

**Governor Isaac Shelby Chapter
Sons of the American Revolutionary**

HANDBOOK & INSTRUCTION GUIDE



Member:

ORDER OF FLAGS For GISSAR COLOR GUARDS

USA Flags – Always Proceed state, SAR/DAR, battle, regimental and organizational flags.

Current 50 Star USA Flag – 1960 to present

*(The current USA Flag always goes 1st in a color guard and is always posted taller than all other flags. When flags are being carried in columns, the current USA Flag is always positioned to the right end of the first column. It is always posted on the right of the podium/stage facing the audience. All previous USA Flags follow the current 50 star flag & are posted to the left of the current USA Flag on the right side of the podium/stage. **No** USA Flag (past or present) is ever dipped as a salute).*

The Grand Union – First appeared (Dec. 3, 1775 & ended June 14, 1777)

The Hopkinson Flag – First appeared 14 June 1777

The Betsy Ross - First introduced 1777? (believed by many to be from the 1790s)

The Star Spangled Banner Flag (added VT & KY) – (May 1, 1795 – July 3, 1818)

The Great Star Flag (added IN, LA, MS, OH & TN) – July 4, 1818 – July 3, 1819

State Flags – *The USA flags are followed by the State flag. The host state's flag is usually flown in a color guard event, however, when multiple state flags are carried or flown, the host state flag is first with the remaining state flags positioned in order of their joining the union. State flags are posted to the left of the podium/stage when facing the audience. Refer to attached statehood listing.*

SAR Flag – *NSSAR was Organized April 30, 1889, and was Chartered by Congress June 9, 1906. Chapter SAR Flag if a chapter hosted event or State SAR flag if a state event. Should be carried when chapter Color Guard is participating in non SAR events.*

SAR 250th Anniversary Flag – The official SAR flag for the 250th Anniversary of the independence of the United States immediately follows the SAR Flag.

DAR Flag – *Organized in 1890.* Order is applicable only if they are participating and choose to Post/Carry their flag.

Battle Flags – *Battle Flags are assembled in the order of the 1st & most significant Battle where they were flown or when they were authorized/commissioned. Battle flags are posted left of the state flag(s). Battle flags may be dipped to honor a hero or patriot.*

Organizational Flags – *Organizational flags are the last flags to be posted, flown or carried. They are posted opposite the USA Flag on the left of the podium or stage facing the audience left of the Battle Flags. They are arranged in ascending order of their organizing date.*

STATES IN ORDER OF STATEHOOD

STATE	ADMISSION date	STATE	ADMISSION date
(1) Delaware	12/07/87	(26) Michigan	01/26/37
(2) Pennsylvania	12/12/87	(27) Florida	03/03/45
(3) New Jersey	12/18/87	(28) Texas	12/29/45
(4) Georgia	01/02/88	(29) Iowa	12/28/48
(5) Connecticut	01/09/88	(30) Wisconsin	05/29/48
(6) Massachusetts	02/06/88	(31) California	09/09/50
(7) Maryland	04/28/88	(32) Minnesota	05/11/58
(8) South Carolina	05/23/88	(33) Oregon	02/14/59
(9) New Hampshire	06/21/88	(34) Kansas	01/29/61
(10) Virginia	06/25/88	(35) West Virginia	06/20/63
(11) New York	07/26/88	(36) Nevada	10/31/64
(12) North Carolina	11/21/89	(37) Nebraska	03/01/67
(13) Rhode Island	05/29/90	(38) Colorado	08/01/76
(14) Vermont	03/04/91	(39) North Dakota	11/02/89
(15) Kentucky	06/01/92	(40) South Dakota	11/02/89
(16) Tennessee	06/01/96	(41) Montana	11/08/89
(17) Ohio	03/01/03	(42) Washington	11/01/89
(18) Louisiana	04/30/12	(43) Idaho	07/03/90
(19) Indiana	12/11/16	(44) Wyoming	07/10/90
(20) Mississippi	12/10/17	(45) Utah	01/04/96
(21) Illinois	12/03/18	(46) Oklahoma	11/16/07
(22) Alabama	12/14/19	(47) New Mexico	01/06/12
(23) Maine	03/19/20	(48) Arizona	02/14/12
(24) Missouri	08/10/21	(49) Alaska	01/03/59
(25) Arkansas	06/15/36	(50) Hawaii	08/21/59

