

Wave

Long may it

Flags, like people, know how to wave. It's that human touch that seems to breathe life into the American flag. It beckons in the breeze, always catching our eye and allowing us to imprint Old Glory with our personal memories and moments, our hopes and dreams, and our patriotism and pride.

The American flag stirs emotions, whether it's displayed from the top of a flagpole, stitched to a gimme cap, or exhibited in a classroom where schoolchildren pledge allegiance.

It's seen everywhere in the world — and beyond. Some U.S. flags may still stand on the moon, and NASA has flag-branded rovers on Mars. Our Voyager 1 and 2 spacecraft, launched in the 1970s and each carrying a U.S. flag sewn into its thermal blankets, now roam beyond the planets in our solar system.

The American flag has been planted on the North Pole and stands permanently at the South Pole. About 300 U.S. embassies and diplomatic missions around the world fly the star-spangled banner.

Our flag is front and center even in leisure activities. We serenade our flag at sporting events, include it at the smallest festivities like pet parades, and hang it from our porches, gates and windows.

It is with us in solemn times, too.

It flew at Ground Zero after the airborne terrorist attacks on 9/11. It was raised on Iwo Jima after one of the longest and bloodiest battles of World War II. And white-gloved officers at every military funeral fold it, ever so slowly, into a perfect triangle of grief.

Independence Day brings out the best in it — and in us. This evocative textile unites the great melting pot of the United States.

The red, white and blue becomes us.

— Denise Gamino



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MONTHLY MEETING

Bluebonnet's Board of Directors will meet at 9 a.m. July 21, at Bluebonnet's Headquarters, 155 Electric Ave., (formerly 650 Texas Hwy. 21 East), Bastrop. Find the agenda and last-minute updates July 17 at **bluebonnet.coop**. Hover your cursor over 'next board meeting' on our home page.

OUTAGES

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Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative produced the blue-bordered pages 18-25 in this issue of the magazine with content that is of specific interest or relevance to Bluebonnet members. The rest of the magazine's content is distributed statewide to any member of an electric cooperative in Texas. For information about the magazine, contact Janet Wilson at **512-750-5483** or email **magazine@bluebonnet.coop**.

The stars and stripes wave proudly on a fence in the Bluebonnet service territory along Texas 71 near La Grange.

Jay Godwin photo