A white field with proportions of 2:3; in the center the commander-in-chief’s badge: a diamond divided horizontally, red over black, with a white five-pointed star in the center.\(^1\) The field has double border, red inside white.

Minister of the FAR

A red field with proportions of 2:3; in the center a yellow “Swiss” shield\(^2\) with a yellow five-pointed star outlined in black. The field has double border, white inside red.

First Vice-Minister

A dark blue field with proportions of 2:3; in the center a white “Swiss” shield\(^3\) with a white five-pointed star outlined in blue. The field has double border, white inside red.

Vice-Minister and General Chief of Staff

A dark blue field with proportions of 2:3; in the center a white “Swiss” shield with a white five-pointed star outlined in blue. The field has double border, white inside blue.
**Chief of the Army**
A red field with proportions of 2:3; a white canton with a red five-pointed star in the center. The navy hoists this as a courtesy flag when the chief of the army visits a ship or naval installation.

**Chief of the Navy**
A red field with proportions of 2:3; a white canton with a red anchor in its center and a white five-pointed star in the upper right corner of the fly.

**Second Chief of the Navy**
A dark blue field with proportions of 2:3; a white canton with a red anchor in its center and a white five-pointed star in the upper right corner of the fly.

**Chief of the Naval Base (Chief of the Naval Academy)**
A white field with proportions of 2:3; a red stripe one-fourth the flag’s height running along the bottom; a red anchor centered on the white field and a red five-pointed star in the upper right corner of the fly.

**Squadron Chief**
A white field with proportions of 2:3; a blue stripe one-fourth the flag’s height running along the bottom; a blue anchor centered on the white field.

**Ship Commander** (streamer)
Overall an isosceles triangle, divided into three parts; at the hoist a red equilateral triangle, one-third the flag’s length; the remaining field is divided dark blue over white.

**CONCLUSION**
These flags maintain the vexillographic traditions of the country and the navy. They include elements of national symbols in the three colors of the Cuban flag—white, blue, and red, the solitary star, and the allusion to the shape of the national arms. They also use international naval symbols such as the anchor and the streamer. Also consistent with international vexillography is placing the main device in higher rank flags in the center and using a double border, while the middle rank flags have a canton and the lower rank flags use a stripe.

These flags—and the historical and cultural processes which created them—deserve deeper study and analysis. As waving emblems, the flags represent a visual lyricism that synthesizes in cloth the environmental and cultural values of the organization and country they symbolize. They also summarize artistic codes to be studied by vexillologists, symbolic values that identify a people and the context in which they originated. They are worthy inheritors of a national and international vexillographical patrimony—specifically Cuba’s—and their study represents a contribution to the history of the nation.

Special thanks to Maikel Arista-Salado and Gustavo Tracchia for their help on this paper, which was first presented at NAVA 43 in Charleston, South Carolina in October 2009.

1. The badge reflects the symbolism of the “26th of July Movement” (see NAVA News #199) which places the number 26 over red and black.
2. The shield is similar to the shape of the national coat of arms, but calling that form “Swiss” is solely a heraldic convention, as Prof. Raul Orta Pardo tells us. In reality the contour of the Swiss arms is Hispanic and in general the shape of a shield is mostly classified by the century or period in which it originated.
3. The three ministers are appointees of the FAR and not actual naval officers.
4. This is a naval flag even though it represents an army officer. Prof. Maikel Arista-Salado has observed it hoisted at naval bases.
New Light on the First Republic of Texas Flag

By THOMAS BRUCE GREEN

Controversy surrounds the first flags of Texas. However, several 1836 newspaper accounts describe a *de facto* “Republic of Texas Flag” as a red flag with a large white star in its center and the letters of T-E-X-A-S around the star’s points, used before the “Burnet Flag” became official in December 1836.

BACKGROUND

The putative “De Zavala Flag”, named for Lorenzo de Zavala, the first provisional vice president of the Republic of Texas, has caused much confusion in the vexillological record of Texas. Oft-disputed tradition holds that during the March 1836 Washington-on-the-Brazos convention when Texas declared its independence from Mexico, de Zavala proposed adding the letters T-E-X-A-S to the national flag.

