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TRIBUTE TO
THE UNITED STATES FLAG

FLAG OF MY COUNTRY ... Over one hundred and fifty years ago you ushered in a system of Government based on the dignity of the individual's soul and dedicated to the principle that all men are created equal and have inalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Throughout all these years, you have been the symbol of freedom locked in men's souls that comes from the knowledge that no autocrat will engulf them ... no dictator will regiment them nor no tyrant will grind them down ... the rains have descended upon you and the floods have come and gone ... the winds have blown and swept against thy house and you fell not, for you were built upon a rock.

Today, hoisted for all the eyes to see ... you blazon forth over the mightiest nation in history ... the same message you did when you first saw the light of day at Philadelphia. That message ... man hope - liberty and opportunity - prince and potentate know it ... serf and servant understand it alike.

Watered by individual liberty, nurtured by a strong faith in God, revived by American initiative, free men and their children have brought forth more human happiness and economic prosperity than all the centuries of experimentation before.

The history of America is not written on a scrap of paper ... it is written in deeds, not words ... deeds that are engraved in the memories of its countrymen and carved across a continent of three thousand miles for all the world to see. From Maine to sunny Mexico, one Flag flies dominant, proud, unafraid, and never having tasted the bitter pill of defeat; it flies from the greatest citadels, the highest pinnacles, and from the mast of the argosies that traverse the seven seas. It flies in quiet benediction at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the popped fields of Flanders.

OLD GLORY, you are the fulfillment of everything dreamed of and of things not even yet hoped for. Could it not be that the red and white of your glorious banner are not symbols of the crimson footsteps left on the frozen snows of Valley Forge by Washington's men ... and are not these memories to be cherished by generations yet unborn ... add to these immortal laurels ... leaves now well known around the globe ... of Chateau Thierry with its grizzled marine sargeant and his "come on you sons-of-guns, do you want to live forever" or the soldier at Belleau Woods who barked in the face of whistling death that "they would be in Heaven, Hell or Hoboken by Christmas" ... the great victories at Korea ... Leyte, Guadalcanal and the blasting of a trail of mortar to the heart of Berlin and the placing of OLD GLORY in the granites of blood-washed Iwo Jima ... these are the heritages of the American Flag. They are your heritages and mine, and upon these America was founded.

FLAG OF MY COUNTRY ... for these great traditions, for those who so gallantly fought and died for you, may we as Americans always and forever doff our hats when you go by in review and may there be just one thought pungently within our hearts and souls ... OLD GLORY ... and please GOD, may she long wave over the land of the free and the home of the brave.

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Judge Halbert gave this fine pledge before a national organization in grand session recently and has subsequently given it before many fraternal and patriotic groups and has answered requests for many hundreds from manufacturers and patriotic groups over the nation.