



The Vexilloid Tabloid

Portland Flag Association

“Free, and Worth Every Penny!”

Issue 113 August 2025

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Flags for Disability Month

By Graham Houser

I joined the Disability Pride Month Celebration at Woodlawn Park with my family. I brought my “flag wagon”. Since I work with high school students with disabilities I have a few flags that represent the Disability Community that I use as teaching tools in the classroom.

The Sign Union flag was designed in 2013 by Arnaud Balard, a deaf-blind artist; I got the flag at NAVA 56. The Autism Acceptance flag (gold and purple) was designed in 2022 by Brian Cham, a NAVA member; I had the flag printed.



Kids enjoy the flags.

The Disability Pride flag was designed in 2019 by Ann Magill, a disabled activist who updated the flag design after public feedback.

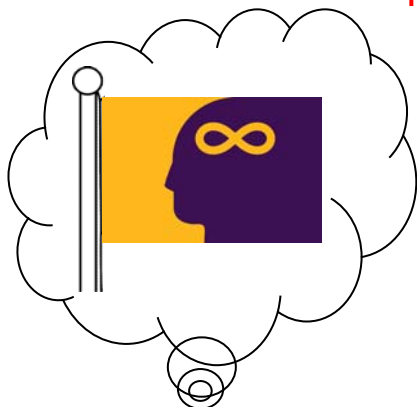
The flags were popular with many of the concert-going kids—something about running through flowing fabric is so fun!



My family returns from the concert, bearing flags.



My son, Julian, waves the flag of the city of Portland.



The gold and purple [of the Autism Acceptance flag] represent hope that our differences will be understood, accepted, and embraced.

—Brian Cham

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If you wish to compliment the editor, or to contribute in the future, contact Ted Kaye at 503-223-4660 or editor@portlandflag.org. If you wish to complain, call your mother.

July 2025 Flutterings You Need to Know

In our July meeting, hosted by Ted Kaye at his home in Portland and streamed via Zoom, 9 members (including two new participants) enjoyed two and a half hours of flags and video conversation.

As host, Ted moderated the session, with the PFA flag having welcomed members outside.

Jackson Wakefield (a new member accompanied by his father, Curt) described his interest in flags (including a pre-1992 South Dakota) and his recent acquisition of a retired flag of North Bend, Oregon, the city to the north of his grandparents' home in Coos Bay.

Max Liberman celebrated that day's Bahamian Independence Day with a presentation on its flags, including the unusual ensigns with red, white, and blue crosses (rather than just the standard red St. George's Cross).



Jackson Wakefield displays the flag of North Bend, Oregon, with help from his father, Curt.

Alden Jencks showed some of the flag-themed protest T-shirts he'd had made in Mexico during a recent visit (see p. 9; he plans to add flag patches to them as well) and compared respect for the national flag under the U.S. Flag Code to what he perceives as the often less-respectful treatment of state and city flags—perhaps a new challenge for the Flag Vigilante!



Ted Kaye explains NAVA's past-president's flag.

Ted Kaye described the June publication of the ICV 30 (2024) proceedings, shared some recently-acquired flag books, stumped the attendees with the latest flag quiz (from Mike Thomas; see p. 11), and showed an example of a past-NAVA-officer flag (the officer flag with the colors reversed).



Max Liberman honors Bahamian Independence Day with a presentation on its national flags.



Alden Jencks uses flags to create custom T-shirt messaging.



David Koski discusses the protocol of inverted national flags.

David Koski zoomed in and led a discussion of flying the national flag upside-down as a symbol of national distress, and how the political winds have shifted regarding that practice.

Jessie Spillers, just back from three months in Turkey visiting his daughter and grandson, described his experience there of protests and an earthquake, and unfurled a Turkish flag which he'd bought after tracking down a flag factory.

William Gifford reflected on last month's "No Kings" Flag Day protests in Portland, in which many U.S. flags were flown—hoping that it's a growing trend.



William Gifford always enjoys PFA meetings.



Jessie Spillers shows his travel prize: the flag of Turkey/ Türkiye.

Joyce Gifford tested the crowd with a quiz involving small flag patches (the Giffords' business: smALL FLAGs and PATCHes), many featuring a triangle at the hoist, culminating in the comparison of the old and new flags of Martinique—the "snake flag" which was replaced in 2023 and the new flag (originally designed in 1968) in the Garvey (pan-African diaspora) colors.

Our next meeting, on Saturday afternoon, September 13, will be hosted by Graham Houser at his home near Rocky Butte (we hold the September meeting at a different time and day to accommodate members who otherwise might be unable to attend on our usual schedule).

