

The Grand Old Flag [

Greetings on this special day, Patriots! This is Perry Greene, your host of GodNAmerica podcasts. Today's devotional thought is "The Grand Old Flag."

When I was young I had some real patriots as teachers. That wasn't unusual then and I appreciate their God-based love for America. One year my elementary school class learned the lyrics to many patriotic songs. One of these was, "You're a Grand Old Flag."

Maybe you remember the lyrics – Maybe you saw James Cagney sing it in the movie, "Yankee Doodle Dandy." He said it was his favorite movie of the sixty or so he starred in. It was made at the beginning of WWII and was filled with flag-waving patriotism. Here are lyrics:

You're a grand old flag
You're a high flying flag
And forever in peace may you wave
You're the emblem of
The land I love
The home of the free and the brave
Every heart beats true
'Neath the red white and blue
Where there's never a boast or brag
Should old acquaintance be forgot
Keep your eye on the grand old flag

Today is "Flag Day." According to Bill Federer's book, American Minute, June 14, 1777 was the day that the Continental Congress selected our flag of thirteen stars and thirteen strips. In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson signed the proclamation making June 14, "Flag Day." President Eisenhower officially added the words, "One Nation Under God" to the pledge of allegiance to the flag on "Flag Day," June 14, 1954. He stated that it reaffirmed the transcendence faith in America's heritage.

In other words, the flag is about GodNAmerica! When we delve into the history of America we can see the flag as a symbol of the nation. Each star represents each state in our Union. Each stripe represents the original thirteen colonies. As states were added Congress at first intended to add a stripe along with a star. The flag for the war of 1812 had fifteen stars and stripes. That proved too cumbersome so the original thirteen stripes were retained and stars were added to represent the states.

But, the flag is more than a representation of the country. It is a reminder of the heritage of the nation. Those early colonies were established on biblical principles of the "Laws of Nature and Nature's God." He is the Giver of our unalienable rights of life, liberty, and property. In 1787 as Congress was fighting over the establishment of the Constitution, Benjamin Franklin offered a solution to the problem, based on God. He stated:

"We have been assured, Sir, in the Sacred Writings, that "except the Lord build the House, they labor in vain that build it." I firmly believe this; and I also believe that without his concurring aid we shall succeed in this political building no better than the Builders of Babel . . ." He went on to call for a

time of prayer in regard to the work at hand. Soon, almost miraculously, the Constitution was written and affirmed.

So, honor the flag in a special way today. As God-fearing Patriots, let's honor it every day by remembering our history and heritage. We truly were established as "one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Psalm 33:12 (ESV)

**Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD,
the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!**

Wave the flag today as a way to tell His story in our History and to keep the light burning!