However, convention records do not document any such motion or design by de Zavala, and do not describe the “national flag”.

No official flag appears to have been approved by the 1836 convention.

Seventeen years earlier, Dr. James Long, originally from Natchez, Mississippi, captured Nacogdoches in June of 1819 in an effort to free Texas from Spain; his followers proclaimed him the first president of the Republic of Texas, which lasted one month. He is said to have carried a solid red flag bearing in the center a large five-pointed white star, made by his wife, Jane Herbert Dent Wilkerson Long. This first Long invasion of Spanish Texas did not last long, as the Spanish army ran him back into Louisiana. He then took his wife’s red flag with him to New Orleans and made it into the canton of a new flag, which included 13 red and white stripes, intended to attract more Americans to his cause.

Dr. Long is believed to have carried this second flag when his forces attacked Presidio La Bahia in Goliad, Texas in 1821. His wife, Jane Long, is known as the “Mother of Texas” because she delivered her own baby on the Bolivar Peninsula where her husband had left her during his invasion of La Bahia during the winter of 1821. Long’s army took La Bahia under his revised flag, but he was captured, taken to Mexico City, and mysteriously killed while being held prisoner. Because Jane Long was one of the few famous Anglos in early Texas, the delegates to the convention at Washington-on-the-Brazos could well have been familiar with her red flag with the large white star.

Many versions of this design have been used in later Texas events.

CONTEMPORARY ACCOUNTS

Several 1836 newspaper accounts have surfaced that describe the “Republic of Texas Flag” as a red flag with a large white star in its center, and two explicitly describe the letters of T-E-X-A-S around the points in the star.

The (New York) *Evening Post* of 27 April 1836 published a lengthy article about a meeting held the previous day at the Masonic Hall in New York City to raise money for the defense of Texas. Samuel Swartwout presided and the mayor of New York City, the governor of South Carolina, and the three Texian commissioners, Stephen F. Austin, Branch T. Archer, and William H. Wharton spoke.

Two months later, the *New-York American* of 30 June 1836 stated:
There are no other details. This is the first known mention of the letters placed between the points of the white star on a red flag.

The Army and Navy Chronicle of 7 July 1836, published in Washington, D.C., described the Republic of Texas flag as: 4

Texas Flag.—A plain red ground, with a single white, five-pointed star, and the letters T E X A S between the points.

The Telegraph and Texas Register of 30 August 1836 relayed reports from New York newspapers (the Courier and Enquirer and the Albany Argus) of another meeting on 18 July 1836, where many influential men of the day were present to raise money for the Republic of Texas: 5

THE TEXIAN CELEBRATION.

A splendid dinner was given yesterday at the American Hotel by the friends of Texas in this city, to those distinguished strangers in town from Texas, and from different parts of the United States, who have advocated the cause of that oppressed country...

Behind the chair of the president was the Texian standard on a blood red field with a large white star. On each side of it, in majestic folds, hung the American colors, to whose beautiful field of azure blue governor Hamilton feelingly alluded in his speech as containing “ample room and verge” to hold therein another bright star, in the proud constellation which now shown upon it. Tremendous cheers were elicited by the remark.

CONCLUSION

While some of these reports may have been based on others, at least two appear to reflect eye-witness observations of the New York meetings (in April and July, 1836).

Flag historian Admiral Preble, writing in 1880, confirmed that. Another flag in use, the same year (1836) had a plain red ground with a five-pointed white star in the centre, and the letters T E X A S in white between the points.6

These 1836 reports support the assertion that Jane Long’s flag, red with a large five-pointed white star in the center, may have been considered the “national flag” of the Republic of Texas Flag, and that with the letters T-E-X-A-S added between the points of the star, as proposed at the Convention of 1836, may have been used briefly to represent the Republic of Texas as its de facto flag.

