

We the People
are domestic Tranquility, and
our Posterity, do ordain and establish
All legislative Powers
The House of Representatives
shall have the
shall be
shall be

THE REAL AMERICAN FLAG



The Real American Flag

Any American who supports peace and rejects the idea of endless war has the right to fly the American Peace Flag. It is our public statement that we want peace, not perpetual conflict, and it is badly needed today.

Even if someone hasn't recorded their political status or belongs to a different patriot group, they can still fly the Peace Flag. The only risk is to them—not to anyone else—because flying a Peace Flag means you cannot act with hostility toward the Territorial or Municipal governments. You cannot claim neutrality while engaging in acts of war. A Peace Flag must actually mean peace.

For that reason, if you choose to fly it, you should also declare and publish your political status. That makes your standing clear to the rest of the world and removes any excuses for the ongoing mercenary conflict. Once we stand together and claim peace, peace follows—because the land and soil are ours when we stand on them knowingly.

The truth is that our own military has been occupying the country, treating us as dependents, and running war-for-profit schemes while forcing us to use military scrip as “money.” When we formally declare peace, that entire arrangement ends. Fly the Peace Flag. But also educate others. Share the history,

share the Public Law, and help others understand what it means. That's how peace takes hold.

The first U.S. civil flag, used to show civilian, not military authority, was designed in 1799 by Oliver Wolcott Jr., Secretary of the Treasury under President John Adams. Wolcott created an ensign with sixteen vertical red and white stripes (one for each state at the time) and a Union in the upper-left corner displaying the eagle Arms of the United States on a white field.

The vertical stripes were intentional. Wolcott wanted foreign ships to immediately recognize non-military American vessels so they wouldn't be mistaken for military ships or fired upon. These flags were flown on Revenue Cutters, the early Coast Guard, whose job was to collect tariffs and enforce trade laws. The vertical stripes signaled civil authority under the Treasury Department—not military authority under the War Department.

The First U.S. Civil Flag – 1799

In the early days of the nation, a simple rule was understood:

- Horizontal stripes = military posts
- Vertical stripes = civilian use

Over time, this Civil Flag was also used by merchants and everyday Americans as a symbol of their constitutional rights. The Civil Flag featured vertical red and white stripes with blue stars on a white field. Under the traditional “Law of the Flag,” vertical stripes represented Roman civil jurisdiction in federal

territories rather than military jurisdiction under admiralty law. This practice became official in 1874 when Treasury Secretary William A. Richardson ordered all customhouses to display the Civil Flag.

Where Did Wolcott Get the Idea for Vertical Stripes?

In order to answer that, we go back to the beginning of the American Revolution. In Boston, the Sons of Liberty ignited the first sparks of rebellion in 1765 after Parliament passed the Stamp Act, taxing nearly all legal documents in the colonies. Bostoners responded fiercely—burning an effigy of stamp agent Andrew Oliver, destroying his home, and tearing down the stamps. The tree where they hung his effigy became the famous Liberty Tree.

The Stamp Act outrage led to the Stamp Act Congress, where nine colonies declared that Americans held the same natural rights as British subjects and could not be taxed without their own legislatures' consent. They also condemned the expansion of Admiralty Courts, which bypassed juries and threatened colonial liberties.

To symbolize resistance, the Sons of Liberty raised their own flag. This early “common law” banner—known as the Rebellious Stripes Flag—featured nine vertical red and white stripes. This was one of the first flags of the American resistance movement.

Why Vertical Stripes?

Many believe the vertical stripes were a direct rejection of the British East India Company (BEIC) flag, which had horizontal red and white stripes with the Union Jack in the corner.

Ironically, the first official American flag of the Revolution—the Grand Union Flag, raised by George Washington on January 2, 1776—was almost identical to the BEIC flag.

This odd overlap has long raised questions. Historical accounts say a mysterious European adviser known only as “the Professor” suggested the BEIC design to Benjamin Franklin. Some claim this individual was actually Jesuit General Lorenzo Ricci, supposedly dead in a Vatican prison at the time. The story goes deeper—Ricci’s close friend Cardinal Braschi (later Pope Pius VI) oversaw Vatican finances during the early Revolution, raising speculation that the Vatican bank may have secretly funded America’s independence. If true, it would explain why the new U.S. government was later seated on land with strong Roman-Catholic ties and why Roman civil law became embedded in U.S. federal territories.

Grand Union Flag – 1776 to 1777

Though not a true sovereign flag, the early civil flag carried symbolic weight. A solvent federal government flying a Civil Flag implied solvent states and the people’s sovereignty. When revisiting this forgotten symbol, many modern Americans saw it

as a reminder of a time before federal overreach, surveillance, and “Big Brother” policies.

Inspired by the Sons of Liberty and their vertical stripes, a modern version of the civil flag emerged. The idea was simple. Just as they turned the BEIC flag on its side, Old Glory was turned on its side.

The U.S. Sovereign Flag – 2004

This updated flag features 13 vertical red and white stripes, and 50 blue stars on a white field—one for each sovereign state of the Union.

Why This Civil Flag Matters

Our civilian flag is more than a design choice. It’s a reminder, to ourselves and to our leaders, that every American is sovereign, and that we are endowed by our Creator with the natural rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. This Civil Flag symbolizes our commitment to restoring America to the principles and dreams on which she was founded.