

250th Anniversary of the “Stars and Stripes” Flag June 14, 1777

The origins of the Stars and Stripes have become part of American folklore. It is widely believed that Betsy Ross made the first American flag. However, various towns in colonial America have claimed to be the birthplace of the Stars and Stripes.

We know that on June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress adopted the Stars and Stripes as the official flag for the United States of America.

Previously, each colony had their own flag, which they flew on colonial vessels. England considered these armed vessels pirate ships and hanged their crews when they were captured.

The American flag was designed to represent the new union of the thirteen original states: it would have thirteen stripes, alternate red and white, and thirteen stars, white on a blue field.

One of the first flags had the stars arranged in a circle, based on the idea that all colonies were equal. The thirteen stripes, resting side by side, represented the struggle for independence; red stood for valor, white signified purity and blue represented loyalty.

In 1818, after a few design changes, the United States Congress decided to retain the flag's original thirteen stripes and add new stars to reflect each new state that entered the union.

Source: National Flag Foundation website; <https://nationalflagfoundation.org>



**Iowa Society Daughters of the American Revolution
State Commemorative Events**

2025