

# UNITED STATES FLAG

I am the flag of the United States of America. I am whatever you make me, nothing more. I am your belief in yourself, your dream of what a people may become.

I live a challenging life, a life of moods and passions of heartbreaks and tired muscles.

Sometimes I'm strong with pride, when workmen do an honest piece of work. Sometimes I droop, for then, purpose has gone from me, and cynically I play the coward.

But always, I am all that you hope to be and have the courage to try for. I am song and fear, struggle and panic, and enabling hope.

I am the day's work of the weakest man, and the largest dream of the most daring. I am the farmer, the lawyer, doctor, cook, counselor, and clerk.

I am the battle of yesterday, and the mistake of tomorrow. I am the mystery of the men who do without knowing why. I am the clutch of an idea, and the reasoned purpose of resolution.

I am no more than what you believe me to be, and I am all that you believe I can be. I am what you make me, nothing more. I wave before your eyes as a bright gleam of color, a symbol of yourself, the pictured suggestion of all that makes this nation great.

My stars and stripes are your dream of your labors. They are bright with cheer, brilliant with courage and firm with faith, because you have made them so, out of your hearts.

As long as men cherish liberty more than life itself, I shall continue to be the enduring banner of the United States of America.