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The American flag and the Pledge of Allegiance is the foundation of who we are as American citizens and the sacrifice our veterans have made for our great country. I still recall as a young soldier at Fort Knox how our commanding officer explained the importance of respecting and honoring our flag and the men and women who fought for our freedom.

Our national flag represents all that is good about America. Veterans Day is just a few weeks away and millions of Americans will be celebrating the service and sacrifices made by our men and women in the Armed Forces. Only 1% of our citizens placed their lives on hold to serve and protect this great nation. When we Pledge Allegiance to the Flag it is a symbol that brings all Americans together in our common belief that all men and women are created equal and how fortunate we are to have the privileges granted to us under the Bill of Rights. The flag does not belong to any one political group, party or ideology. It belongs to all of us and needs to be defended, respected, and protected from hate speech and protests.

Old Glory is not just a piece of cloth, it dawns the red and white stripes with her blue panel in holding the 50 stars one for each state of the union. The red stripes represent our countries strength and valor. The white stripes are for the purity and innocence of a young nation. While the blue panel holds our 50 states together in our vigilance and justice. Although America is not perfect, the flag is perfect, and represents a country always striving for good and not evil. It is the greatest National flag to have ever flown.

It my deepest and unbending beliefs that it all begins in our schools. The 10 Commandments should be in a prominent place in all our schools and public buildings. The Pledge of Allegiance should be recited every day in every classroom and public meeting. Most important all school children should be allowed to pray privately or in a group without interference, for what authority is greater than God's. If we keep our priorities straight with our love for God, Family, and Country we will continue to live in peace and in the greatest Nation in the world.

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