GISSAR HISTORY OF EARLY USA FLAGS
(Flags Sample Shown)

	<p>Current USA Flag: Authorized 1960 [Hawaii became the 50th State on Aug.21, 1959]. This is the longest authorized USA Flag in the history of USA flags. This 50 Star Flag is often called "<i>Old Glory</i>".</p>
	<p>Grand Union Flag: Although not officially authorized by congress, this flag served as our country's first national flag. It was composed of the British Union Jack as the canton & 13 red & white stripes for the 13 Colonies. It first appeared Dec. 3, 1775 before the signing of the Declaration of Independence. It was a recognition of our roots with the Union Jack in the canton but with the 13 stripes it was one of the first statements of our feeling of separation from mother England. Its service use ending June 14, 1777.</p>
	<p>Francis Hopkinson: The Stars and Stripes originated as a result of a resolution adopted by the Marine Committee of the Second Continental Congress at Philadelphia on 14 June, 1777. The resolution read: "<i>On this date, the Second Continental Congress passed the "Flag Resolution" which states: "Resolved, that the flag of the United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation"</i>.</p>
	<p>Betsy Ross Flag: According to tradition, this flag was first introduced in May 1776, however, many historians believe it appeared much later. Although this early American flag is commonly termed "the Betsy Ross flag" her actual involvement in its development is highly suspect. The main reason historians and flag experts do not believe that Betsy Ross designed or sewed the first American flag is a lack of historical evidence and documentation to support the story. Betsy Ross' story was first published in 1870, 34 years after her death, by her only surviving grandson.</p>

	<p>The Star Spangled Banner Flag: This flag has 15 white stars on a blue canton and 15 red & white stripes. It was authorized by congress May 1, 1795. It added stars and stripes for Vermont the 14th state and Kentucky the 15th state. It was flying over Fort McHenry, which guards the inlet to Baltimore Harbor, during the War of 1812 with the British. It was during the Battle with the British at Ft. McHenry that Francis Scott Key wrote our “National Anthem the Star Spangled Banner”. The name “Star Spangled Banner” was thus given to this flag. This was the official flag of the USA until July 3, 1818. <i>It was the only USA Flag that did not have 13 stripes.</i></p>
	<p>The Great Star Flag: This flag replaced the “Star Spangled Banner Flag”. It was authorized July 4, 1818. It added stars for IN, LA, MS, OH & TN for a total of 20 stars. It was decommissioned July 3, 1819. This flag and the 49 star flag (which added a star for AK) hold the distinction of being the two shortest lived authorized flags to fly in US history, both less than a year.</p>
	<p>KY State Flag: This flag has two figures, one of the pioneer and one of the statesman. It took both to make KY a successful state. This flag contains the slogan “United We Stand, Divided We Fall”. This has been the Official Kentucky State Flag since it was last modified in 1962.</p>
	<p>SAR Flag: This chapter flag carries the insignia of SAR on a tricolor field utilizing the three colors in George Washington's Uniform, blue, white and buff now known as yellow.</p>
	<p>250th Anniversary Flag: This is the official flag for the commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of the independence of the United States.</p>
	<p>Philadelphia City Light Horse: The Philadelphia Light Horse Flag was presented by the unit's first Captain, Abraham Markoe not long after the news of the Battle of Lexington reached Philadelphia in 1775. The flag would eventually be carried in the battles of Trenton, Princeton, Brandywine, and Germantown, and on all parades until about 1830, when it was retired for safekeeping. The Light Horse of the City of Philadelphia, or "Philadelphia Light Horse", was organized in 1774 at Carpenters Hall during the First Continental Congress.</p>

