



Office of
Jason Crowell State
Senator

The Crowell Connection



Senator Jason Crowell – Serving Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Madison, Mississippi, Perry, and Scott Counties.

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The Stars and Stripes

On April 25, 1976, the Chicago Cubs were playing in Dodger Stadium when a father and son rushed onto the field with an American flag. The pair doused the flag in lighter fluid and attempted to light it on fire. Rick Monday, a center fielder for the Cubs, ran by the two and snatched the flag out of their hands, saving the flag from desecration. Afterwards, the crowd spontaneously broke into a round of “God Bless America” as the words “Rick Monday, you made a great play,” flashed on the scoreboard. Years later, this event was selected as one of the top 100 moments in major league baseball. ([Rick Monday Tribute, 1976 Video](#))

I am reminded of this event, an example of the respect and admiration our country holds for our flag, as one of our yearly patriotic holidays approaches. On June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress adopted the Stars and Stripes as a symbol of the United States. This day became officially recognized as a holiday on August 3, 1949 by President Harry S Truman. This Thursday, June 14, we will again celebrate the proud history of our flag.



Historians believe that the first American flag was designed by Congressman Francis Hopkinson and sewn by a seamstress from Philadelphia named Betsy Ross. The original flag had 13 stripes and 13 stars. Since that original flag, Congress has passed several acts to add stars in order to represent all 50 of the United States. The original 13 stripes have stayed the same to represent the original 13 colonies. The colors of the flag are symbolic with red to

symbolize hardiness and valor, white to symbolize purity and innocence, and blue to symbolize vigilance, perseverance, and justice.



The influence and importance of our flag is evident by looking at the acts of bravery and works of art the stars and stripes have inspired. On September 14, 1814, a poet named Francis Scott Key watched the American flag flying over Fort McHenry in Baltimore. Despite the British bombardment the post has taken, the flag continued to wave. Key was so inspired that he wrote the “Star Spangled Banner,” which became our national anthem in 1931. In 1892, James B. Upham and Francis Bellamy used the flag as inspiration for the “Pledge of Allegiance.” The poem was published in a children’s magazine and can now be heard every morning in classrooms all through the country. In 1945, during the bloody battle of Iwo Jima, Marines captured Mount Suribachi. In order to celebrate the victory of taking the higher ground, five Marines and a Navy corpsman raised a flag, inspiring Marines to continue fighting. Joe Rosenthal took a photo of the event, winning a Pulitzer Prize in photography. The photo is one of the most reproduced photos in history.

Our flag continues to be an important symbol in our culture, inspiring all of us to live by the American ideals the flag represents. Please join me in celebrating our flag, our history, and the men and women who made and make this wonderful country possible this June 14.

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 or visit me on the web at <http://www.jasoncrowell.com>.

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