



Office of  
**Jason Crowell** State Senator  
The Crowell Connection

*Senator Jason Crowell proudly represents the people of Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Madison, Mississippi, Perry, and Scott Counties.*

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## Celebrating Flag Day

This Wednesday, our nation celebrates Flag Day- the date in 1777 that the Continental Congress adopted the Stars and Stripes to fly high as a symbol of the United States. The day will mark the 229th anniversary of Old Glory and those who have had a hand in fortifying its overpowering symbolism.

One such person is Betsy Ross, the seamstress of George Washington. She was asked by the president himself to make the country's first flag and reported in May of 1776 that she had finished it. The following summer, the Continental Congress passed the first Flag Act: "Resolved that the flag of the United States be made of thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the



**Betsy Ross's design of the first American flag in 1776.**

union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation."

Between then and 1960, Congress has altered the shape, design and arrangement of the flag as more states were added. It was quite some time before the order of the stars and the proportions of the flag were set, which is why flags made prior to 1912 have varying arrangements of the stars and odd sizes.

The Flag Act of 1818 gave today's flag the design of 13 horizontal stripes, seven red alternating with six white, representing the original 13 colonies. The stars represent the

50 United States. The color scheme was not just chosen at whim. The red symbolizes hardiness and valor; white symbolizes purity and innocence; and blue represents vigilance, perseverance and justice.

The red, white and blue banner gained much of its patriotic luster thanks to poet Francis Scott Key. Key witnessed the 1814 bombarding of Ft. McHenry in the Battle of Baltimore, a scene that inspired him to write a poem titled, “The Defense of Fort McHenry.” This poem was later named, “The Star-Spangled Banner,” and set to the tune of “To Anacreon in Heaven,” which was a popular English song at the time. The “Star-Spangled Banner” was recognized for official use by the United States Navy in 1889 and the White House in 1916. A Congressional resolution adopted in 1931 made the song the national anthem of the United States.

As the imagery in the anthem’s lyrics portrays, the intangible power of the flag is undeniable. The flag is proud, the flag is glorious, the flag is everything that America stands for, and many people have died protecting it. Flag Day gives us a chance to honor the noble fabric that waves splendidly—at the forefront of American battlegrounds, on the lawn of the Capitol, on the moon or wherever—as the very emblem of the freedom, security and good will that are trademarks of the United States of America.

### **Contact Me**

As always, I appreciate hearing your comments, opinions and concerns. Please feel free to contact me in Jefferson City at (573) 751-2459. You may write to me at Jason Crowell; Missouri Senate; State Capitol; Jefferson City, MO 65101, or email me at: [jcrowell@senate.mo.gov](mailto:jcrowell@senate.mo.gov) or visit me on the web at <http://www.jasoncrowell.com>.

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