Ted will deliver the PFA flag to Graham. We expect again to welcome our local members as well as far-flung friends at our end-of-summer meeting.



Joyce Gifford shows the "snake flag" of Martinique, replaced with a new flag in 2023.



The Portland Flag Association flag announces the meeting to passersby along with an electronic readerboard message.

Sly Stone: Vexillographer

By Bertrand Valeyre

Sly Stone was a vexillographer in his own way.

As I read the 9 June obituary of American musician Sly Stone in the French newspaper *Libération* (“The incandescent groove of a hippie utopia...he revolutionized soul, united funk and 1960s psychedelia: before sinking into drugs, the leader of The Family Stone breathed a breath of multiracial freedom into American rock; he died on Monday at the age of 82.”), I noticed that his 1971 album “There’s a Riot Goin’ On” had a very studied design: a U.S. flag with the star-spangled blue canton replaced by a sun-spangled black canton. The title track, which he reportedly composed while on LSD, became an anthem for the Black Panther Party.

The obituary writer Jacques Denis described the flag design on the album cover, highlighting Stone’s vexillographic bona fides.

In an interview (quoted in Miles Marshall Lewis’s 2006 book *There’s a Riot Goin’ On*), Stone said “I wanted a flag to truly represent people of all colors. I wanted the color black because it is the absence of color. And I wanted the color white because it is the combination of all colors. And I wanted the color red because it represents the one thing that all people have in common: blood. I wanted suns instead of stars because stars to me imply



“There’s a Riot Goin’ On”, album by Sly and the Family Stone, 1971.

searching, like you search for your star. And there are already too many stars in this world. But the sun, that’s something that is always there, looking right at you. Betsy Ross did the best she could with what she had.”

So Sly was one of us!

Bertrand VALEYRE Valeyre is the assistant secretary of the French Society of Vexillology (SFV).



Sly Stone, vexillographer (1943–2025).

Maine Flag Plates

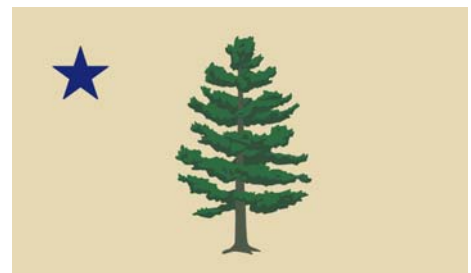
In May 2025, Maine began issuing license plates with a rendition of the 1901 Maine flag—the one with a pine tree and blue star. When the plate’s design was unveiled in 2024, the public had not yet voted on the potential state flag change.

Secretary of State Shenna Bellows, who oversaw both the flag and the license plate design, said “The new Pine Tree Plate is a fresh approach to a classic design rooted in Maine history.” The prior design, the “Chickadee Plate”, has been in circulation for almost 25 years, and will see over 900,000 replacements through May 2026.

In November 2024, voters rejected Question 5 “Do you favor making the former state flag, replaced as the official flag of the State in 1909 and commonly known as the Pine Tree Flag, the official flag of the State?”, which appeared on the ballot without showing images of the current and proposed designs!



2025 Maine license plate.



1901 Maine flag, voted down as the new flag in 2024.

Memorial Day Flags

By Ken Dale

On the Sunday before Memorial Day, I went to Willamette National Cemetery, south of Portland to attend to individual graves; there was no ceremony but there were many flags. The cemetery, run by the Veterans Administration, was established in 1950 and has seen over 188,000 interments, among them Senator Mark Hatfield.

Then on Memorial Day I visited the Oregon Vietnam Veterans Memorial, primarily to visit a friend's name on the wall. There, volunteers took about an hour to read off each of the 791 names inscribed on wall. The memorial, in Portland's Hoyt Arboretum, was established in 1987, inspired by the national memorial in Washington, D.C.



Flags at Willamette National Cemetery (with a contraband pinwheel).



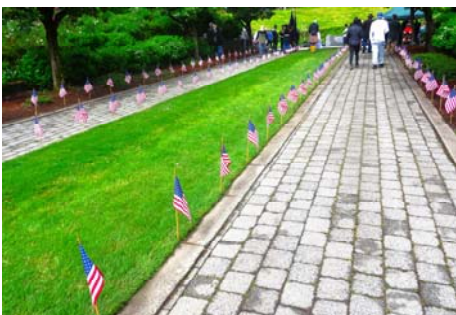
Flags above the Garden of Solace.



The honor guard marches to the wall.



Willamette National Cemetery.



Visitors approach the memorial.



Veterans honor the U.S. Army's 1st Cavalry Division with flags and shields.

