



The Vexilloid Tabloid

Portland Flag Association

“Free, and Worth Every Penny!”

Issue 83 August 2020

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If Mississippi is going to be a state that unifies all of its citizens, we must take a stand to eliminate this bitter hatred and get rid of this flag.

—Robert James, president, NAACP Mississippi State Conference

Mississippi's Flag Comes Down

An event that seemed inevitable yet impossible: in late June the 1894 state flag of Mississippi bearing the Confederate Battle Flag was lowered into history.

As discussed twice in this space (“Mississippi Furling”—VT #72, VT #57), the state’s flag has faced pressure since the 1980s, increasing since the 2015 Charleston shootings. The nationwide Black Lives Matter protests which erupted this May, however, formed the tipping point against all public display of the Confederate Battle Flag, which by extension included Mississippi’s state flag.

Spurred by NASCAR, then student athletes, then sports organizations (the Southeastern Conference and NCAA), in just the month of June public sentiment turned against the flag. Finally God and Mammon (the Baptists and Walmart) joined in opposition.

Polling showed the reversal—last year 54% of Mississippians wanted to keep the flag; this year 55% wanted change. Importantly, 72% of likely voters favored a new flag if it said “In God We Trust”.



Mississippi (1894–2020).

The Mississippi legislature acted quickly, balancing conflicting positions. With only one vote to spare the Senate approved legislation that lowered the current flag in June, established a commission to choose a new design in September, and scheduled a public referendum in November to adopt that design.

Not surprisingly (they are successful politicians for a reason), the law requires that the new flag contain the words “In God We Trust”. The state’s messaging about design principles for the new flag repeats those from “Good” Flag, “Bad” Flag, but omits the fourth principle—“No Lettering or Seals”.

Understanding that flag design must reflect political constraints, we wish Mississippi the best as it seeks a new flag.

If you wish to compliment the editor, or to contribute in the future, contact Ted Kaye at 503-223-4660 or editor@portlandflag.org. If you wish to complain, call your mother.

July 2020 Flutterings You Need to Know

In our July meeting, held on the Zoom virtual platform because of the COVID-19 shutdown, 10 PFA members (and some family participants) enjoyed three hours of flags and video conversation.

Ted Kaye hosted, since the meeting had been originally planned for his home.

Michael Orelove mentioned the early-July flag-flying days in Canada and the U.S. and described the Flag Day presentation he and Ken Dale made at the Bateman Carroll Funeral Home in Gresham. He then showed his hat collection.



Michael Orelove *arrs* like a pirate in his tricorn hat.



Hayden Bray explains the symbols on his new pirate flag.



Matt Bray unfurls a large flag of Tonga, acquired in a visit there.



Scott Mainwaring gives highlights from his “American Thin Blue Line” talk, the Driver Award winner at NAVA 54 the previous month.



Matt Bray gave a short talk on the history of the Tongan flag, noting that the country’s constitutions forbids changes to it. His sons, Hayden and Parker, showed a pirate flag they’d created earlier that day in homeschool activities.



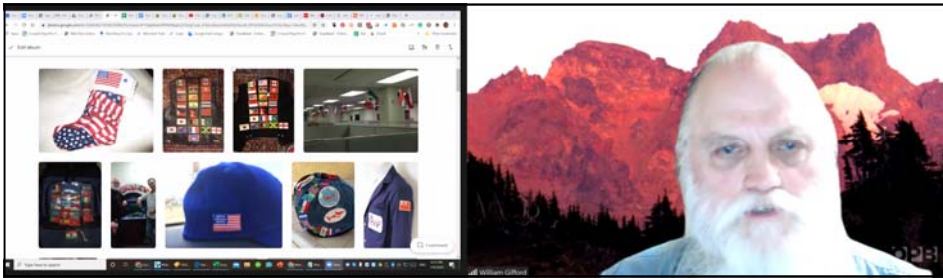
Matt Bray describes the seal of the Kingdom of Tonga.

Scott Mainwaring offered a summary of his presentation on the American Thin Blue Line Flag, which won the Driver Award at the recent virtual NAVA 54 meeting. It introduced the concept of a flag as a “meme”, an “idea, behavior, or usage that spreads from person to person within a culture”.

Ken Dale described how he is reconditioning the grave flags from Lincoln Memorial Cemetery on Mt. Scott, cleaning and ironing 4,000 flags that decorate the graves of veterans (see p. 5).



The participants in the meeting enjoy the company of like-minded vexos.



William Gifford describes the many ways customers use flag patches.



Max Liberman enumerates flags bearing the word "God".

