

FLAG DAY

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President:

Hats off!
 Along the street there comes
 A blare of bugles, a ruffle of drums,
 A flash of color beneath the sky:
 Hats off!
 The flag is passing by!
 Blue and crimson and white it shines,
 Over the steel-tipped, ordered lines.
 Hats off!
 The colors before us fly;
 But more than the flag is passing by.
 Sea-fights and land-fights, grim and great,
 Fought to make and save the State:
 Weary marches and sinking ships;
 Cheers of victory on dying lips;
 Days of plenty and years of peace;
 March of a strong land's swift increase;
 Equal justice, right and law,
 Stately honor and reverend awe;
 Sign of a nation, great and strong
 To ward her people from foreign wrong;
 Pride and glory and honor, all
 Live in the colors to stand or fall.
 Hats off!
 Along the street there comes
 A blare of bugles, a ruffle of drums;
 And loyal hearts are beating high:
 Hats off!
 The flag is passing by!

Mr. President, today is Flag Day. It is the birthday of our Stars and Stripes. It was on June 14, 1777, that the Second Continental Congress passed the resolution authorizing the creation of a flag to symbolize the new Nation, the United States of America.

This is not a federal holiday, but to me it is one of the most important days of the year. Flag day is our nation's way of honoring, celebrating, and paying our respects to the very symbol of our nation. As the poem says: "more than the flag is passing by."

Henry Ward Beecher explained that "a thoughtful mind when it sees our nation's flag, sees not the flag, but the nation itself."

More than this, Old Glory represents the values and principles of our nation. It commemorates our nation's glorious past, and it offers hope for an even more glorious future.

Born at the beginning of the American Revolution, the Stars and Stripes is a celebration of our independence and our freedom as well as our strength and our security. It was there, being raised and saluted during some of the proudest moments in our nation's history as in Iwo Jima in 1945 and on the Moon in 1969. And it has been there in every major conflict in American history as millions of young Americans have marched off to battle under the flag. It was at Fort McHenry during the War of 1812. It was there at Gettysburg, at San Juan Hill, and at Normandy.

But more than soldiers have been inspired and guided by our Nation's colors.

I can't begin to explain what a thrill it is for me to visit a school and see

young children putting their chubby hands on their hearts and pledging allegiance to "the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands." When I see such a sight, I feel confident for the future of our great land. Whatever our current troubles might be, I somehow know that everything will be all right. Our flag, as it has throughout our history, continues to transcend our differences, and affirm our common bond as a people and our solemn unity as a great Nation.

The United States Senate now begins each morning by pledging allegiance to the flag. Speaking those few, but stirring, words, while looking at Old Glory, still inspires me and reminds me of how fortunate I am to be an American, to be a West Virginian, and to be a United States Senator.

On Flag Day, 1917, President Woodrow Wilson noted: "though silent it [our flag] speaks to us" and indeed it does.

It speaks to us of great events—of our liberty; of our history; of our future. It speaks to us of the freedom that is the basis, and the enduring promise, of our Republic.

"Hats off," Mr. President, "the colors before us fly; But more than the flag is passing by."

I close by citing those memorable, moving lines from the second stanza of our national anthem:

Tis the Star-Spangled Banner. O long may it
 wave
 O'er the land of the free and the home of the
 brave.

Mr. President, I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that further proceedings under the quorum call be dispensed with, and that I be allowed to proceed in morning business for 4 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator from Michigan.

IN MEMORY OF VERNA "SUZY"
 JOYCE, DEDICATED PUBLIC
 SERVANT, WIFE AND MOTHER

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise tonight to pay tribute to Suzy Joyce who passed away today Thursday, June 14, 2001. Her sudden and untimely death leaves a void that for those who knew and loved Suzy will never be filled.

Born Verna Joyce, but called Suzy by those who knew her, in North Carolina on September 15, 1957, Suzy began work in the United States Senate over two decades ago as a cashier in the Senate Restaurants. Since 1986, I had the privilege of having Suzy on my staff. During her tenure on my staff, she was

a model employee whose expertise, dedication, diligence and attention to detail enabled my office to respond to constituents efficiently and effectively.

Suzy played a vital role in advancing and modernizing our office's mail system. She arrived in the era of carbon copies and mimeograph machines, but she helped implement a new mail system that responds to the needs of the computer era when letters are as likely to arrive by email as they are by the US Postal Service. While my constituents may have never had the opportunity to personally meet Suzy, tens of thousands of them received constituent services, United States flags flown over the Capital and heard from me by mail because of her organization and efforts.

Suzy was more than a dedicated employee. She was a warm and friendly woman whose infectious smile, sense of humor and love for the Pittsburgh Steelers filled our office, and earned her friends throughout the Senate. It seems as if everyone knew Suzy. She was the one who welcomed interns and told my staffers, who are prone to working long days, to remember to call their parents. When members of my staff went to the Senate Printing Office or the Architect of the Capitol, they were often admonished with orders to say "Hello to Suzy."

I wish that more of my constituents had the opportunity to meet Suzy and her husband Rick. The two of them worked together in the United States Senate, and this is a better place because of them.

Suzy and Rick's dedication extended far beyond work. They were dedicated to each other, their three children, their family and their God. Together, they embodied the American values of hard-work, faith and loyalty. Suzy and Rick, both natives of North Carolina, recently celebrated another anniversary together. Their love for each other was evident to all. Rick works as the Facilities Supervisor under the Office of the Superintendent, and Suzy would come into work with him, hours before our office opened so that she could ride to and from work with him. After work, Suzy frequently volunteered at her church where she was a regular attendee and an important contributor. She is survived by three wonderful daughters: Andrea, Candice and Dawn of whom she was extremely proud and talked about frequently.

One never is able to prepare for the death of a friend or loved one. However, I trust that the friends, family and faith that were so important to Suzy in her life will continue to sustain her family in the days, months and years ahead. I and my staff will keep Suzy Joyce and her family in our thoughts and prayers. I know that the Senate family joins me in offering their condolences to the family of Verna "Suzy" Joyce on the occasion of their great loss.