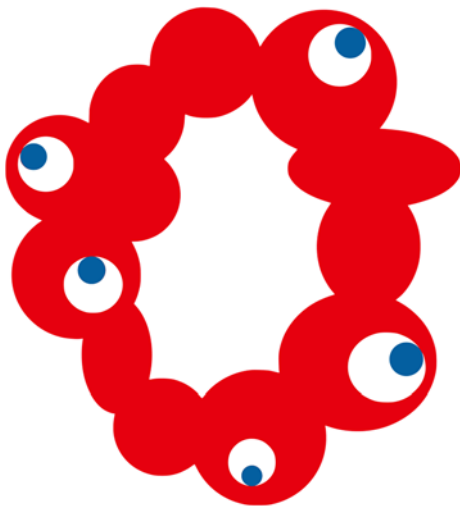
Oriental Orientations: Expo 2025

By Mike Thomas

I saw many flags at Expo 2025, running this April through October on the artificial island of Yumeshima in Osaka, Japan. At its West Gate, a traditional display of flags on 8-meter-high poles represents the more than 160 participating countries, regions, and international organizations.

The national flags fly in alphabetical order, but start with the host nation, Japan, and the “Bureau International des Expositions”, and end with seven other international organizations.

Inside the Expo, 56 nations have their own pavilions with flagpoles flying their own flags. Two Baltic and five Nordic nations share pavilions. The 94 remaining nations share several “commons”



OSAKA, KANSAI, JAPAN

EXPO
2025

Expo 2025's logo.



Flags at the West Gate of Expo 2025 in Osaka, Japan, led by Japan & BIE (inset).



The five Nordic countries display their flags on their shared pavilion.

halls, with their flags hanging across the front wall, mostly in alphabetical order. Nearly all appear to be rotated clockwise; some have been stretched. I now present 91 of these flags (next page), intrigued by their orientations and alterations.



The flag on Romania's pavilion.

Images of these displays show how organizers confronted the challenge of hanging extra-length flags in a vertical orientation, sometimes distorting or altering them, and some rotated counter-clockwise.

Who put the flags out?

The “Bureau International des Expositions” does not seem to have a “flag man”, unlike the organizers of the Olympic Games. The individual nations would be expected to take more care, and the host nation, Japan, is known for its rigorous adherence to rules.



All these flags are rotated clockwise.



Sierra Leone is rotated counter-clockwise.



Burundi has extra green added to both hoist and fly.



Rwanda is spun about the honor point, while St Kitts and Nevis has green and red added to the hoist and fly respectively.



The “white” flag “blinded by the light” is Somalia, white star on blue. Tuvalu has extra blue added to the fly, while Zambia has simply been extended downwards.



Antigua and Barbuda has extra red added to both hoist and fly, Burkina Faso is rotated counter-clockwise, while Bhutan has simply been stretched vertically to make an apparently “proper” hanging flag.



Croatia and Gabon are both rotated counter-clockwise, while Panama is spun about the honor point. Montenegro looks like a “proper” hanging flag.



San Marino and Guatemala have the background stretched vertically. Slovakia is rotated counter-clockwise, and together with Israel has kept the proper orientation of its device—both look like “proper” hanging flags.

Oregon Military Museum Flags

By Ted Kaye

A ceremony on July 11 at Camp Withycombe (south of Portland) the Oregon Military Museum re-opened after a 16-year hiatus.

Amid speechifying and cake-eating, participants enjoyed the new exhibits focused on the military history of Oregon. Many feature flags. The museum is open Wednesday through Saturday, 10 AM to 4 PM: 15300 SE Minuteman Way, Clackamas.



An exhibit features a WWI-era U.S. flag on a U.S. Marines recruiting poster.



This guidon, ca. 1866, represents the Portland Light Battery of the Oregon National Guard, renamed Battery A, Oregon Artillery in 1872. OMM01431



The guidon of Company A, 1st Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment flies during the Oregon National Guard's 1991 Annual Training.



Rudolph Gantenbein souvenired this banner in the Philippines during the Spanish-American War. It is inscribed with the members of Company I, 2nd Oregon U.S. Volunteer Infantry Regiment. OMM09442



Found in nearly every Afghan National Army vehicle, this ca. 2006 flag-themed identification tag reads "Afghanistan National Army—One Nation, One Army." Patrick Dean, a Marine-turned-Oregon Guardsman, souvenired this tag while assigned to the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team's Military Police Platoon.



Signed by members of the 11th Marines, 3rd Battalion (Artillery) in Inchon, Korea, on October 9, 1950, this South Korean flag reflects Oregonians' service in Korea.