This article is a portion of a paper delivered at the 42nd Annual Meeting of NAVA in Austin, Texas, in October 2008.

1. Convention records show no motion by Lorenzo de Zavala to add the letters of TEXAS around the star in the national standard, however Charles Taylor did make a similar motion:
   “Resolved that the word TEXAS be placed, one letter between each point of the star on the national flag”.
   Some historians believe a portion of the 1836 Convention records which might show that de Zavala made such a motion are missing. However, the records appear to be complete and indicate that de Zavala made a motion concerning the flag on “Friday last” (10 March, although there is nothing about a flag mentioned in the convention records of that day): the records show a motion on 12 March by William B. Scates to amend the proposed flag by adding a “Rainbow and star of five points above the western horizon; and a star of six points sinking below”. At the end of his motion appears: “…was added to the flag of Mr. Zavala accepted on Friday last.”

   Most reconstructions of the De Zavala Flag, which began to appear in 1930, show a blue field.

2. Southwestern Historical Quarterly, Volume 18, No. 4 (1915), page 376: “New York and the Independence of Texas”. The Journal of Commerce is also quoted as making a passionate plea “for our Texas brethren, whose case at this moment is deplorable in the extreme”. While the Republic of Texas flag is not discussed, the men present at the Masonic Hall in New York are named in detail. The author has been unable to locate a copy of this newspaper.

   Austin, Archer, and Wharton had designed the Stephen F. Austin Flag in 1835 in New Orleans, and Wharton would later introduce both the 1836 and 1839 flag acts in the Texas Congress.


5. Southwestern Historical Quarterly, Volume 18, No. 4 (1915), page 377: “New York and the Independence of Texas”, citing Telegraph and Texas Register, Volume 1, No. 27, 30 August 1836, published by Gail Borden, Jr., and his brother, Thomas. In the right-hand column of page 2 is an article which first appeared in the 20 July 1836 issue of the Courier and Enquirer and the 20 July 1836 issue of the Albany Argus, both New York newspapers.


Tom Green is a past president of the Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution, and former district representative to the Sons of the Republic of Texas.
BOOK REVIEW

“Capturing” the Story of the U.S. Flag

BY TED KAYE

Fair warning: this is not a flag book, but rather a study in political science viewed through the lens of evolving flag usage. Its author, Woden Teachout, explores two competing threads of patriotism—“humanitarian patriotism” (representing a commitment to democracy), and “nationalist patriotism” (proclaiming “my country, right or wrong”)—as they have harnessed the ambiguity and power of the U.S. flag’s symbolism.

A professor at Union Institute and University in Vermont, she has taught at Harvard and Middlebury College, and often shows her own liberal political leanings: “Like the World Trade Center, [in 2003] the Constitution stood in ruins.” Nevertheless, the book stands as a compact parallel to John M. Coski’s The Confederate Battle Flag (2005), offering a narrative history of the American flag’s use over time.

The flag’s story is told through eight expository vignettes, with little linkage between them. They comprise the events preceding and during the Revolution, the Philadelphia Riots of 1844, the Civil War, the election of 1896, the Ku Klux Klan (1915-24), the Civil Rights Movement, the Vietnam War, and Post-9/11. The book does not provide a comprehensive history (as does Coski), rather it looks through eight disparate windows to tell its story and make its points. It is more like Michael Corcoran’s For Which It Stands (2002) than Mark Leepson’s Flag—An American Biography (2005).

No illustrations appear in the small (5.75” x 8.5”) book (aside from on its cover)—it is a series of engaging and very readable essays.

CAPTURE THE FLAG: A POLITICAL HISTORY OF AMERICAN PATRIOTISM

Woden Teachout
Basic Books (2009), 266 pages

Close readers might challenge occasional problems of math (1961 was not 46 years after 1905), verb selection (few would say that Major Anderson “took” Fort Sumter in December 1860), and history (mistaking Charleston for its state’s capital and misdating nationwide Prohibition). However, a fine amount of scholarship steeped in reliable flag sources pervades the book.

