

## IOWA BATTLE PROJECT

### DID YOU KNOW?

There have been 17 versions of the flag over the years.

2008 is the 224th birthday of the National flag.

Harry Truman signed the legislation making Flag Day a national observance.

Largest flag day parade is held in Troy, New York.

### THINGS TO DO

Sing the National Anthem.

Send a letter to a service man in Iraq.

Have a family picnic.

See a parade with the family.

Make red, white and blue Jello Stars.

Fly a National Flag at your home.

Watch a patriotic movie.

# Flag Day

CELEBRATED ON JUNE 14

UNITED STATES

## A Day to Celebrate the National Flag

Flag day is a special day to celebrate the adoption of the Stars and Stripes as the official flag of the United States of America.

On June 14, 1777, John Adams spoke of the flag during an address of the Continental Congress in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He described the flag as "Resolved, that the flag of the thirteen United States shall be thirteen stripes, alternating in red and white; that the Union be thirteen stars, white on a blue field, representing a new constellation."

It wasn't until 1885 that a flag day was actively promoted by Bernard Cigrand of Waubeka, Wisconsin.

He worked for many years promoting the need for an annual

observance of the 1777 adoption of the flag of the United States. He promoted this idea through speeches, newspaper articles and through his influence as the edi-



**Photo Credit: Kelly Bailey, Des Moines, Iowa, 2006**

tor of the American Standard magazine. Bernard Cigrand is generally credited with being the "Father of Flag Day."

In June 1894, children from the

public school system in Chicago, Illinois celebrated Flag Day in local parks. From that early start the observance of Flag Day has grown to commonly include displaying stylized versions of the National Flag in front of homes and businesses.

During National Flag Week the President of the United States issues a proclamation urging the citizens to fly the National Flag. All Government buildings fly the flag during this time.

Many communities hold special celebrations such as flag dedications, parades, choral presentations of the National Anthem and fireworks.

## Family Fun Activity! You can Celebrate Too!

### CREATE A FLAG

Construction paper

Red, blue and white non-toxic paint

Paint brush

If you had to design your own version of the flag following the

established guidelines "Resolved, that the flag of the thirteen United States shall be thirteen stripes, alternating in red and white; that the Union be thirteen stars, white on a blue field, representing a new constellation" what would your flag look like? How big would it be? How

would you place the stars in the canton? What do you imagine the colors mean?

Use your flag to decorate your home and celebrate Flag Day. Ask an adult to hang your finished flag on the front door or in a window.