

Home Country

American flag means something different to each one of us

We all watched as the flag came by. It was the first thing in the parade, of course. Great big one, carried by two of the kids from the ROTC at the high school. The bands followed, along with the mounted patrol, the ski patrol in their summer-weight jackets, the float with the princesses on it, and the local kids leading dogs and cats – some rather reluctantly – on leashes.

For some of us, the Fourth of July parade is a chance

to see just how much the local kids have grown over the past year. For others, it's a chance to see something that is really ours. This is our parade. These are our people. These are the people who make our little valley unique in the whole world. This is a chance for us all to get together and celebrate us, you know?

But all that comes later. What comes first on this day above all others is the American flag. Oh, it's a great big one.

Where they found this one, I don't know, but it takes two high school boys to carry it. It really doesn't matter what size it is, because it's what it means to us that counts.

To Herb over there, there are memories of his terrible days in Korea, I'm sure, and the wounds that sent him home early. To Doc, maybe it's the way the G.I. Bill let him go back to college and become his life's dream of taking care of sick people.

To Annette, over

across the street there, there is a look in her eyes that tells us that flag meant she could protest whatever the complaint-du-jour was during her college days. She knows there are few places in the world this tolerant of unpopular opinions.

There's Dewey down on the corner. He's got his hand over his heart as the flag goes by. Maybe he's thinking of a country that will allow him to start a business with a borrowed pickup



Slim Randles

and a shovel and supply our flower beds with fertilizer. He sure hasn't been able to make anything else work for him, so far.

But these are just speculations, because what the flag means to each of us is personal. We don't have to tell anyone. We never have to explain. We even have the freedom

not to be here looking as the flag goes by.

It's an American thing. A very private American moment.


Sponsored by: www.pearsonranch.com. Farm direct, delicious, California navel & Valencia oranges.

Missouri Valley Shopper
Classifieds
IN PRINT & ONLINE
To place your ad, call:
605-665-5884
MISSOURI VALLEY
SHOPPER

Aeroquip HYDRAULIC ADAPTERS
Large Inventory of
Hoses, Fittings,
and Adapters.
COX BEARING & SEAL
1005 Broadway • Yankton, SD • 605-665-7478

WANTED
Old Vehicles • Farm Machinery • Scrap Iron
PAYING TOP DOLLAR

Call 402-841-1060 For Price



with **CLASSIFIED ADS**

Ad deadline is Friday Noon for Tuesday's publication.
Payment must accompany ad.
Use this convenient form to submit your ad to us for publication.
(One word per blank.)

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Select Publications:
(Per Week Charge)
Missouri Valley Shopper (\$8.35/15 words; 30¢/word after 15) _____
Reaches 22,000 homes
Combo into the Broadcaster/Plain Talk (\$4.55/15 words; 30¢/word after 15) + _____
Combination reaches 35,000 homes
Combo into the Norfolk Area Shopper (\$4.95/15 words; 15¢/word after) + _____
Combination reaches 68,000 homes
Ultimate 8 - 8 papers (\$43.70/15 words; \$1.50/word after 15) + _____
Broadcaster Press/Missouri Valley Shopper/Norfolk/Albion/Columbus/
Freemont/Penny Press/Plain Talk
Bold Face Type (\$3.00): _____ Photo (\$5.00): _____ + _____
Number of Weeks to Run Ad: x _____ + _____

TOTAL COST: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone Number: _____
Check _____ Visa _____ MasterCard _____ Exp. Date: _____
Credit Card Number: _____
Signature: _____