The jacket blurb asserts: “The story of the American flag is the story of a nation in search of itself. It has been the locus of bitter conflicts over the meaning of what it means to be an American, claimed by both racists and revolutionaries; by immigrants and nativists; by the right and the left.”

Dr. Teachout proves a fine story-teller, aptly using the experience of individuals to provide insight into larger events. Her compelling descriptions of the pre-Revolution “Rowdy Boys” and the nativist confrontations of 1844 bring flag usage to human scale, and expand on eras of flag use which are less frequently surveyed by historians. Her bibliography and extensive footnotes include research that echoes and quotes the scholarship of NAVA past president Prof. Scot Guenter, who has published on the 1970 Hard-Hat Riot in New York and uses this book in his classroom at San Jose State University.

Even those less interested in the book’s political science focus will enjoy learning more about how the flag was displayed and interpreted at key points in the nation’s history.
U.S. Memorial Day in New Jersey

In one of the largest such displays in the country, the New Jersey city of Clifton (population 78,000), flies over 1,200 full-size U.S. flags on its 10-acre city hall grounds, each in honor or in memory of a Clifton veteran.

The flags fly five times a year—on Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, and Veterans Day. Locals John Biegel and Walter Pruiksma started the effort and now Biegel and Keith Oakley organize the many volunteers who erect, take down, and store the flags. A $100 contribution sponsors a durable flag pole with a 3'x5' embroidered nylon flag, a protective sleeve, a name plate, and a ground socket.

Frank Niader (left) has sponsored a flag in memory of his brother, Pvt. William Niader USMC, who died on 12 June 1945 on Kunishi Ridge, Okinawa. His flag stands in the “Field of Honor” section which recognizes those who were killed in action.

Mystery Flag

NAVA member Dan Sanley found this flag at an estate sale. He writes: “Maybe someone can help me identify this flag. I have searched and given up. It is cotton, hand-sewn and appears to be pretty old.” It may just be bunting...

Write navanews@nava.org with your ideas.

Canadian City Flags Project

A major work on the flags of 100 Canadian municipalities is on the schedule for a future volume of Raven, NAVA’s annual journal of vexillology. The stand-alone book will cover the largest cities in the country, including the capitals, and least 5 cities per province/territory.

Canadian City Flags will stand as a sequel to Raven 9/10, American City Flags, which won the Vexillon in 2005 for the most important contribution to worldwide vexillology in the previous two years.

Join the team of volunteer researchers/writers who are developing short articles on each city’s flag. This is a wonderful way to expand your knowledge of flags. Contact raven@nava.org to learn more or to express interest.
Lesser-Known Symbols of Minor U.S. Possessions
Part 1. Caribbean Sea

BY ROMAN KLIMEŠ

Beyond its more widely-known possessions (Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Marianas) the United States of America also has jurisdiction over several small islands in the Pacific and the Caribbean, including the U.S. naval base at Guantánamo Bay. Each has a vexillological history.

NAVASSA ISLAND

The island of Navassa is in the Caribbean Sea about one-fourth of the way between Haiti and Jamaica. Its area is 5.2 sq. km. and its coastline is 8 km. Although uninhabited, it is strategically located 160 km. south of the US Naval Base Guantánamo Bay, Cuba. The island is an unorganized unincorporated territory of the United States under administration of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Navassa’s terrain consists mostly of exposed coral and limestone, the island being ringed by vertical white cliffs 9-15 m. high, but with enough grassland to support herds of goats.

The island was discovered in 1504 when Christopher Columbus was stranded on Jamaica and sent some crew members by canoe to Hispaniola for help. On the way they ran found the island, but it had no water; they called it “Navaza”. It was the last visit to the island until 1857 when American sea captain Peter Duncan, fearing its guano deposits might be claimed by Haiti, claimed Navassa Island for the United States. Navassa Island was the third island claimed under the Guano Islands Act of 1856. Although Haiti protested the annexation, the U.S. rejected the Haitian claim. From 1857 to 1898 American interests mined the million tons of guano deposits through a sometimes-bloody management culminating in a worker’s rebellion in 1889.

