

THE DENTON COUNTY VETERAN

DEDICATED TO INFORMING THE VETERANS OF DENTON COUNTY OF ISSUES WHICH CONCERN THEM

VOL. IV, NO. 6

DENTON, TEXAS

JUNE 2001

County Judge Scott Army, Commissioner Cynthia White Pct #1, Commissioner Sandy Jacobs Pct#2,
Commissioner Bobbie J Mitchell Pct#3, Commissioner Jim Carter Pct#4



June 14, 2001

**Flag Day is Celebrated June 14th
and
The Week in which June 14th Occurs
is National Flag Week**

The twenty-one days from Flag Day through Independence Day was declared by Congress as a period to honor America.

*US Code Title 36 Chapter 9

The composition by John Philip Sousa entitled "The Stars and Stripes Forever", and is designated as the national march of the United States of America.

US CODE TITLE 36 CHAPTER 10

The US flag should be displayed, from sunrise to sunset, on all days when the weather permits, except when an all weather flag is displayed. The flag may be displayed twenty-four hours a day if properly illuminated during the hours of darkness. The flag should be displayed especially on these days:

New Year's Day	Mother's Day	Columbus Day, October 12th
Inauguration Day	Armed Forces Day	Navy Day
Martin Luther King's Birthday	Memorial Day (half-staff until noon)	Veterans Day
Lincoln's Birthday	Flag Day	Thanksgiving Day
Washington's Birthday	Independence Day, July 4 th	Christmas Day
Easter Sunday	Labor Day	Election Days
Patriots Day, April 19	Constitution Day	

State and Local Holidays and such other days as may be proclaimed by the President of the United States.

The American flag has changed designs more than any other flag in the world. The first flag, called the Grand Union, was first flown at the headquarters of the Continental Army on January 1, 1776. Betsy Ross, a seamstress, is said to have contributed to this design. She had an upholstery business that made flags for navy ships in Pennsylvania. A legend still persists that she showed George Washington how to make a five-pointed star, and suggested thirteen stars in a circle for the first flag. Her descendants claimed that she offered the design. Actually, she and George Washington never met! George Washington did design the Grand Union, but an often-quoted remark attributed to him might not be true:

We take the stars from heaven, the red from our mother country, separate it by white in stripes, thus showing that we have separated from her...

On June 14, 1777, Congress proposed that the United States have a national flag instead of the British Union Jack. The thirteen stars of the flag represented the thirteen new states. There were few public ceremonies honoring the Stars and Stripes until 1877, when on, June 14, it was flown from every government building in honor of the centennial of the adoption of a national flag. Schools had unfurled American flags over their doors or outside the buildings long before this; but in 1890, North Dakota and New Jersey made a law that required their schools to fly the flag daily. The first official Flag Day was observed in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1893. New York also proclaimed June 14 as Flag Day. Other states were slow to follow. Some people thought that the day was too close to Memorial Day and Independence Day.

In August 1949, President Harry S. Truman proclaimed June 14 as Flag Day. Since then, the President proclaims the commemoration yearly, and encourages all Americans in the country to display the Stars and Stripes outside their homes and businesses. Individual states determine how they will observe the day. Usually the flag is flown from all public buildings, speeches are made in public places, and ceremonies take place in towns or cities.

During the War of 1812 between the British and Americans, lawyer Francis Scott Key was escorting a prisoner to freedom by ship when he saw an American flag surviving a battle in Baltimore Harbor. The flag inspired him to write the poem, which provides the words for the national anthem. The actual flag now hangs in the Museum of American History in Washington, D.C. Today the "Star-Spangled Banner" is sung at large public gatherings such as sports events. Many television stations play the anthem before the station closes down for the night.



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.

