

# I AM YOUR FLAG

*I was born on June 14, 1777. I am more than just a cloth shaped into a design.*

*I am the refuge of the world's oppressed. I am the silent sentinel of freedom.*

*I am the inspiration of which American patriots gave their lives and fortunes.*

*I walk in silence with each of your honored dead to their resting place.*

*Beneath the silent white crosses, row upon row. I have flown through peace*

*and war, strife and prosperity; And amidst it all, I have been respected.*

*Red stripes symbolize the blood spilled in defense of this glorious nation.*

*My white stripes signify the burning tears shed by Americans who lost their sons. My blue field is indicative of God's heaven*

*under which I fly. My stars are clustered together, unifying 50 states as one, for God and country. "Old Glory" is my nickname,*

*and proudly I wave on high. Honor me, respect me, defend me with your lives and your fortunes. Never let my enemies tear me*

*down from my lofty position, lest I never return. Keep alight the fires of patriotism, strive earnestly for the spirit of democracy.*

*Worship the eternal God, And I shall remain the bulwark of peace and freedom for all mankind*

*Although entered into the Congressional Record as 'author unknown' this poem seems to have been written by MSgt. Percy Webb*