Navassa Island became significant again with the opening of the Panama Canal in 1914. The U.S. Lighthouse Service built Navassa Island Light in 1917, a 46 m. tower about 120 m. above sea level. A keeper and two assistants lived there until the United States Lighthouse Service installed an automatic beacon in 1929.

From 1903 to 1917, Navassa Island was a dependency of the Guantánamo Bay Naval Base and from 1917 to 1996 it was under US Coast Guard administration. On 29 August 1996 the Coast Guard dismantled the light on Navassa and an inter-agency task force headed by the U.S. Department of State transferred the island to the U.S. Department of Interior. By Secretary’s Order No. 3205 of 16 January 1997, the Interior Department assumed control of the island and placed the island under its Office of Insular Affairs. By Secretary’s Order No. 3210 of 3 December 1999, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service assumed administrative responsibility for Navassa Island, which became the Navassa Island National Wildlife Refuge.

The flag of Navassa (above) was first hoisted on 7 December 2001. Its proportions are 3:5. The flag consists of two horizontal stripes, white over royal blue. On the white stripe is an emerald green island with a light gray lighthouse with a green roof. White represents the sky; blue the ocean. The flag was created to represent the island during ceremonies and an exhibit about Americans who sacrificed and served during World War II. It was hoisted at the USS Arizona Memorial in Hawaii by the National Park Service on the 60th anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

The flag of Navassa Island was designed for the event by David Billington, who maintains a website about the island. He cleared his design with Skip Wheeler, who organized the ceremonies and an exhibit about Americans who sacrificed and served during World War II. It was hoisted at the USS Arizona Memorial in Hawaii by the National Park Service on the 60th anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

Navassa Island became significant again with the opening of the Panama Canal in 1914. The U.S. Lighthouse Service built Navassa Island Light in 1917, a 46 m. tower about 120 m. above sea level. A keeper and two assistants lived there until the United States Lighthouse Service installed an automatic beacon in 1929.
The first information about Guantánamo Bay dates from 30 April 1494. Christopher Columbus, on his second voyage, sailed into the bay and remained overnight, calling it “Puerto Grande”. In 1741 the bay was briefly renamed “Cumberland Bay” when the British seized it during the War of Jenkins’ Ear. In 1898, during the Spanish-American War, the U.S. fleet attacking Santiago de Cuba retreated to Guantánamo’s excellent harbor to ride out the summer hurricane season. On 10 June 1898 the first U.S. troops ashore in Cuba in the Spanish-American War, a battalion of Marines, landed at Fisherman’s Point and made camp on McCalla Hill.

By the war’s end the U.S. had obtained control of all of Cuba from Spain. A perpetual lease for the area around Guantánamo was offered 23 February 1903 by Tomás Estrada Palma, a Cuban-born American citizen, who became the first president of Cuba. The Cuban-American Treaty gave the Republic of Cuba ultimate sovereignty over Guantánamo Bay while granting the United States complete “jurisdiction and control” of the area for coaling and naval stations. President Theodore Roosevelt signed the original lease agreement with Cuba for Naval Base Guantánamo Bay.

On 10 December 1913 the Naval Station was officially opened at its present location. On 1 April 1941 Naval Operating Base, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba was established. On 18 June 1952 the name was changed to U.S. Naval Base Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

After the communist rebels under Fidel Castro took power in the 1959 civil war, some Cubans sought refuge on the base. In fall 1961 Cuban troops planted a 13-km. barrier of cactus along the northeastern section of the fence. This was dubbed the “Cactus Curtain” in an allusion to “Iron Curtain” in Europe and the “Bamboo Curtain” in East Asia. U.S. troops then placed 75,000 land mines across the “no man’s land” on the base’s border, creating the second-largest minefield in the world (after that along the Korean demilitarization zone). On 16 May 1996 U.S. President Bill Clinton ordered their removal. The area is 117.6 sq. km. and the naval base serves 7,000 troops. There are two airfields.

