

<u>Flag</u>	<u>Stars</u>	<u>Dates in Use</u>	<u>State</u>
1	13	1777-1795	Delaware Pennsylvania New Jersey Georgia Connecticut Massachusetts Maryland South Carolina New Hampshire Virginia New York North Carolina Rhode Island
2	15	1795-1818	Vermont Kentucky
3	20	July 4, 1818	Tennessee Ohio Louisiana Indiana Mississippi
4	21	July 4, 1819	Illinois
5	23	July 4, 1820	Alabama Maine
6	24	July 4, 1822	Missouri
7	25	July 4, 1836	Arkansas
8	26	July 4, 1837	Michigan
9	27	July 4, 1845	Florida
10	28	July 4, 1846	Texas

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11	29	July 4, 1847	Iowa
12	30	July 4, 1848	Wisconsin
13	31	July 4, 1851	California
14	32	July 4, 1858	Minnesota
15	33	July 4, 1859	Oregon
16	34	July 4, 1861	Kansas
17	35	July 4, 1863	West Virginia
18	36	July 4, 1865	Nevada
19	37	July 4, 1867	Nebraska
20	38	July 4, 1877	Colorado
21	43	July 4, 1890	North Dakota South Dakota Montana Washington Idaho
22	44	July 4, 1891	Wyoming
23	45	July 4, 1896	Utah
24	46	July 4, 1908	Oklahoma
25	48	July 4, 1912	New Mexico Arizona
26	49	July 4, 1959	Alaska
27	50	July 4, 1960	Hawaii



A Chronology of The 27 American Flags



The 27-Flag Marching Unit
Dewey Lowman Post 109

The 27-Flag Marching Unit Dewey Lowman American Legion Post

The first flag of the United States had 13 stars and 13 stripes representing the original 13 states. It was placed into use in 1777 and lasted for 18 years.

When Kentucky and Vermont entered the union, a new flag was designed in 1795 with 15 stars and 15 stripes. Over the years, the flag has changed 26 times as new states joined the union. After July 4, 1818, only 13 stripes would be shown.

The current fifty-star flag was flown on July 4, 1960 almost a year after Hawaii joined the union on August 29, 1959. It became the custom after 1818 to place a new flag into use on the fourth of July.

The Dewey Lowman American Legion Post owns a copy of each of the 27 flags that have flown over the United States of America. This post has the only 27-flag marching unit in the nation. Each member of the unit wears a distinctive uniform blue coat, American Legion cap and tie, navy blue trousers, white gloves and black shoes.

The Dewey Lowman 27-flag unit serves two purposes. The first is to march in patriotic and community functions. The second is to educate the public, particularly the young, in regards to the history of the American flag and the pride of the American serviceman and woman in honoring that flag.

27-Flag Parade Activities

The Dewey Lowman American Legion Post has participated in numerous parades and won many awards for the best marching unit. This is in spite of the fact that many of the marchers served in World War II, Korea and Viet Nam. The legs may have gone and the weight may have increased, but the desire is still evident.

After the 27-flag unit was formed in 1975, it marched in every conceivable type of parade:

- President Clinton's Inaugural Parade
- President Carter's Inaugural Parade
- Cherry Blossom Festival Parades
- Pope John Paul II Baltimore Parade
- American Legion National Parades
- Arlington National Cemetery Armistice Day Ceremonies
- Memorial Day Parades
- July 4th Parades
- Preakness Parades
- St. Patrick's Day Parades
- Other patriotic, community and American Legion functions



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27-Flag Educational Activities

Ever since its formation, the 27-flag unit has displayed and explained the meaning of the historical flags to grammar, middle, and high school students. The music and poems read while reviewing each state's admittance and affect on the design of the flag serves a distinct civic and patriotic function.

Senior Centers and other community entities and clubs also benefit greatly from this exposure to our country's past and present. The unit has reported often how tears have flowed in senior centers as those from our "greatest generation" recalled loved ones who gave their lives defending the flag being displayed and the words of honor given it by members of the 27-flag unit.

Pledge of Allegiance

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Contact for Information

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