	<p>Ft. Moultrie, Sullivan Island, SC Flag: This is a blue flag with a crescent moon and the word “Liberty” as the canton. The Fort and flag were both named for their Commander, William Moultrie, during the time of the British bombardment there on June 28, 1776. This early flag became the basis for the current South Carolina state flag which added a palm tree in the center of the field.</p>
	<p>Culpeper Minute Men Flag: This flag was activated July 17, 1775, along with activation of the Culpeper Minutemen Militia by the 3rd Virginia Convention. This Militia unit was made part of Patrick Henry's 1st VA Regiment. This flag has the coiled rattlesnake with an inscription containing part of Patrick Henry's now famous declaration “Give Me Liberty Or Give Me Death” by including the words “Liberty or Death” and added the slogan “Don't Tread On Me”.</p>
	<p>Washington's Cruisers: When George Washington arrived to take command of the Siege of Boston in July, 1775, he realized he needed to prevent the British ships from resupplying the British army on land. General Washington set about commissioning and fitting the ships with his own money. The pine tree shown in the center of the flag had long been a New England symbol and leading up to the Revolutionary War the pine tree became a symbol of resistance against Britain. The phrase "Appeal to Heaven" is a phrase taken from the Second Treatise on Civil Government written by the English philosopher and "father of enlightenment" John Locke in 1690.</p>
	<p>1st Pennsylvania Regiment of Riflemen: The flag of the 1st Pennsylvania Militia Riflemen can be traced to the beginning of 1776 when General Washington ordered that each regiment should be furnished with its own colors and that those Colors should bear some kind of similarity to the uniform of the regiment to which they belong. The letters at the top of the flag stand for "Pennsylvania Militia 1st Regiment". The Latin motto "Domari nolo" translates to "I Refuse To Be Subjugated".</p>
	<p>Pulaski's Legion: The standard for Pulaski's Legion was presented to Colonel Casimir Pulaski by patriotic women of Baltimore in 1778 shortly after he organized his corps. This banner was carried through many battles, including Little Egg Harbor massacre (1778) and the siege of Savannah (1779). When Pulaski was mortally wounded at Savannah on October 9, 1779, his adjutant returned the banner to Baltimore where it has been preserved at the museum of the Maryland Historical Society. Pulaski's Legion was disbanded in November 1780.</p>

	<p>George Rogers Clark's Flag: This 13 red & green striped flag has been documented to have been a flag flown over Ft. Sackville, then the “Northwest Territory” now, Vincennes, IN, when this fort was under the control of George Rogers Clark's Illinois Regiment. Journal records report that approximately 5 yards of red serge was purchased along with approximately 3 & ¾ yards of green serge. Both parcels were provided to a French seamstress (note Vincennes was a French Trading Post) to make a flag with red & green stripes a design by Illinois Regimental Officer Capt. Leonard Helm who was the Fort Sackville Commander. The seamstress had completed the flag by Nov. 12, 1778.</p>
	<p>Serapis Flag: This flag resulted from famous battle between Bonhomme Richard and HMS Serapis. The famous phrase from John Paul Jones of “I have not yet begun to fight” occurred during the battle. After the battle the Bonhomme Richard sank leaving John Paul Jones and his men on the captured Serapis. In order to avoid accusations of piracy, John Paul Jones registered this flag on October 5, 1779 with Dutch authorities as an official ensign for the United States.</p>
	<p>Kentucky's River Raisin Battle Flag: There is little historical documentation relating to this flag. It is not known when it was first designed or how long it was used. This battle flag was captured by the British in 1813 after the Battle of River Raisin in Michigan and was sent back to Great Britain as a trophy. The design includes a shield breasted eagle, nine stars and a banner with the words "United we Stand". The eagle clutches three arrows in one talon, and a pole with a red liberty cap in the other.</p>
	<p>Cowpens (North Point): The Cowpens Flag, according to legend, was carried at the Battle of Cowpens on 17 January 1781, where American General Daniel Morgan won a decisive victory against the British in South Carolina. However, there is some controversy about whether the "original" flag currently stored in the Maryland State Archives was at the Battle of Cowpens. Some believe the flag was first flown at the Battle of North Point in the War of 1812, therefore it is also known as the North Point flag.</p>



The Bennington Flag: This battle flag is one of the more popular flags associated with the American Revolutionary War. It derives its name from the Battle of Bennington on 16 August, 1777, where, according to tradition, this flag was flown. The stars have seven points, which was common for flags in the colonial period. The flag is also distinctive because the canton (the blue section) is longer than usual, being 9 stripes deep, instead of the more familiar 7 stripes. The origins of this flag are in question, but it is known that the earliest date the flag could have been made is about 1810. While the Bennington Flag was not present at the Battle of Bennington, it is nonetheless intriguing as to when was it made and for what purpose.



