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June 14th is known as Flag Day. Let us all take the opportunity to educate ourselves and the public the importance of the American Flag and why it should fly proudly everyday. It is our right that will not be infringed upon by Homeowner Associations, Colleges and Universities, or any other organizations.

Our American Flag symbolizes freedom, liberty, and human rights here and abroad. We are the beacon of light in the world. Our colors of the pales (the vertical stripes) are those used in the flag of the United States of America; White signifies purity and innocence, Red, hardiness & valour, and Blue signifies vigilance, perseverance & justice.

An article in the Dakota County Star titled, "American Flag, a symbol of freedom, liberty and human rights" states the following: "However, we stand by the fact that citizens should be able to express themselves freely as long as no one is being harmed. Though disrespectful, desecrating a flag does no immediate harm, and should be a protected form of free speech. One can despise the person's character and choice of demonstration, protest against it and educate people on what the flag means, but banning the act legally takes away one more freedom from the land the flag represents – the land of freedom and opportunity." This reflects the mission of our Order where we educate but not infringe on the rights of others.

We need to be more active on this front as the next two articles in the Banner Voices of Patriotism will show. Let us continue to promote the American Flag and Patriotism in our Country as the Boys in Blue and the Grand Army of the Republic done before us. Let their actions and on through us.

Yours In Fraternity, Loyalty, and Charity.