<http://www.usflag.org/>

Flag Trivia

1. Who cut the American flag into pieces and was honored for doing it?
2. Is it ever appropriate to fly the flag upside down?
3. What is done with worn or outdated flags?
4. Francis Scott Key wrote the words to "The Star-Spangled Banner" on the back of an envelope. What is the source of the music for it?
5. The American flag first flew over a foreign fort in what country?
6. A vexillologist is an expert in what?
7. "Shipwreck" Kelly (1885-1952) was famous for sitting for long periods of time. What did he have to do with flags?

<http://www.ushistory.org/betsy/flagtriv.html> - for the answers see page 6

Flag Timeline

1776 - January 1 -- The Grand Union flag is displayed on Prospect Hill. It has 13 alternate red and white stripes and the British Union Jack in the upper left-hand corner (the canton). See a picture in the [Flag Picture Gallery](#).

1776 - May -- Betsy Ross reports that she sewed the first American flag

1777 - June 14 -- Continental Congress adopts the following: *Resolved: that the flag of the United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation.* (stars represent Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, South Carolina, New Hampshire, Virginia, New York, North Carolina, and Rhode Island)

1787 - Captain Robert Gray carries the flag around the world on his sailing vessel (around the tip of South America, to China, and beyond). He discovered a great river and named it after his boat *The Columbia*. His discovery was the basis of America's claim to the Oregon Territory.

1795 - Flag with 15 stars and 15 stripes (Vermont, Kentucky)

1814 - September 14 -- Francis Scott Key writes "The Star-Spangled Banner." It officially becomes the national anthem in 1931.

1818 - Flag with 20 stars and 13 stripes (it remains at 13 hereafter) (Tennessee, Ohio, Louisiana, Indiana, Mississippi) * **1819** - Flag with 21 stars (Illinois) * **1820** - Flag with 23 stars (Alabama, Maine) first flag on Pikes Peak

* **1822** - Flag with 24 stars (Missouri) * **1836** - Flag with 25 stars (Arkansas) * **1837** - Flag with 26 stars (Michigan) * **1845** - Flag with 27 stars (Florida) * **1846** - Flag with 28 stars (Texas) * **1847** - Flag with 29 stars (Iowa) * **1848** - Flag with 30 stars (Wisconsin) * **1851** - Flag with 31 stars (California) * **1858** - Flag with 32 stars (Minnesota) * **1859** - Flag with 33 stars (Oregon)

1861 - Flag with 34 stars; (Kansas) first Confederate Flag (Stars and Bars) adopted in Montgomery, Alabama * **1863** - Flag with 35 stars (West Virginia) * **1865** - Flag with 36 stars (Nevada)

1867 - Flag with 37 stars (Nebraska) * **1869** - First flag on a postage stamp * **1877** - Flag with 38 stars (Colorado) * **1890** - Flag with 43 stars (North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Washington, Idaho)

1891 - Flag with 44 stars (Wyoming) * **1892** - "Pledge of Allegiance" first published in a magazine called "The Youth's Companion," written by Francis Bellamy. The words, "under God" were added on June 14, 1954 * **1896** - Flag with 45 stars (Utah) * **1908** - Flag with 46 stars (Oklahoma)

1909 - Robert Peary places the flag his wife sewed atop the North Pole. He left pieces of another flag along the way. He was never censured for his action * **1912** - Flag with 48 stars (New Mexico, Arizona)

1945 - The flag that flew over Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, is flown over the White House on August 14, when the Japanese accepted surrender terms * **1949** - August 3 -- Truman signs bill requesting the President call for Flag Day (June 14) observance each year by proclamation.

1959 - Flag with 49 stars (Alaska) * **1960** - Flag with 50 stars (Hawaii) * **1963** - Flag placed on top of Mount Everest by Barry Bishop * **1969** - July 20 - The American flag is placed on the moon by Neil Armstrong

* **1995 - December 12** - The Flag Desecration Constitutional Amendment is narrowly defeated in the Senate. The Amendment to the Constitution would make burning the flag a punishable crime

Housing Assistance

Texas Veterans Land Board • David Dewhurst, Chairman

<http://204.65.214.21/vlb/vhap/teachers.html>

The Veterans Housing Assistance (VHAP) and Home Improvement (VHIP) Programs offer an interest rate reduction of .50%* to veterans or their spouses who are currently employed as teachers in Texas and are certified by the Texas Education Agency, or veterans who agree to become certified teachers in Texas. The veteran must also meet all eligibility requirements for the VHAP and VHIP.

