

November 20, 1936
Wewaka, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Tuttle,

I have been asked to give a tribute to the American flag at a district Rainbow meeting at Ada, December 5. I do not feel that I can write anything equal to the occasion. If in the near future you have time, I would greatly appreciate it if you would send to me what you think a tribute to our flag should be. Your views on such things are always so beautiful that I would be very proud indeed if I could give a tribute written by you. I will greatly appreciate your trouble.

Yours sincerely,

Louaine Davis

[The original of this letter is in the correspondence file.]

Tribute to the American Flag.

The American Flag is more than the flag of a Nation; it is more than a standard of a people; it is more than a pennant of distinction; it is an emblem of Liberty and Freedom. It is the premier representative of justice and equality in government. Whether it be but a listly ^{flag} hanging to a motheaten pole, unstired by a breeze, it represents liberty and freedom for little children, for aged and humble people, for the wealthy and the poor, for the exalted and needy.

It is'ent its looks that stir men's souls but it is the things it represents. It represents principles and undisputed truths in mens government. It represents faithfulness to those principles. It represents government subservient to the people's will as distinguished from government where people are slaves to a government group. It represents all that is good, that is clean, that is just.

It was contrived by a courageous people seeking freedom and liberty of thought and of action. It was christened in blood of patriots, amidst the want and misery, ~~the~~ hardships and destitution of an impoverished land. It was born amidst the thunder and roar of defending guns; amidst the shouts and clamor of a defiant people. It waived its inspiring folds over tired but courageous men fighting a war for freedom for themselves, for their children and for their children's children. It waved its stars and stripes over hungry and half starved men, men in tattered uniforms and naked feet; naked feet that left bloodstains upon the snows at Valley Forge. It waved its encouragement upon the embattled hosts that wrested the scepter of cruelty from Cornwallis at Yorktown's bloody seige. And it wave^d its cheerful approval upon the victorious armies of this Republic.

Nor did its inspiring influence cease with ^{the} initial quest for freedom but its gallant star spangled folds led determined men into bloody strife to free other enslaved peoples, at home and abroad. For does it not represent freedom and Justice?

It is the flag of a free people, a free government. May it always remain such. And may we hope and pray that a grateful people will, by considerate and thoughtful cooperation in government affairs, maintain its spotless character.