William Gifford shared images sent by customers showing the myriad ways his company's patches are used (see pp. 6–7).

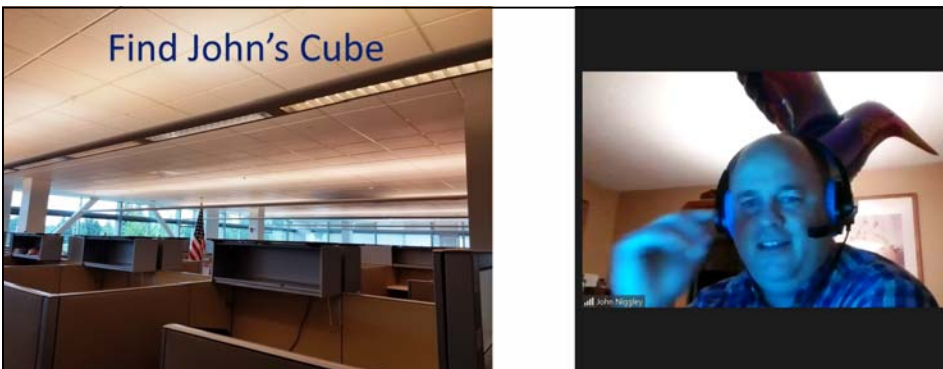
Joyce Gifford reflected on the recent lowering of the Mississippi state flag, and wondered about potentially challenging images on other state flags.



Joyce Gifford comments on the lowering of the Mississippi state flag.

Max Liberman, flying an Australian flag in honor of Constitution Day, responded to the Mississippi law's requirement that the new flag bear "In God We Trust". He reported on flags with "God" on them, listing countries (Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, El Salvador, and Dominican Republic) and U.S. states (Georgia, South Dakota, Florida).

John Niggley, backed by a gigantic hummingbird, described how he has moved into an empty office suite and marked the location of his cubicle with a U.S. flag.



John Niggley bemoans his socially-distanced work environment.

Continued on next page



John Niggley never misses a chance to dress up—note the national flags as part of his Pride Month display.

John Niggley then recounted his Father's Day jaunt to Elmer's Flag & Banner and the flags his family had funded. He showed a flag of Greenland he'd sewn from a Polish flag, and described his role in his company's Pride Month festivities.



David Koski explains a flag designed to “read” as horizontal stripes when hanging limp from a pole.

David Koski pondered what a flag would look like if designed to look correct when hanging limp, showing one such design. He shared some of his artwork featuring flags.

Ted Kaye reported on the success of NAVA 54, attended by many PFA members, then announced the finalists in the Salt Lake City flag competition, which he had coached as a member of the committee. He shared some Latin American flags bought in the countries they represent.



With luck, our next meeting will be hosted by Joyce and William Gifford on 10 September at the Oregon City Library. Otherwise, we will again meet virtually!



Ted Kaye shows reverse of a flag of Paraguay, bought in Asunción in 1982 when traveling in the “Southern Cone” of South America while living in Chile.



Michael Orelove's salt-shaker effigy celebrates July holidays.

Tending Veterans' Grave Flags at Lincoln Memorial Cemetery



U.S. flags mark the graves of veterans at Lincoln Memorial Cemetery.

Ken Dale, a self-described “Cold War Veteran” who served in the Strategic Air Command at the time of the Vietnam War, honors those who served in several ways. He attends memorial services for veterans who die without known family members, he joins a monthly group of veterans who meet in Milwaukie, and he participates in the annual Flag Day ceremony at Bateman-Carroll Funeral Home.

This year, however, he has taken on a herculean task—reconditioning all 4,000 flags that decorate the graves of veterans at Lincoln



Some of the 4,000 flags that have been cleaned and ironed.



Ken Dale places flags for Memorial Day, 2020.

Memorial Cemetery on Mt. Scott. Many of them have suffered from the weather and need attention.

The cemetery stands across the road from Willamette National Cemetery; veterans could be buried there prior to Willamette’s opening in 1951. For Memorial Day this year, Ken participated in placing

flags at each grave, including those of Spanish-American War veterans.

Noticing that many grave flags were quite faded, he volunteered to go through them, cull the worn ones, and rehabilitate the rest.

Now that the holiday has passed, with the permission of the cemetery staff he has collected every flag and begun the process of cleaning and ironing them. He uses the ironing board his mother acquired before he was born. He swaps out flag staffs when possible.

Those flags Ken cannot salvage he will help the staff replace; he will solicit a quote from Elmer’s Flag & Banner. He has volunteered to dispose of the old flags, perhaps at a PFA meeting “in the distant future”.

