

## **Text to "I Am the American Flag"**

### Opening Speech to "I Am the American Flag"

I am the American Flag. I am what you make me, nothing more, nothing less. I am the banner of hope and freedom for generation after generation. I am life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. I am the best of times and the worst of times. I was still there at Fort McHenry after bombs burst in air. Born amid the first flames of America's fight for freedom, I am a symbol of a country that has grown from thirteen colonies to a nation of fifty sovereign states.

I am government of the people, by the people, for the people. I am old glory; I am the flag of the United States of America.

### Second Speech to "I Am the American Flag"

I was there when brother fought against brother, North against South, for the freedom of all men. My fluttering folds flew over the rubble of the World Trade Center after 9/11. I have been here through good times and bad. I was there when times were good during the Roaring 20's. I was there when no brother could spare a dime and a new President, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, addressed a nation in despair.----- "This is preeminently the time to speak the truth, the whole truth, frankly and boldly...This great nation will endure as it has endured, will revive and will prosper. So, first of all, let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself. Practices of the unscrupulous moneychangers stand indicted in the court of public opinion, rejected by the hearts and minds of men. The moneychangers have fled from their high seats in the temple of our civilization. We may now restore that temple to the ancient truths. Happiness lies not in the mere possession of money; it lies in the joy of achievement, in the thrill of creative effort. Our constitutional system has proved itself the most superbly enduring political mechanism the world has ever produced. It has met every stress of foreign wars and bitter internal strife. We do not distrust the future of essential democracy. Democracy is not a static thing. It is an everlasting march."

### Third Speech to "I Am the American Flag"

I was there in 1936 when the clouds of war were gathering before World War II, and President, Franklin Delano Roosevelt prepared a nation for war when he said the following words: "I am profoundly convinced that people everywhere in the civilized world wish to live in peace one with another. And still leaders and governments resort to war. Truly, if the genius of mankind that have invented the weapons of death cannot discover the means of preserving peace, civilization as we know it lives in an evil day."

(slight pause)

My colors flew high over the deck of the USS Arizona on the morning Japan attacked Pearl Harbor.

### Fourth Speech to "I Am the American Flag"

I was planted in the Sea of Tranquility on the surface of the moon when Neil Armstrong took one giant leap for mankind. My colors flew at half-mast in the dark moments of the 1960's when President John F. Kennedy and his brother Robert fell at the hands of brutal assassins.

Martin Luther King, as well, did not get to see his promised land, but his dream lives on as I watched this country elect its first African-American President.

I am the American Flag. I am what you make me, nothing less, nothing more. I am your belief in yourself, your dream of what a people can become. I am all that you hope to be. I am song and fear, struggle and panic, and enabling hope. I am the day's work of the weakest man and the largest dream of the most daring. I am more than you believe me to be and I am all that you believe I can be. I swing before your eyes as a bright gleam of color, a symbol of yourself. My stars and stripes are your dreams and your labors. They are bright with cheer, brilliant with courage, firm with faith, because you have made them so; for you are the makers of the flag, and it is well that you glory in the making.

**I Am The American Flag!**