

Final Retirement of our nation's flag

MC: (To the assembled camp and scouts):

Ladies and Gentleman, tonight we are going to retire the flag of our country. According to military rules and protocol, we cannot destroy a "flag". We therefore have reduced the flag(s) to their component parts. In this manner we will not be desecrating the flag of our country. The stripes have been separated from each other, and the blue field has been removed.

In this manner, we are burning a collection of multicolored rags. But what rags they are. Each piece has a meaning, or is symbolic of some part of our country and its people.

The thirteen stripes are emblematical of the original thirteen colonies that first stood against the tyranny of an unjust king.

The seven red stripes represent the blood shed by our fathers, husbands, brothers, and sons to secure and preserve our freedoms.

The six white stripes represent the tears of our mothers, wives, sisters, and daughters that were shed for those that made the ultimate sacrifice.

The white spine that holds the various parts in place is symbolic of the strength and courage of this nation's people to stand up to injustice.

The fifty stars on the blue field symbolize that all fifty states will stand united against all adversity under God's blue Heaven.

The brass grommets that hold the flag in fair weather and foul, through gentle breeze or the winds of war are symbolic of the strength of our nation's convictions. Even as they are put to the test of the flame, they will endure even the harshest conflagration. After this retirement, they are all that will survive the fire. They will be retrieved from the ashes and hang with pride in the main lodge hall.

Color Guard - Attention

Camp, Attention.

Color Guard – Advance

Camp, uncover

Camp, Hand Salute

Color Guard - retire the Colors.

(The stripes are placed into the fire first, then slowly and respectfully, the blue field. The camp remains at attention and in salute until there are no recognizable remains of a flag in the fire)

Camp, Hands To.

At this time the retirement ceremony is complete. The camp will please leave the Fire Bowl in silence. Good night and may God bless America.