

“I 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.”

These are words that you say every day at school, but did you ever stop to think about the origin of these words or their purpose?

What The Stars, Stripes And Colors Of The Flag Symbolize

Stars

50 states

Stripes

13 colonies

Colors

White-purity and innocence

Red-hardiness and valor

Blue-vigilance, perserverance and justice

Origins Of The Pledge Of Allegiance

Francis Bellamy worked on a children’s journal, called *Youth’s Companion*. Mr. Bellamy’s job at the paper was promoting patriotism and encouraging the flying of the flag over schools. Because of his strong feelings of patriotism, Mr. Bellamy was appointed chairman of the executive committee for the National Public School Celebration of Columbus Day in 1892.

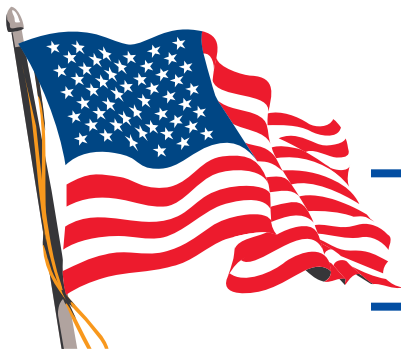
Mr. Bellamy visited President Benjamin Harrison in Washington to ask him to support the idea of flying a flag over every school house and teaching patriotism. On June 21, 1892, President Harrison signed a proclamation requiring schools to fly a flag and encouraging patriotism in schools. As a result of President Harrison’s proclamation and in honor of the 400th anniversary of the discovery of America, Mr. Bellamy wrote the Pledge of Allegiance. The Pledge was first published on September 8, 1892 in *Youth’s Companion*.

Two changes have been made to the Pledge since its publication. In 1924 “of America” was added, and in 1954 “under God,” was added.

The Purpose Of The Pledge Of Allegiance

When you recite the Pledge of Allegiance, you promise to be loyal to the United States. Francis Bellamy wrote the Pledge of Allegiance because he wanted children to learn about patriotism and he wanted to give students a sense of pride about the United States.





I Pledge Allegiance...

I remember this one teacher. To me, he was the greatest teacher, a real sage of my time. He had such wisdom. We were reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, and he walked over. Mr. Lasswell was his name....He said:

"I've been listening to you boys and girls recite the Pledge of Allegiance all semester and it seems as though it is becoming monotonous to you. If I may, may I recite it and try to explain to you the meaning of each word:

I - me, an individual, a committee of one.

PLEDGE - dedicate all of my worldly goods to give without self-pity.

ALLEGIANCE - my love and my devotion.

TO THE FLAG - our standard, Old Glory, a symbol of freedom. Wherever she waves, there is respect because your loyalty has given her dignity that shouts freedom is everybody's job.

OF THE UNITED - that means that we have all come together.

STATES - individual communities that have united into [our] great states
... individual communities with pride and dignity and purpose, all divided with imaginary boundaries, yet united to a common purpose, and that's love for country.

OF AMERICA.

AND TO THE REPUBLIC - a state in which sovereign power is invested in representatives chosen by the people to govern. And government is the people and it's from the people to the leaders, not from the leaders to the people.

FOR WHICH IT STANDS.

ONE NATION - meaning, so blessed by God.

INDIVISIBLE - incapable of being divided.

WITH LIBERTY - which is freedom and the right of power to live one's own life without threats or fear or some sort of retaliation.

AND JUSTICE - the principle or quality of dealing fairly with others.

FOR ALL - which means it's as much your country as it is mine."

Since I was a small boy, two states have been added to our country and two words have been added to the Pledge of Allegiance - "under God".

Wouldn't it be a pity if someone said, "That's a prayer" and that would be eliminated from schools, too?

The foregoing is an excerpt from a Red Skelton telecast when he recited his interpretation of the "Pledge of Allegiance."