{enclose http://dev.ksco.got.net/podcasts/2012-02-11.mp3}

The following is a KSCO commentary. Here is Kay Zwerling:

I just learned about the meaning of the flag-draped coffin. Maybe some of you knew this, but some may not.

Those who think that America is an arrogant nation should really re-consider that thought. Our Founding Fathers used God's Words and teachings to establish our Great Nation.

Be proud of the Country we live in, and even more proud of those who serve to protect our “God given” rights and freedoms. Here is how to understand the flag that is laid upon the coffin and is surrendered to so many widows and widowers:

Do you know that at military funerals, the 21-gun salute stands for the sum of the numbers in the year 1776?

Have you ever noticed the Honor Guard pays meticulous attention to correctly folding the USA flag 13 times? You probably thought it was to symbolize the original 13 colonies, but we learn something new every day!

The 1st fold is a symbol of life.
The 2nd fold is a symbol of the belief in eternal life.
The 3rd fold is in honor and remembrance of the Veterans departing the ranks who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of our Country.
The 4th fold represents the weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in time of war.
The 5th fold is a tribute to our Country in dealing with other countries.
The 6th fold is for where people's hearts lie. It is with their hearts that they pledge allegiance to the flag of the USA, and the Republic for which it stands.

The 7th fold is a tribute to its Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that they protect their Country and their flag against all her enemies.

The 8th fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death.

The 9th fold is a tribute to womanhood, and Mothers. For it has been through their faith, their love, loyalty, and devotion that has made this Country so great.
The 10th fold is a tribute to the father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of their Country.
The 11th fold represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon, and glorifies in the Hebrews' eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
The 12th fold represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in the Christians' eyes, God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

And finally, the 13th fold, or when the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost reminding the recipient of their Nation's motto "In God We Trust".

Share this with the children you love and all others who love what is referred to, the symbol of Liberty and Freedom. One nation, under God, with liberty and justice for all. Our Soldiers have preserved your right to make this choice!

And, kudos to you Marcia for sharing this.

For KSCO, this is Kay Zwerling.

© copyright 2012