* The maximum combined interest rate reduction for the **Veterans with Disabilities Program**, **Greenbuilding Program** and/or Teachers Program is .75%.

The veteran is required to sign a sworn affidavit declaring intent to enter into the teaching profession and obtain certification OR that the veteran is currently a certified teacher OR that the veteran's spouse is currently a certified teacher.

The Texas Veterans Land Board (VLB) will be working with the federal program—Troops to Teachers— to qualify those individuals who seek accreditation through an alternative teacher accreditation program. Information on how to become a certified teacher in Texas is available at the [Route to Teacher Certification in Texas](#) page on this website.

Moreover, the VLB will work with the Texas Veterans Commission to ensure that veterans can obtain all available GI benefits to offset the cost of the accreditation. For more information about VLB home loans, please call 1-800-252-VETS (8387). The VLB will determine the eligibility in terms of service in the Armed Forces and residency in the state of Texas.

NOTE: All VLB loans are subject to credit approval.

Home Improvement

Texas Veterans Land Board • David Dewhurst, Chairman

<http://204.65.214.21/vlb/vhip/index.html>

The Texas Veterans Land Board (VLB) will loan a maximum of \$25,000 for home improvements to the veteran's primary residence. After credit has been approved, all necessary documentation has been submitted, and the loan documents have

been signed, the selected contractor may begin work. Upon completion of the work, the VLB pays the contractor. The VLB must be in a first or second lien position. The veteran cannot advance any funds to the contractor or purchase materials in advance. If the veteran is required to vacate the home while the improvements are being made, the veteran must re-occupy it within 60 days after completion of the construction. The Home Improvement Program cannot be used for refinancing.

Eligible Improvements

The Veterans Home Improvement Program (VHIP) can be used only for alterations, repairs and improvements that are eligible for financing under the Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) Federal Housing Administration (FHA) Title I Loan Program.

All work and/or construction must be in compliance with all applicable building codes and standards. The VHIP loan can be used to make alterations, repairs and improvements to, or in connection with, the veteran's existing residence if and only if the repairs will:

substantially protect or improve the basic livability or energy efficiency of the property; correct damage resulting from a natural disaster; or correct conditions that are hazardous to health or safety.

Examples of eligible improvements include: Carpeting, fencing, room additions, patios, driveways and garages.

[Detailed listing of eligible improvements](#)

Examples of ineligible improvements include: exterior spas, saunas, whirlpool, tree surgery, tennis courts, swimming pools, barbecue pits

[Detailed listing of ineligible improvements](#)

For more information, call any [Outreach Marketing Office](#) or our toll-free number in Texas, 1-800-252-8387 (VETS). (continued in July issue)

National Personnel Records Center

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

<http://www.nara.gov/regional/mprfaq.html>

How can I get a copy of my DD Form 214, Report of Separation (or equivalent form)?

The DD Form 214, Report of Separation, is filed in the official military personnel file. Complete instructions for obtaining a copy of your DD 214 may be found under [Official Military Personnel File including Active Duty Health Record, Services for veterans, next-of-kin, or the veteran's representative.](#)

There is an ongoing "myth" that "10 million medical records" were found. Are these duplicates of the records that were burned?

No, they are not duplicate records. This source of records contains approximately 7.8 million summaries for admissions to medical treatment facilities. They contain limited medical information which may be sufficient to support certain claims for veterans' benefits. [Alternate sources](#) used to reconstruct service and medical information lost in [the 1973 fire](#) at NPRC (MPR) contains a more detailed explanation of these records.

How can I get my medals or those of my family?