Guilford Courthouse Flag: The Guilford Courthouse flag is the name given to a North Carolina militia flag which according to tradition was flown at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse on 15 March 1781. The flag is easily identified by the reversed colors normally seen on American flags: red and blue stripes in the field with eight-pointed blue stars on an elongated white canton. This flag is not believed to be contemporary to the American Revolution. Some speculate that Nathaniel Fillmore, who was a veteran of the Revolution, made it during the War of 1812 as a call-to-arms. Others suggest that it was made to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1826. And some, including the Smithsonian have proposed that it could have been made as late as 1876, to celebrate the Centennial.



Sons of Liberty: The origins of this flag design are in question as it first came to public attention in the late 19th century. Legend states that the Sons of Liberty Flag was originally flown in Boston by a loosely knit association of colonists known as the Sons of Liberty. The Sons of Liberty were formed in Boston around the time of the Stamp Act protests in 1765. They would meet at a large elm tree to hold their protests. This tree became known as the Liberty Tree. Legend also states they began to fly this flag whenever the leaders would want to call the townspeople together and it became known as the Sons of Liberty Flag or the Liberty Tree Flag.

QUICK REFERENCE ORDER GUIDE For SAR COLOR GUARDS

USA Flags **TO THE RIGHT Of Marching Column Or Podium**

Governor Isaac Shelby Chapter SAR		Kentucky Society SAR	
Order #	Flag Name	Order #	Flag Name
1	USA 50 Star Flag	1	USA 50 Star Flag
2	Grand Union Flag	2	Grand Union Flag
3	Hopkinson Flag	3	Hopkinson Flag
4	Betsy Ross Flag	4	Betsy Ross Flag
5	Star Spangled Banner	5	Star Spangled Banner
6	Great Star Flag	6	Great Star Flag

State Flags **if additional state flags are used order is by statehood admission**
POSITIONED To The LEFT Of Column or Podium

7	Kentucky State Flag	7	Kentucky State Flag
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SAR/DAR/CAR Flag(s) **Positioned to the LEFT Of STATE Flag(s)**

8	GISSAR Flag	8	KYSSAR Flag
9	SAR 250 th Anniversary Flag	9	SAR 250 th Anniversary Flag
10	DAR Chapter Flag	10	DAR State Flag
11	CAR Chapter Flag	11	CAR State Flag

Battle Flags

12	Philadelphia Light Horse Flag	12	The Bedford Flag
13	Ft. Moultrie Flag	13	Philadelphia Light Horse Flag
14	Culpeper Minutemen Flag	14	Bunker Hill Flag
15	Washington Cruisers Flag	15	Ft. Moultrie Flag
16	1st PA Regiment of Riflemen	16	Culpeper Minutemen Flag
17	Pulaski Legion Flag	17	Washington Cruisers Flag
18	George Rogers Clark Flag	18	Gadsden Flag
19	Serapis Flag	19	1st PA Regiment of Riflemen
20	River Raisin Flag	20	Pulaski Legion Flag
21	Cowpens Flag	21	George Rogers Clark Flag
22	Bennington Flag	22	Serapis Flag
23	Guilford Courthouse Flag	23	River Raisin Flag

		24	1 st Virginia Regiment Flag
		25	Cowpens Flag
		26	Bennington Flag
		27	Guilford Courthouse Flag
		28	Join or Die Flag

Organizational Flag(s) Positioned to the LEFT Of BATTLE Flag(s)

24	Sons Of Liberty Flag	29	Sons Of Liberty Flag
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