Part of the 249th Air Defense Artillery, Oregon National Guard, the RCAT detachment used and maintained radio-controlled aerial targets. This ca. 1960 guidon's crossed cannons identify the detachment as artillery, while the intersecting missile symbolizes air defense. OMM02450



This signed Iraqi flag was presented to Oregon's Adjutant General Fred Rees and State Command Sergeant Thomas Moe by members of Oregon's 3670th Maintenance Company during a 2005 site visit to Iraq. OMM2009.009.002



Brig. Gen. Alan R. Gronewold, Oregon’s Adjutant General (commander of the Oregon National Guard), welcomes the crowd to the museum opening.



U.S. and Iraqi flags join unit patches on the “digital camo”-patterned helmet bag of Bruce Prunk, commander of the 732nd Air Exp Grp, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing.



Company D, 163rd Infantry, 41st Infantry Division captured this Japanese color during their island-hopping campaign in 1942. Signed by 53 members of the unit, it was brought home by Portland’s Theron Thompson. OMM09848

T-Shirt Flags

Alden Jencks used a recent visit to Mexico to have custom T-shirts made, many with flag-related themes. He shared them in the July meeting of the PFA.

He writes: “The messages and their accompanying flags cannot be considered controversial—they simply state decades-old, indeed centuries-old, consensus.”

The “Gulf of Mexico” shirt uses Mexican green-white-red flag colors for the nation’s name, and the “Panama’s Canal” shirt uses the country flag.

The “Greenland + Denmark” flag uses the national colors of both countries, red and white.

The “No Military Parades” shirt refers to the Flag Day event this year in Washington, D.C.

And the “O tempora, o mores” shirt quotes Cicero, who used it in his speeches to denounce corruption and moral decay in ancient Rome. Alden created it “in the spirit of the other shirts, to honor Max Liberman, a flag expert, snappy dresser, and classicist”.

Recalling Max’s presentation about flags on socks, Alden writes: “If Max can do socks, I can certainly do T-shirts!”

[Editor’s note: A treaty of friendship exists between Alden’s Freehold of Aab and Max’s Kingdom of Æfira, which may explain the diplomatic niceties.]



Flag-themed T-shirts custom-ordered by Alden Jencks while in Mexico.

Roundup



In *The Man Who Knew Too Much*, the classic 1956 Alfred Hitchcock film starring Jimmy Stewart and Doris Day (who sings *Que Será, Será*), the plot turns on a planned assassination in London's Royal Albert Hall of the prime minister of an un-named country. Its flag hangs from the statesman's box—a white saltire separating sections of yellow, blue, green, and red, with a green 5-pointed star centered in the yellow, oriented toward the hoist.



A member of the Czech Vexillological Society (CVS) helps debut “VexiBits” in a meeting earlier this year, inspired by NAVA’s custom at its annual meetings (report and image courtesy of Kryštof Huk).



Jim Croft sends this image of an election ballot drop box outside a fire station in Burlington, Vermont, bearing the new (2017) city flag—excellent branding!



United States Circus flag, spotted on Instagram by Keryn Anchel—the tent bears the correct number of stripes!



Should the U.S. have a colony on Mars, “Nimrod RPG” proposes a flag for the “State of Marsiana”.

1. Number of stars—as in the federal flag at the time of establishment.
2. Red circle for Mars.
3. Red stripes are twice as wide, to emphasize the Martian land.
4. Seven stripes to accommodate Earth’s 7-day week, which will be the standard in Mars as well.



On Canada Day (July 1) Jim Croft (in Vermont) shows solidarity with his northern neighbor.

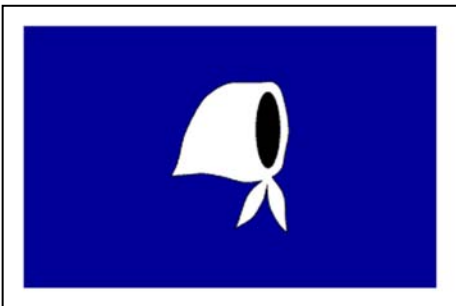


For Canada Day, Ralph Bartlett shares a maple leaf souvenir acquired there in 1987.

What's that Flag?

By Ted Kaye

Identify these flags, and determine the theme that connects them.



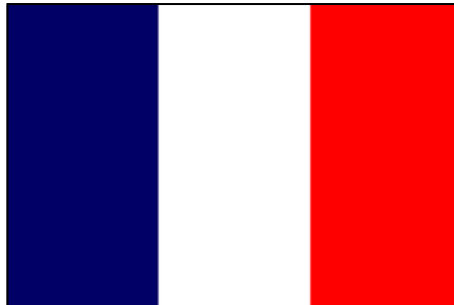
What Was that Flag? Answers to the last quiz

By Mike Thomas

The successive changes in these flags lead to the civil ensign of Luxembourg.



