ON THE PRESENTATION OF AN
AMERICAN FLAG

Worthy Matron: Tonight we pause to pay tribute to the flag of our country. We will unite in singing "America."

(As the rest of the chapter are seated, the Star Points and the Conductress remain standing and speak in turn.)

Adah:
In the blue of our flag, truth doth dwell,
And this wondrous lesson doth tell:
If we would succeed, we must be true,
And Jove for our nation we must renew.

Ruth:
A golden radiance 'round it clings,
And to American ears, it sings
Of bounteous harvest, of fruitful yield,
Of rolling prairies and golden fields.

Esther:
May purity white from our flag today
Gleam ever along America's way.
In thought and deed, we must be sure
To keep our motives ever pure.

Martha:
On history's pages, mellow and old,
American hero tales are told.
Old Glory admonishes here today
That we must keep green their names for aye.

Electa:
The red of bravery, you do hold
Securely wrapped within your folds.
Our very best, we gladly give
That our country's honor long may live.

Conductress:
The first official flag of the United States was adopted by the Continental Congress on June 14, 1777, at Philadelphia. This was the famous Betsy Ross flag and was first used at the Battle of Brandywine. This battle was lost by the Americans and the flag was truly bathed in blood.

After the Revolutionary War there were thirteen states in the United States, each state being represented in the flag by both a star and a stripe. But, as more states were added, it became awkward to give, each state a star and stripe, so in 1812 it was decided by Congress that there should only be thirteen stripes representing the thirteen original colonies, but that each state should be represented by a star.

In the War with Mexico in 1845, there were 29 stars in our field of blue; in the Civil War there were 35 stars; in the Spanish-American War there were 45 stars, and in the World War there were 48. So, America has grown to be a mighty nation of many sovereign states.
(The flag is carried to the East, and the presentation speech made by the one who carried it.)

Presentation Speech

Flags have meant many things to many people but just what does the American flag mean to the American people? It stands first of all for unity. Today we are united together in a mighty brotherhood—a brotherhood of peace and communal cooperation.

Our flag symbolizes a people encircled by a golden chain of fellowship reaching from Alaska to the Canal Zone, from our Atlantic Seaboard to our insular possessions in the Pacific—a perfect union of many sovereign states all laboring for the welfare of a mighty and peace-loving people.

Our flag stands for the people of America—those of the past, present and future. It stands for the bold pioneer spirit of the American people—a spirit which has never before been emulated in the history of the world. This spirit made our land the home of freedom and a place where a man may still safely call his soul his own.

Our flag has flown over many battlefields and has received its baptism of blood but our flag is a flag of peace—just as the American nation is a mighty bulwark in the cause of peace. So, in the name of peace, we may rightly pray,

"Guard, O God, our flag forever,
May dishonor stain it never,
To a grander future speed it,
in the paths of peace still lead it."

And now, in the name of ............... I present this flag.

(The members join in singing "The Star-Spangled Banner" while the flag is placed in its holder. The Worthy Matron accepts the flag for the chapter and reads the poem, "Your Flag and My Flag," and all join in the salute to the flag.)

—Adapted from The Texas Star.