

*Please pass along our monthly article from the Americanism Commission,*

### ***Americanism Defined***

Americanism is love of America; loyalty to her institutions as the best 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 life 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.

It is complete and unqualified loyalty to the ideals of government as set forth in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States. It is respect for, and ready obedience to, duly constituted authority and the laws of the land. It is freedom without license, religion without bigotry, charity without bias, and a desire to secure the blessings of liberty for our nation and for our posterity.

### ***What do you see when you look at our flag?***

If what you see when you look at our flag is just a piece of cloth, then flag etiquette will mean very little to you. The need to understand why this flag, our flag means so much to so many has never been greater than now. Our flag represents 2 main aspects of our country: first is the 50 united states in our nation in the stars and the 13 original colonies in the stripes, secondly our flag is a symbol that is meant to represent all the values and beliefs held by those who not only fight to defend them, but those who are privileged enough to live under its protection. It represents the strife and sacrifices that have brought us to modern day; our flag is not political and does not wish to oppress anyone. Our flag represents the very freedom that our military defends and the opportunity for all

people to live as a united people. My hope is that thru these articles you will see why the proper treatment of our nation's symbols is so very important.

I am proud when I look at my flag; I see Freedom, Justice and Democracy. Long may she wave!

James A Eubanks, Americanism Commission member