

MCAS TUSTIN YOUNG MARINES

Flag Folding Speech - 2010



Distinguished guests, veterans, ladies and gentlemen,

For 233 years, the symbol for freedom and liberty throughout the world has been the flag of the United States of America. Many Americans have given the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of that freedom. We have noticed that, even within the borders of the United States, our flag no longer receives the proper respect and honor that it so richly deserves. The Young Marines have taken it upon themselves to restore that honor and respect to which our flag is entitled.

Ladies and gentlemen, the MCAS Tustin Young Marines dedicate this flag ceremony to all of you.

SOUND ATTENTION
SOUND ADJUTANT'S CALL
MARCH ON THE FLAG
MARCH ON THE COLORS
NATIONAL ANTHEM
REMEMBER ME
FLAG FOLDING
MARINE HYMN
PROCESSION (AMAZING GRACE)

REMEMBER ME?

Some people call me Old Glory. Others call me the Star Spangled Banner. But whatever they call me – I am your Flag - the Flag of the United States of America. Something has been bothering me, so I thought I might talk it over with you.

I remember sometime ago people lined up on both sides of the street to watch the parade, and naturally . . . I was leading every parade, proudly waving in the breeze. When your daddy saw me coming, he immediately removed his hat and placed it over his heart. Remember? And you . . . I remember you . . . standing there as straight as a soldier. Remember your little sister? Not to be outdone, she was saluting the same as you . . . with her right hand over her heart. Remember?

What happened? I'm still the same old flag. Oh, I have a few more stars since you were a child. A lot more blood has been shed since those days of long ago. But now . . . I don't feel as proud as I used to. When I come down your street, you just stand there with your hands in your pockets and I may get a small glance, then you look away. I see the children, running around and shouting. They don't seem to know who I am. I saw one man take off his hat and then look around. He didn't see anybody else with theirs off so he quickly put his hat back on.

Is it a sin to be patriotic anymore? Have you forgotten what I stand for and where I have been? Anzio, Korea, Guadalcanal, Vietnam, Desert Storm and Operation Enduring Freedom. Take a look at the Memorial Honor Rolls sometime of those who never came back to keep the Republic Free. . . One Nation under God. When you salute me, you are actually saluting them.

Well, it won't be long until I'll be coming down your street again. So, when you see me. . . stand straight, place your hand over your heart. . . and I'll salute you by waving back . . . and I'll know that . . . **you remembered!**

Flag Folding Ceremony

The point of honor of the Flag of the United States of America is a canton of blue containing the stars representing the states our men served in uniform. The point of honor of the flag of the United States dresses from left to the right. The only time it is inverted and displayed in the manner in which you see it today is when it comes to serve as a pall on the casket of a veteran who has served his country honorably in uniform.

In the evening, in the Armed Forces of the United States, at the ceremony of Evening Colors, the flag is lowered and folded in a triangle and kept under watch throughout the night as a tribute to our nation's honored dead. The next morning it is brought out at the Ceremony of Morning Colors and is run aloft as a symbol of our belief in the resurrection of the body.

The first fold of our flag is a symbol of life.

The second fold is a symbol of our belief in the eternal life. This fold we make in honor and remembrance of the veterans whom we commemorate today, for they too, gave a portion of their lives for the defense of our country and our flag. We are here today to perform this flag-folding ceremony in order to show you that their efforts to attain peace throughout the world have not been in vain and shall not be forgotten.

We fold to the left in the shape of a triangle, for this is where our heart lies and it is with our hearts we pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands – one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

We fold again to the left in the shape of a triangle, representing our weaker nature; for we, as American citizens, trust in God, and it is to him we turn to in times of peace, as well as in times of war, for his dividing guidance.

We fold to the right, as a tribute to our Armed Forces, for it is through these same Armed Forces that we protect our country and our flag from all her enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of our Republic.

We fold again to the right, as a tribute to our country; for in the words of the immortal Stephen Decatur, “Our country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but she is still our country, right or wrong.”

We fold to the left as a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day. This fold is made to honor mothers, for whom it flies on Mother’s Day.

We fold to the left as a tribute to our womanhood; for it has been through their faith, loyalty, and devotion that the characters of the men that have made this country great have been molded.

We fold from the stripes towards the stars; for, whereas the stripes represent the thirteen original colonies that founded our Republic, they are now embodied in the fifty sovereign states represented by the stars, so that the stars cover the stripes.

We fold to the left in the shape of a triangle; for, in the eyes of a Hebrew citizen, this represents the lower portion of the Seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies in their eyes, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.

We fold again to the left in the shape of a triangle; for in the eyes of the Christian citizen, this represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies in their eyes, God – the Father, God – the son, and God – the Holy Spirit.

When our flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost which reminds us of our National motto, “In God We Trust.”

After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a three cornered hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington and the sailors and marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones, and followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, who have preserved for us the rights, privileges, and freedom which we are enjoying today.