Since 2002 the base has hosted controversial detention facilities associated with the U.S. war in Afghanistan.

The seal and the flag were introduced in the 1950s. The seal (left) is round. A gold sea rope forms the outer edge of the blue disk. Inside is a circle of gold chain. Between the sea rope and the chain appear “US NAVAL BASE” (upper) and “GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA” (lower) in gold letters. Two gold five-pointed stars separate the upper and lower inscriptions. In the center is a brown silhouette of Cuba with two green palm trees with brown trunks. The location of the naval base is marked by small gold square. Below the island in gold is “GUANTANAMO BAY” above over three light blue waves.1

The flag of the naval base Guantánamo Bay (above) is white with the seal in the center; its diameter is 2/3 of the hoist dimension. The flag is edged with gold fringe on all four sides. Its proportions are approximately 12:19.3

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2 Color illustration of the seal from official sources at the U.S. Naval Base Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.
3 Information from Chrystian Kretowicz, California.
REGIONAL FLAG GROUPS

Flag Connections

While NAVA does not have chapters, several groups bring flag enthusiasts together on a regional basis in the U.S. and Canada. Many NAVA members belong to these groups, and enjoy their meetings and publications. Contact them or visit their websites for more information. Among the most active groups are:

Canadian Flag Association (CFA)
L’Association Canadienne de Vexillologie (ACV)
Territory: Canada
Contact: Kevin Harrington
50 Heathfield Dr., Toronto, ON M1M3B1
(416) 267-9618
kevin.harrington@sympatico.ca
http://flagscan.cjb.net
(CFA/ACV is on Facebook)
Publishes: Flagscan and several supplements (see Spotlight)
Meet: No scheduled meetings; members often convene at NAVA meetings and ICVs.
Dues: $25 US or CAD/year; add $3 per supplement

Chesapeake Bay Flag Association (CBFA)
Territory: Delaware, D.C., Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, & West Virginia
Contact: John A. Lowe
7045 Wolfree Lane, Rockville, MD 20852
(301) 468 9202
lowe69@verizon.net
http://cbfa.vexillology.info/
Publishes: Flagship
(currently inactive)
Meet: 3-4x/year
Dues: None

Great Waters Association of Vexillology (GWAV)
Territory: Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, & Ohio
Contact: Peter Kinderman
3075 Madison Road, Cincinnati, OH 45209-1741
(513) 533-0330
flaggsusa@prodigy.net
http://gwav.tripod.com/
Publishes: FlagGWAVer—The Journal of Great Waters Association of Vexillology
Meet: 2x/year.
Dues: $10/year ($5 if outside region, $10 International)

New England Vexillological Association (NEVA)
Territory: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, & Vermont
Contact: Carl S. Gurtman
34 Brave Boat Harbor Rd., York, ME 03909-5027
(207) 363-4920
cgurtman@maine.rr.com
www.midcoast.com/~martucci/neva
Meet: 2x/year
Dues: $10/year

Portland Flag Association (PFA)
Territory: Oregon & S.W. Washington
Contact: John Hood
208 S.E. 39th Ave., Portland, OR 97214
(503) 238-7666
vivjohn@comcast.net
www.portlandflag.org
Publishes: The Vexilloid Tabloid
Meet: 6x/year
Dues: None

Vexillological Association of the State of Texas (VAST)
Territory: Texas
Contact: Charles A. Spain, Jr.
504 Branard St., Houston, TX 77006-5018
(713) 529-2545
cspain@alumni.rice.edu
http://www.texflags.org/
Publishes: VAST News
Meet: 1x/year
Dues: $10/year

