

June 9, 2010

## **Celebrating Flag Day**

Next Monday is the day dedicated to our flag, the symbol of our nation. On June 14<sup>th</sup> each year, 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 233rd anniversary of Old Glory and those who have had a hand in fortifying its overpowering symbolism.

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, and many other places — as the emblem of the freedom,



security, and good will that are trademarks of the United States of America.

Our flag is a symbol that we respect and admire because it provides a constant reminder of the bravery of our armed forces. The stars and stripes have inspired works of art, musical compositions, literary works, and acts of bravery. From the creation of our nations' anthem to the raising of the flag at the battle of Iwo Jima, our flag has served as a stirring reminder of the values our country continues to represent.



One story of vigilance for our country's flag came on April 25, 1976, when a father and son rushed onto the field with an American flag while the Chicago Cubs were playing in Dodger Stadium. 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)

As Flag Day approaches, I encourage you to raise a flag to mark this important holiday in observance of on our country's great history and the many sacrifices our service men and women have made.

## **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: <a href="mailto:jcrowell@senate.mo.gov">jcrowell@senate.mo.gov</a> or visit me on the web at <a href="http://www.senate.mo.gov/crowell">http://www.senate.mo.gov/crowell</a>.

## SUBSCRIBE | UNSUBSCRIBE