Congratulations to solvers John Cartledge and Tony Burton (who found an alternative solution).



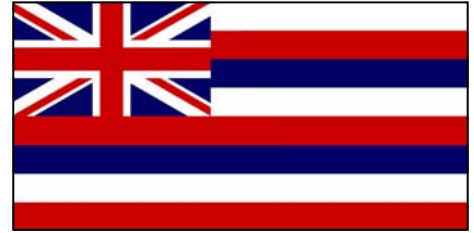
France.



Netherlands.



Luxembourg.



Hawaii.



United States of America.



Greece.



Uruguay.



Portland Flag Miscellany



Portland Oregon / America flag, a mashup with an unusual irregular serration.

3'x5' polyester flag, SERTATB brand, available on Amazon.com for \$14.77.

amazon.com/Portland-Oregon-America-Flags-Banner/dp/B0F5B45YVN



Glossy icons with the flag of Portland Oregon, downloadable vector images, royalty-based.

The black silhouette at the lower right is the geographical footprint of Portland.

vectorstock.com/royalty-free-vector/glossy-icons-with-flag-of-portland-oregon-vector-21172703



Portland Oregon Flag Clutch Bag made of vegan leather in the Saffiano pattern.

Available for \$22.95 from Flag Shop Nation, which has a huge variety of flag-related products.

flagshopnation.com/products/portland-oregon-flag-clutch-972290

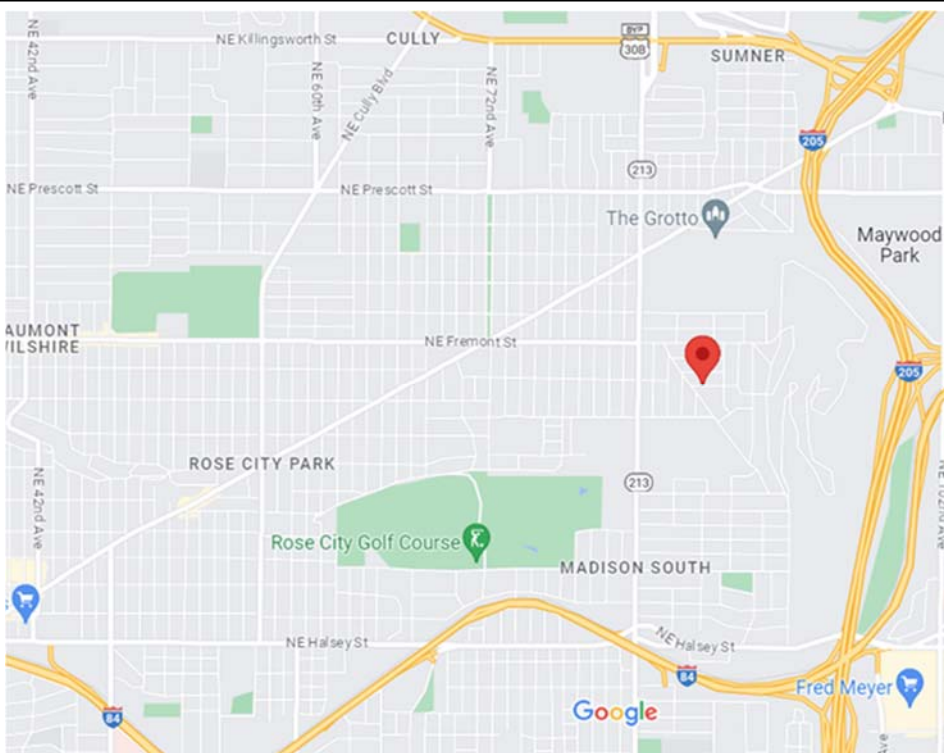
September Meeting

The next meeting of the Portland Flag Association will be at 1 PM, Saturday, 13 September 2025, at the home of Graham Houser: 8617 NE Dyer Street, Portland. See map at right.

Those who cannot attend in person should watch for a Zoom invitation.

We look forward to seeing those of you who have missed recent meetings and engaging in provocative flag-related discussion.

Newcomers and friends from around the world are welcome!



The *Vexilloid Tabloid*, founded in 1999 by the late John Hood, is published bi-monthly by and for the Portland Flag Association—Portland, Oregon, U.S.A. Find back issues at portlandflag.org.