NPRC (MPR) does not issue service medals; that is a function of each military service department. Nevertheless, veterans may request issuance or replacement of their medals and awards. Family members may only request medals and awards of living veterans by obtaining their signed authorizations. For deceased veterans, requests will be accepted from next-of-kin (unremarried widow or widower, son or daughter, father or mother, brother or sister of the deceased veteran). [Military Awards and Decorations](#) contains instructions and addresses for submitting requests. A [sample authorization](#) is also included for review.

What form do I use to request information from military service records?

We recommend that you use Standard Form (SF) 180, Request Pertaining to Military Records. Instructions for obtaining a copy are available through [Services Available to the Public and Government Agencies](#). Instructions are also available for submitting a request in letter format, if desired.

**FOR LOCAL HELP CONTACT
DENTON COUNTY
VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE
306 N. LOOP 288, SUITE 146
DENTON, TX 76209
METRO – 940-320-1038
MONDAY – FRIDAY
8:00 A. M. TO NOON
1:00 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M.**

hank.scheible@dentoncounty.com
barbara.nance@dentoncounty.com
james.wheeler@dentoncounty.com
www.dentoncounty.com

My great grandfather served in the Civil War (Revolutionary War, War of 1812, etc.) How do I obtain information concerning his military service?

Generally, military service records prior to the 20th century are in the the National Archives Building, Washington, D.C. More information is available under [Military Service and Pension Records](#) on NARA's research room page. You may also wish to contact the National Archives [Inquire](#) mailbox.

(continued in July issue)



Department of
Veterans Affairs

<http://www.va.gov/pressrel/AOLeukNR.DOC>

April 20, 2001

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VA To Create Benefits for Some

Childhood Leukemia Victims

WASHINGTON - Hours after receiving a study that linked Agent Orange to a deadly form of childhood leukemia, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi ordered the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to begin setting up benefits for these children.

"The medical evidence is clear and persuasive that these illnesses are associated with the service of our men and women during the Vietnam War," said Principi. "Equally clear is VA's responsibility to provide benefits and programs that meet the needs of these veterans and their families."

Principi's decision affects the children of Vietnam veterans with acute myelogenous leukemia, a rare, deadly form of the childhood disease. The Institute of Medicine (IOM) released a report April 19 that cited "limited or suggestive" evidence that a parent's exposure to Agent Orange during the Vietnam War may lead to a child contracting the disease. About 500 to 1,000 children of Vietnam veterans are believed to have the disease.

Since VA has no legal authority to provide benefits for these children, Principi said he has obtained White House approval to ask Congress for legislation to create special benefits. VA officials are determining what those benefits should be.

In 1997, VA set up a program for the children of Vietnam veterans with spina bifida. That program provides health-care benefits, vocational training and a monthly allowance based upon the severity of the illness. About 940 people with spina bifida are now receiving these VA benefits.

HELPFUL LINKS

<http://www.tricare.osd.mil/>

<http://insurance.va.gov/index.htm>

<http://www.ngb.dtic.mil/>

<http://www2.army.mil/>

<http://www.navy.mil/>

<http://www.af.mil/>

<http://www.usmc.mil/>

<http://www.seafarers.org/>

<http://www.legion.org/>

<http://www.uss-salem.org/danfs/>

<http://users.aol.com/gman755/medals/medals.html>

<http://www.veteransearch.com/>

Trivia Answers

1. Robert Peary, who left pieces of the flag scattered at the North Pole.
2. Yes, but only in an emergency. It means "Help Me, I am in Trouble!"
3. Flags are used until they are worn out and then they are destroyed, preferably by burning.
4. The music is from an old English drinking song called "To Anacreon in Heaven."
5. Libya -- over Fort Derne, on the shores of Tripoli.
6. The history of flags.
7. He set many flagpole-sitting records. He sat for 49 days on one flagpole. He once estimated that he spent a total of over 20,000 hours sitting on flagpoles. Flagpole sitting was a craze started in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1929.