At many events, Ken has been known to recite the Gettysburg Address from memory. In his work with the veterans’ grave flags, he is assuring that “...we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain.”



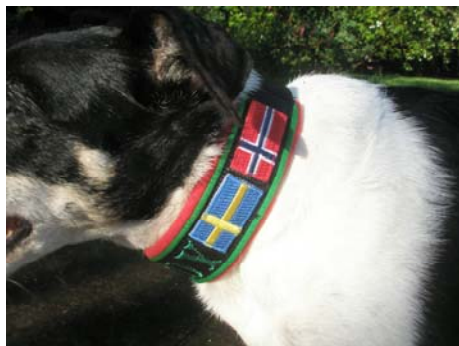
Mom’s ironing board serves Ken well in his flag rehabilitation work.

Flag Patches Find Many Uses

smALLFLAGs.com, the longtime business run by PFA members Joyce and William Gifford, specializes in small flag patches. Over the years, their customers have shared images of the many ways those patches have been put to use.

From backpacks to coats, from hats to shoes, from yoga mats to stuffed animals, from guitar straps to dog collars, from shoulders to pants pockets—the colorful displays typically mark achievement in travel. A semester at sea, an international deployment, a backpacking adventure, all can use flag patches as travel trophies.





Flags at the End of the Alaska Highway

By Michael Orelove

While my son Jonathon was staying home during the coronavirus pandemic, he was looking at some old photos and found one with flags which he sent to me.

In 1973 we were living in Juneau, Alaska, and took a trip on the Alaska Highway.

The original “End of the Alaska Highway” is in the small town of Delta Junction, at Milepost 1422 (as measured from Milepost 0, in Dawson Creek, B.C.).

When the Alaska Highway was built in 1942, this is the point where the new construction was physically linked to the existing Alaska road system.

Since very few people actually end their Alaska Highway adventure at this isolated road junction, there’s a second monument at Milepost 1523, in downtown Fairbanks.

Jonathon is taller now.



Jonathon and Michael Orelove find flags in Delta Junction, Alaska, in 1973.

Lima ≠ Quarantine

From reader Rob Murray

VT #81’s article on ‘quarantine flags’ contained errors on the use of the *Lima* and *Quebec* flags. The word ‘quarantine’ does not appear in the current or two prior versions of the *International Code of Signals*.

Today, the flag *Lima* cannot be expected to be understood as anything but ‘you should stop instantly’, as mariners or shore stations ‘looking it up’ would only find that meaning. Vessels of uncertain health status use either:



1. *Quebec* ‘My vessel is “healthy” and I request free pratique’ or

2. *Quebec Quebec* / Quebec repeater ‘I require health clearance’

Probably the second is the most accurate for a vessel in quarantine, but either would do.

Many web posts now accepted as ‘authoritative’ are based on an erroneous (but since corrected) Wikipedia entry. Authors read the page (but not the footnote) and the error propagated around the world at Internet speed.

Even in the 1916 & 1931 editions (earlyradiohistory.us/1916sig.htm), the *Lima* flag did not signify ‘quarantine’, but rather ‘I have or had some dangerous, infectious disease on board’ not ‘I am in quarantine’.

The *International Code of Signals* (USA version) can be found here: msi.nga.mil/Publications/ICOS.

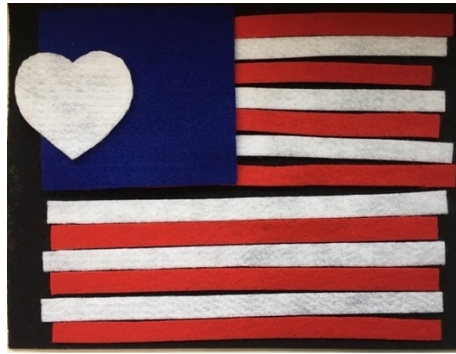
Flags for Kathleen

By Michael Orelove

While we are all spending lots of time at home, I wrote to Kathleen's family and asked everyone to make a flag for her.

Kathleen's children and grandchildren all made flags. I sent everyone red, white, and blue felt and said there were no rules—*Good Flag, Bad Flag* did not apply.

The flag could look like a flag with stripes and stars or maybe would just be the essence of a flag (whatever that means). The idea was to be creative and have fun. They did!



Roundup

By Theun Okkerse

A recurring phenomenon in the Netherlands has emerged again this year: the national flag topped by a school bag.

A widely practiced tradition is for families to put out the national flag with their kids' school bag above it after they have successfully passed their school exams.

At many houses in the country the flag with school bags can be seen: Proud parents, relieved students!

Hoisting the school bag is similar to the Dutch tradition of adding an orange pennant to the flag.

