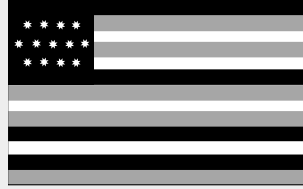


Historic American Flag Presentation

THE *SERAPIS* FLAG



Designed with 13 stripes alternating red, white, and blue, this flag was raised by Captain John Paul Jones on the British frigate *Serapis* during the most famous Revolutionary War naval battle.

In 1779, after conducting sea raids on the coast of Britain, Jones took command of a rebuilt French merchant ship that had been renamed the *U.S.S. Bonhomme Richard* in honor of Benjamin Franklin. In September of that same year, Jones engaged the British frigate *Serapis* in the North Sea, sailing in close, lashing his vessel to the British ship, and fighting the battle at point-blank range. During the fight, two cannon burst on the *Bonhomme Richard*. The British captain asked Jones if he was ready to surrender. Jones replied, "Sir, I have not yet begun to fight!" Eventually it was the crew of the *Serapis* that surrendered, though the *Bonhomme Richard* was severely damaged. The American sailors boarded the *Serapis* and watched from the deck as the *Bonhomme Richard* sank beneath the waves.

Let us honor this flag with a song that also honors America.

Columbia, the Gem of the Ocean

O Columbia, the gem of the ocean,
The home of the brave and the free,
The shrine of each patriot's devotion,
A world offers homage to thee.

Thy mandates make heroes assemble,
When Liberty's form stands in view;
Thy banners make tyranny tremble,
When borne by the red, white, and blue!

When borne by the red, white, and blue!
When borne by the red, white, and blue!
Thy banners make tyranny tremble,
When borne by the red, white, and blue!