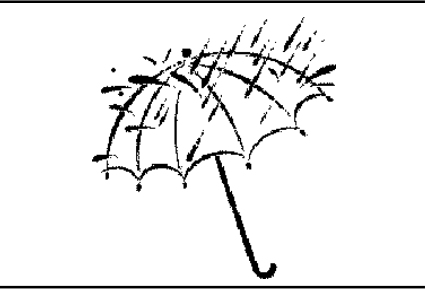


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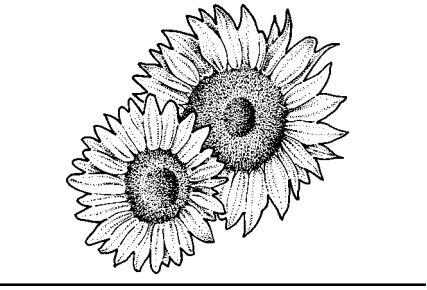
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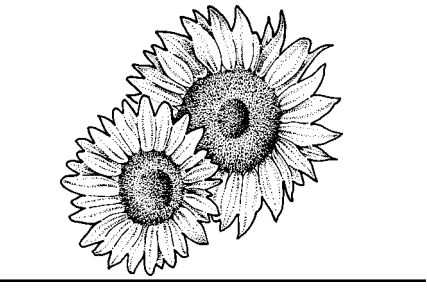
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Congratulations, Elks Americanism Essay contest winners!

Does “Americanism” run in the family? Perhaps, if you look at the winners of the Goodland Elks Americanism Essay Contest.

Dayelle Waugh, a sixth grader at North Elementary School, won the essay competition for Division I (fifth and sixth graders), and her brother, Ben Waugh, a seventh grader, won at Grant Junior High won Division II (seventh and eighth graders).

They are children of James and Traci Waugh of rural Goodland. They each received a \$50 savings bond for their essays and went on to the Northwest Kansas District judging.

Dayelle’s essay competed against those from Russell and was first place. She received another \$50 savings bond, and her essay will go on to the state judging committee to compete against those from three other Kansas districts, representing 32 lodges.

There were no essays submitted from other lodges to compete against Ben’s, so he was first at district, receiving another \$50 savings bond, and his essay was sent to compete at state, too.

The Goodland Elks received 96 essays from Goodland, Weskan and Cheylin (Bird City) schools in Division I. The second and third-place winners were Cheylin sixth graders Danny Frisbie and Craig Busse.

The lodge had 22 essays in Division II. The second and third place winners were Weskan eighth graders Meghann Cline and Raney Okeson.

The essays were judged by two former teachers, Vicki White and Linda Knott. The names and towns of the writers were covered up and the essay copied to go to the judging committee.

The topic of the essays was “What Old Glory Means to Me.”

Dayelle’s essay: In the dictionary, Old Glory is simply defined as the flag of the United States of America.

To me, Old Glory is a magnificent flag that waves above our free democracy. The flag proves that even through tragedies and wars, a nation can stand together and remain strong. After the catastrophes that shook our country, that unaffected flag waved and still waves, above the tallest skyscrapers and the smallest houses. Old Glory even waves above the deepest craters of the moon.

Old Glory drapes gently upon the caskets of all the men and women who have given their lives so we could live freely. Receiving the flag are the families that sacrificed their loved ones.

In the dictionary, glory means to give praise and honor to someone or something. Old means having lasted a long time. These definitions have more meaning than simply the flag; it represents years passed and honorable ancestors. To me Old Glory is more, much more, than just a flag; it is our past, present and future.

Danny’s essay: There are many meanings for Old Glory, but I believe the United States flag signifies three important issues. These are blood being shed for freedom, being one unified nation and striving for justice.

I believe the red stripes signify bloodshed. Many battles have been fought throughout American history. Each one to ensure we are a free country.

The white stars remind me that we have 50 individual and different states. However, all our states together form one unified nation, or “One Nation Under God.” Our country stands together, as in “all for one and one for all.”



Day Waugh



Ben Waugh



I also believe the blue color on our “Old Glory” represents justice. Justice must be upheld so that all are treated fairly. Otherwise, our country would be greatly divided.

To me, “Old Glory” represents a unified nation comprising individual states where Americans have fought long and hard to ensure freedom and justice. Many lives have been lost and huge quantities of blood shed for our great Nation.

