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FLAG TRIBUTE

The Star Spangled Banner is not the flag of a royal family or dynasty. It is the symbol of a people ---a great people --- the American people.

As a nation is more than land and water, more than farms and factories, yes, more than peace and war -- more than business and politics -- so the flag is more than colored bits of thread woven into a symmetrical pattern.

The Flag is our remembrance of the past; our hope <sup>for</sup> ~~of~~ the future. It is the inspiration of our youth; the strength of maturity; the comfort of old age.

It is our effort to improve national conditions; our source of renewed strenght in time of emergency; our united spirit when danger threatens.

The Flag is our choicest heritage from our forefathers; the unsullied treasure we must pass on to our children.

You, who feel the tingling thrill when you see the fluttering folds of Old Glory, borne by a color guard in a parade, or advanced to its place of honor within our Chapter rooms, are part and parcel of the same stuff of which our national heroes are made.

It is the hope of the down-trodden; the goal of the oppressed.

The Flag is our national symbol of freedom of a free press -- of the right to think and express our thoughts without restriction -- It is the guarantee of religious freedom -- of the right of free assembly such as we enjoy today -- of a free vote.

Our Flag is a song of Thanksgiving -- a song of praise, and it reflects the Glory of God and the rights of man. Let eachone of us pledge our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor in support of our Flag and our Nation. Only such complete faith in America can provide the moral courage which will be necessary to carry our Flag to its rendezvous with destiny.

And, Sisters and Brothers, may our most wise Master above ever have reason to bless this Flag and all that it signifies and symbolizes, and may you and I become better citizens in this great land of free people.

By Hunter Picken, PGP of <sup>N.</sup> Dakota  
Dickinson