

Patriotic song looks at ragged ol' flag



Steve Boxler and his son Connor stood at attention during the "Star Spangled Banner". — Telegram staff photo

As part of his talk on the flag during Fourth of July ceremonies at Sebelius Reservoir Mel Rice quoted from a country western song by Johnny Cash on the American flag.

"He sets the stage for the words of the song by telling of a small county courthouse square with a ragged old flag flying from a wind bent flag staff," Mr. Rice said. "A simple citizen uses these words to tell of his pride in that flag of the United States of America."

THE FLAG

"I don't like to brag, but we're kinda proud of that ragged old flag.

"You see, we got a little hole in that flag there,

"When Washington took it across the Delaware.

"And it got powder burned the night that Francis Scott Key

"Sat watching and writing 'Oh say can you see.'

"And it got a bad rip in New Orleans

"With Packingham and Jackson tugging at its seams.

"And it almost fell at the Alamo beside the Texas flag, but she waved on through!

"She got cut with a sword at Chancellorsville.

"And she got cut again at Shiloh Hill.

"There was Robert E. Lee, Beauregard and Bragg

"And the south wind blew hard on that ragged old flag.

"On Flanders Field in World War I

"She got a big hole from a Bertha gun.

"And she turned blood red in World War II

"And she hung limp and low a time or two.

"She was in Korea, Persian Gulf and Viet Nam.

"She went where she was sent by her Uncle Sam.

"She waved from our ships

upon the briny foam

"And some would quit waving her here at home.

"In her own good land here, she's been abused.

"She's been burned, dishonored, denied and refused.

"And the government for which she stands

"Is scandalized throughout the land.

"And she's getting threadbare and she's wearing thin.

"But, she's in good shape for the shape she's in.

"Because she's been through the fire before,

"I believe she can take a whole lot more.

"So we raise her up every morning, we take her down every night.

"We don't let her touch the ground and we fold her up right.

"On second thought, I do like to brag.

"Cause I am mighty proud of that ragged old flag."

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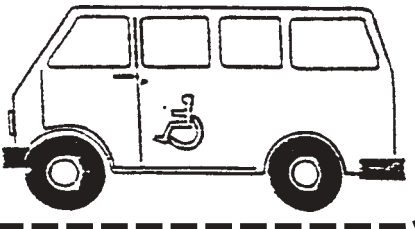
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