I feel it is my duty to be the best person possible so I can be an example for generations to come. “Old Glory” must be preserved for all time. All Americans salute you.

Craig’s essay: To some the flag is just a cloth, but to me the flag is special. The flag stands to show we are united, have freedom, and to honor our veterans.

The flag shows we are united because there are 50 stars on a blue plain. It also says that one state is not more powerful than the others. The five points of each star represent agriculture, industry, politics, commerce and natural resources.

Old Glory also flies to show freedom. It stands to say no one is a slave. It flies to be a symbol of freedom. To some invaded countries, it meant their country would probably be liberated soon.

Finally, Old Glory means veterans. It flew in almost every war and accompanied many veterans. When a veteran dies, the government gives the deceased veteran a gun salute and a flag for the family to say thanks to the veteran for serving our country.

So the next time you see Old Glory, don’t think of a simple cloth, think unity, freedom and honor. Because that is why Old Glory is very important to me.

Ben’s essay: Old Glory is the name given to America’s great flag. The flag was introduced during the Revolutionary War and has waved in every battle ever since. It stood on the battlefield of Gettysburg during the Civil War that divided our country, to the foreign soil of Iwo Jima and Vietnam.

It stands at the wreckage of the Twin Towers in New York City where terrorists attacked our country. The craters of the moon hold a flag that will be standing for all eternity.

When you speak of Old Glory, the image of the billions of people it has represented over the generations appears in your mind. The first generation, which founded this great land, to the computer generation of today, Old Glory will represent this coun-

try until the end of time.

The same people will not always be here, the technology will evolve and the wars will still wage on, even the fashion and fads will fade and reappear but our great flag, Old Glory, will always be with us. This is what Old Glory means to me.

Meghann’s essay: To me “Old Glory” means more than just an ordinary flag. When I see “Old Glory” going down the street, I get an overwhelming sense of pride and sadness. It reminds me that freedom is not free.

I think about all the nameless and faceless people who gave their lives years ago for us to get our freedom and the men and women who give their lives today for us to keep our freedom.

The price we pay for freedom can’t be paid in any amount of money. It is paid in the lives of our fellow Americans.

The American story is etched in that flag; not everyone can see it, but I can, and to me there has never been a more touching story.

Freedom, liberty, Americans and glory, that is what our flag stands for. “Old Glory” stands for all the rights we have as Americans. That is what “Old Glory” means to me.

Raney’s essay: To me “Old Glory” brings and creates memories for everyone. Since our flag is so valuable to us, we honor it greatly.

“Old Glory” to me, is not just a flag, it’s a symbol for our country that everyone appreciates, loves and adores. I have also noticed it is feared by other countries. I can tell most people love it because we have placed it on the moon. We are proud to wave it at special events and our soldiers are proud to keep one to remember who they are fighting for. It also shows that we are 50 independent states working together to make one united country.

The 13 stripes show that we started with 13 colonies and worked together to become 50 states.

“Old Glory” stands out to me because we chose our colors with thought of their meaning: red meaning durability and value, white meaning purity and innocence and blue meaning awareness, determination and justice. “Old Glory” stands for peace, honor, truth and justice in my eyes. I feel in my heart that “Old Glory” is invincible.

I appreciate the people who took time and gave effort to make our flag wonderful. Long may “Old Glory” wave.



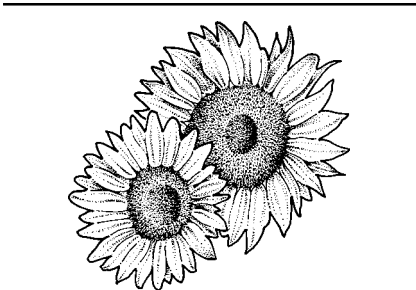
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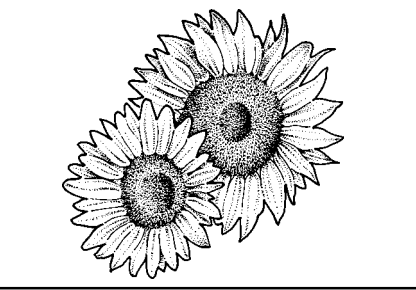
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