

## AMERICANISM III-FLAG FOLLOWUP

Although we have previously provided definitions of Americanism before, observation and research shows enough valid variations in the wording to feel each new definition adds more importance to its meaning. Accordingly, we feel un-fazed to define it yet again: As defined by the National Americanism Commission of the American Legion, “Americanism is love of America, loyalty to her institutions as the best cultural values yet devised by man to secure life, liberty, individual dignity, and happiness, and the willingness to defend our country and flag against all enemies, foreign and domestic.”

“It is a vital, active, living force. Americanism means peace, strength, the will and the courage to live as free men in a free land. It means a friendly hand to people everywhere who respect our institutions and our thinking. It is not a word; it is a cause, a way of life – the best way of living ever known – a challenge and a hope in this world.”

“Americanism is an ideal of loyal patriotism, religious tolerance, righteous freedom, fearless courage, honest integrity, abiding faith in the commanding destiny of the United States, and a fathomless love for the principles that led our forefathers to found this country.” There is even more available to define Americanism but, let me step down from the proverbial “soap box” and draw your attention to the “**FLAG FOLLOWUP**”

On 18 November 2013 in coordination with Mrs. Tammy Raymond, Cub Master of Cub Scout Pack 469 granted us – Eric B. Persons, Capt. American Legion Post #58 Honor Guard and myself, Bernard James, Chairman of the Post # 58 Americanism Committee permission to meet with the cub scouts. After the “Pledge of Allegiance” I asked the troops if they really knew what it meant? No was the reply. I explained that this is our pledge to our country; “I pledge allegiance” – I promise to be true; “to the flag” – to the sign of our country; “of the United States of America” –each state that has joined to make our country; “and to the Republic” –a republic is a country where the people choose others to make laws for them. The government is for the people. “for which it stands,” – the flag means the country; “one Nation” – a single country; “under God,” – the people believe in a supreme being; indivisible,” – the country cannot be split into parts; “with liberty and justice” – with freedom and fairness; “for all.” – For each person in the country, you and me. The pledge says you are promising to be true to the United States of America. Upon completion I was very impressed at the attention shown by these our “Foundations for the Future.”

Eric Persons then discussed/explained Flag Etiquette. He explained “Display and use of flag,” Time and occasions for display,” position and manner of display,” Respect for flag,” conduct during hoisting, lowering or passing of flag,” “flag folding program,” “Color Guards and the Flag Code,” “The National Anthem,” “The Freedom to Display the American Flag Act,” and “The Top Ten Flag Myths. He impressed us all with his knowledge of Flag Etiquette.

Upon departure, and later on reflections regarding this event, I thought of how well represented these young Cub Scouts were. This brought about more reflection of the times my wife and I were the only show-ups at many PTA meetings, and while working as an Eligibility Worker, and Social Worker, how many times parents, grandparents or care givers were hard to find. Because they were there and granted permission, I will now list these caring representatives:

1. **Tammy Raymond – Cub Master**
2. **Kevin Palmer – Assistant Club Master**
3. **Carrie Morbitzer – Cub Scout Mother**
4. **Danielu Stevens – Cub Scout Mother**
5. **Don Pittman – Scout Leader (*WOLFS*)**
6. **Tony Mammarello – Parent**
7. **Pete Fenton – Assistant Den Leader**
8. **Jeff Bradham – Grandparent**
9. **Kensell Sinclair – Parent**
10. **Robert Swengol – Den Leader (*BEARS*)**
11. **Diane Cummings – Grandparent**
12. **David Ruttle – Parent**

**P.S.** At the Cub Scout meeting, the question was raised - *“How did the Flag get the name Old Glory?”*

**I Googled it, and came up with the following –American ship captain William Driver gave the name Old Glory. In 1831, he was presented with a flag by shipmates before a voyage. He proclaimed, “Old Glory” when he saw the gift and the name stuck.**



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