



*Queen Anne Flag*



*Grand Union Flag*



*Montana Air Guard honor guard members at the Ravalli Electric annual meeting in June retire the various colors that have flown over our country. Left, Master Sgt. Robert Bannister carries the Queen Anne flag. At right, Master Sgt. Marty L. Graham is carrying the Betsy Ross flag, and behind him, Senior Master Sgt. Gary W. Gebo carries the Star Spangled Banner with its 15 stars and 15 stripes.*

## An Old Glory story told in flags, Part II

Last month *RM* gave you a brief lesson on flag protocol taken from the Montana Air National Guard's "Operation Patriotism," a public service program that teaches how to respect the flag. This month, the lesson continues with some history.

Here are brief descriptions and backgrounds of some flags that have flown over America. The text again comes from the Air Guard's Operation Patriotism, but more detailed histories can be found online using any search engine.

### The Queen Anne flag

The Queen Anne flag waved over the 13 American

colonies from 1707 to the Revolution. This was the flag of England, red with a union combining the crosses of St. George and St. Andrew. Before this, other flags had flown over different parts of America. The banner of the Norsemen, the flags of Spain, France, Holland, Sweden and an earlier English flag.

### The Grand Union flag

The Grand Union flag was raised over George Washington's headquarters outside of Boston on Jan. 1, 1776. The Revolutionary War had started the year before, and the colonies needed a flag of their own.

The Grand Union flag was the same design as the Queen Anne flag, except that the red

field was broken into seven red stripes and six white ones, the original 13 stripes representing the 13 colonies.

### The Betsy Ross flag

The Betsy Ross flag was the first official flag of the new nation, the United States of America. It was created by a resolution of the Continental Congress in Philadelphia that the flag of the 13 United States be 13 stripes, alternated red and white; that the union be 13 stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation in the form of a circle.

The resolution was passed June 14, 1777, now the date of Flag Day.

### The Star Spangled Banner

The Star Spangled Banner waved over Fort McHenry

when it was bombarded on Sept. 13 and 14, 1814; this inspired Francis Scott Key to write our National Anthem.

This flag had 15 stripes and 15 stars. Two stripes and two stars had been added to the original 13 on May 1, 1795, with the addition of two new states.

When still more states joined the Union, it became apparent that the flag would get to be an awkward shape if more stripes were added. So on April 4, 1818, Congress passed a law that restored the design to the original 13 stripes and provided that a star would be added to the blue field for each new state.