SPOTLIGHT

The Canadian Flag Association publishes Flagscan (a 20-page quarterly journal) and a series of 4-page supplements: Banderin (Hispanic flags), Dragonflags (East and South-east Asia), Ensign & Jack (British and Irish), Flagnaut (flags at sea), Ifulegi (African), Pavillonerie (French language), FlagsAm (flags in the USA), Flagguru (Indian subcontinent), and Band.It (Italian flags). Back issues are available. Contributions (letters, articles, flag photos, flag questions (FAQ), flag humour and quizzes, newspaper clippings—add the date) are welcome. Contact the editor, Kevin Harrington, at kevin.harrington@sympatico.ca
NAVA Membership Anniversaries

40-Year Members—since 1970
Mr. Michael L. Larsen, Colorado Springs, Colorado
Mr. David R. Mead, Twin Falls, Idaho

30-Year Member—since 1980
Ms. Marilyn Hichborn, El Segundo, California

20-Year Members—since 1990
Mr. Roberto Bicci, Brescia, Italy
Dr. Emil Dreyer, Zollikofen, Switzerland
Mr. Ronald A. Hesson, Rome, Georgia
Mr. David A. Maggi, Washington, D.C.
Mr. Hugh Warner (U.S. Flag Service), Frederick, Maryland

10-Year Members—since 2000
Sr. José Carlos Alegria, Gijón, Asturias, Spain
Mr. Graham M. P. Bartram, Ruislip, Middlesex, U.K.
Mr. Roger Callan, Kew Gardens, New York

Ms. Trish Dale (Regal Flags and Poles), Delray Beach, Florida
Mr. Michael Faul, Acomb, York, U.K.
Mr. Carl S. Gurtman, York, Maine
Robert C. Hauck, M.D., Shoreline, Washington
Mr. Robert A. Jungst, Kingston, Washington
Mr. John C. Karp, Jr., Minden, Nevada
Mr. Charles L. Kissel, Anaheim, California
Mr. John W. Knox, Austin, Texas
Dr. Dennis F. Moore, Sr., Wichita, Kansas
Mr. Rick Prohaska (Outpost Flags), Goodman, Wisconsin
Mr. Roy Simpson, (Excel Sales Flags & Flagpoles), Gravois Mills, Missouri
Ms. Valerie M. R. Strout (Maine Flag & Banner Co.), Windham, Maine
Mr. Ralph Collins Walter, Los Angeles, California
Mr. John D. York, Camberley, Surrey, U.K.
Hon. Judith Zaffirini, Ph.D., Laredo, Texas

NAVA’s Grant Programs

The Devereaux D. Cannon, Jr. Grant for Research in Vexillology supports original research in various aspects of flag design and usage. NAVA gives this $250 award on an occasional basis NAVA to individuals pursuing research which advances vexillological knowledge in North America.

NAVA actively promotes conservation, preservation, and restoration of historic flags by raising and granting funds for museums and other repositories, and by lending its name in support of these efforts, through the Grace Rogers Cooper Flag Conservation Grant of $250—$500.

See “Grants” at www.nava.org for more details.

NAVA Shop on Zazzle

Visit NAVA’s store: www.zazzle.com/navaflag*

NAVA’s on-line store offers an expanding product line of NAVA-branded products. Every sale benefits NAVA.

NAVA Shopkeeper Al Cavalari hopes you will be pleased with what you see! Please give him your feedback at shopkeeper@nava.org.

(*use the asterisk)

Gavin Patrick McGinnis, NAVA’s youngest member (since birth) models a NAVA flag T-shirt, courtesy of his grandfather Roy.

NAVA News wants your articles and other vexi-news from around North America

Nearly all of the content of NAVA News comprises contributions from NAVA members and others in the vexi-community.

We’re always looking for short articles, news about members’ vexillological activities, photos, pictures, and descriptions of new and interesting flags, etc. If you’d like to submit an item for publication, contact the editor, Peter Ansoff, at navanews@nava.org.

The publication schedule is:

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Don’t wait—get started now on that article you’ve been meaning to write!
CHUMLEY THE VEXI-GORILLA

Chumley the Vexi-Gorilla™ is the creation of Michael Faul, editor of Flagmaster, the distinguished journal of the Flag Institute in the United Kingdom. To a field not often blessed with humor’s grace, Mr. Faul brings a delightfully light touch, deep vexillological roots, and sparkling whimsy.