When a member of the Royal House (House of Orange) has a birthday an orange pennant is flown above the flag. This occurs only on land, never at sea.



Celebrating successful exams in Dordrecht, The Netherlands, in June.



A wooden flag honors the Seattle Seahawks football team with 13 stripes in team colors of blue and green and in the canton the famous #12 (representing the fan as the 12th member of the team). It's for sale at George Kenny's Chainsaw Carving in Allyn, Washington.

By Michael Orelove

Juneau, Alaska, displays all the state flags, on top of the light poles, along a one-mile length of highway in the downtown area. The flags are 4 x 6 feet.

Many Juneauites have come from other places and seeing the flag from their home state flying downtown often brings fond memories of their former home. Tourists have also commented that they enjoy seeing their state flag flying over Alaska's capital city.

A group of volunteers puts up the flags each spring and take them down each fall. I was one of those volunteers for about 10 years when I lived in Juneau.

Due to the rainy weather and salt water environment the flags have to be replaced every year. Over the years I was able to collect my own set of the old flags for all the states. I use the flags at some of my flag presentations.

The Juneau convention center is located at about the mid-point of the flag display. Two flagpoles in



Michael Orelove and Mississippi.

front of the convention center fly the U.S. and Alaska flags. From certain vantage points some of the state flags appear to be flying over the U.S. flag. It just happened that the Mississippi flag was one of the flags that appeared to fly above the American flag.

In 2006, at the time I was moving from Juneau to Oregon, I decided to switch the Mississippi and Oregon flags in the display so that Oregon's flag would appear to fly over the others!

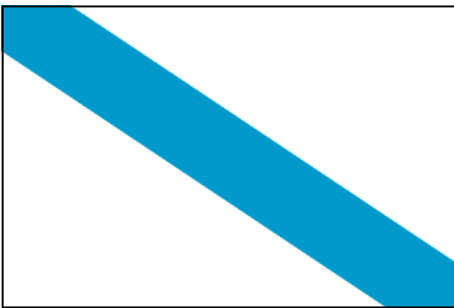
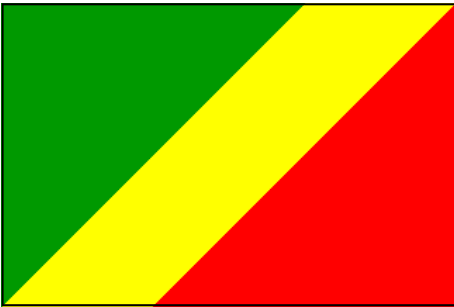
I like the fact that all my state flags flew in Juneau so I will wait a few years to replace my current Mississippi flag with an old new one from the Juneau collection.

What's that Flag?

By David Ferriday

Name these flags with an obvious theme connecting them.

Answers in the next issue...



What Was that Flag? Answers to the last quiz

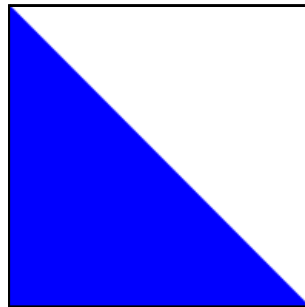
By John Cartledge

These flags represent the cities hosting the first seven international congresses of vexillology, in order.

Congrats to solvers Mike Thomas, Tony Burton, and Bill Neckrock.



Muiderberg, Netherlands



Zurich, Switzerland



Boston, Massachusetts, USA



Turin, Italy



London, England



Flevoland, Netherlands



Washington, D.C., USA



Portland Flag Miscellany



Portland's mayor, Ted Wheeler, makes a statement about recent protests from a podium flanked by the U.S. and Portland flags. He is running for re-election in November.



During Portland's Rose Festival in early June (mostly suspended because of the pandemic) many people created lawn displays—this one uses Portland's flag, saying "It's Raining Roses".

Oregon's announcements about COVID-19 pandemic precautions have the beaver from the reverse of the state flag "mask up".

September Meeting

The next meeting of the Portland Flag Association (COVID-19 allowing), will be hosted by Joyce and William Gifford at 7 PM, Thursday, 10 September 2020, at the Oregon City Public Library, 606 John Adams St., Oregon City.

See the map at right.

We look forward to seeing those of you who have missed recent meetings and engaging in provocative flag-related discussion.

If you can't get to the meeting, perhaps you can give the editor something to share with readers.



The *Vexilloid Tabloid*, founded in 1999 by the late John Hood, is published bi-monthly by and for the Portland Flag Association—Portland, Oregon, U.S.A. Find back issues at www.portlandflag.org.