NAVA News is reprinting some vintage Chumley flags that previously appeared in black-and-white.

NAVA Classifieds


NAVA 43 Pins Available

Did you miss NAVA 43 in Charleston? You can still add its attractive pin to your collection. The 7/8”-wide pin pairs the flags of South Carolina and NAVA 43. Cost: $4 postpaid—order from the NAVA shopkeeper (www.nava.org).

MEMBER FLAG

A Double Miller’s Cross

A NAVA member since 2007, Blaine Miller’s flag has a white field with a blue canton and a green band along the bottom edge the width of a stripe on a tribar flag. In the canton is the charge—a Millersville Cross consisting of a red cross moline or “Miller’s Cross” covered by a slightly smaller white cross moline in saltire. In the center is a blue 5-pointed star oriented to the top.

The green derives from the coat of arms of the O’Hanlon family from Ireland. The blue canton refers to the United States. The white fly represents the hope of the future.

The charge represents the settlement and town of Millersville, Missouri, founded in 1803, and settled by the family of John Miller, born in 1765. The red cross moline refers to the original Spanish land grant, the white cross moline in saltire is a symbolic “X” to mark the town of Millersville, and the blue star is for the vision of those pioneers who came west.

Flag of Blaine Miller, Jackson, Missouri

Members are encouraged to send in their personal flag designs for inclusion in the NAVA Member Flag Registry. Send your photos, drawings, and descriptions to navanews@nava.org or mail to: Member Flag Registry, 1977 N. Olden Ave. Ext., PMB 225, Trenton, NJ 08618-2193 USA.
Join your fellow members in Los Angeles, California, 8-10 October 2010 for the 44th annual meeting of the North American Vexillological Association. We plan an exciting flag-filled program in sunny Southern California.

REGISTRATION
A registration form is enclosed with this NAVA News, and is available on the NAVA website: www.nava.org.
Regular registration is only $180.

Watch these Deadlines:
Papers/Displays, concept—30 June 2010
Regular registration—31 August 2010
Papers/Displays, final—31 August 2010
Hotel reservation—23 September 2010

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS
Hear more Vexi-Bits than ever, enjoy a banquet, several interesting presentations, and the camaraderie of fellow NAVAns. On Saturday, NAVA 44 will travel by bus to the Autry National Center in Griffith Park. A prize of the collections is the “Fremont Flag”, the banner made for explorer John C. Fremont by his wife in 1841.

HOTEL: Hilton Garden Inn—Arcadia/Pasadena
NAVA 44’s host hotel, Hilton Garden Inn—Arcadia/Pasadena, is located near the Rose Bowl and Santa Anita Mall. The nearest airports are Burbank and Ontario. A block of rooms has been reserved through 23 Sept. 2010 for the nights of 6-11 October. The rate is $99/night plus tax—and includes complimentary breakfasts, parking, and Internet. Other nights before/after the meeting are at the same rate while available. Make sure to reserve before 23 September 2010—space at the hotel cannot be guaranteed. Call (626) 321-4478 / (877) 782-9444 now, and mention “NAVA”.

SUBMITTING PAPERS & DISPLAYS
If you wish to present a paper or set up a display at NAVA 44, please mail the following information to 1st VP Gus Tracchia by 30 June 2010: 1) Your name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address if available; 2) Title of your paper, presentation, symposium, workshop, or display; 3) Abstract of your paper, presentation, symposium, workshop, or display; 4) Type and size of display area and/or equipment needed, including tables, electrical requirements, audio/visual equipment, etc.; 5) Notice if you decline to have your paper considered for the Captain William Driver Award. Please send a complete copy of the paper (in publishable form in both hard-copy and electronic file in MS-Word with high-resolution image files) by 31 August 2010 or it will be deleted from the program. SEND TO: Gus Tracchia, 82-67 Austin St. #205, Kew Gardens, NY 11415 (718) 847-2616 e-mail: vp1st@nava.org