



The first time the American flag circled the world by air was from April 6 to September 28, 1924, when six United States Air Force crewmen flew around the world.

In 1784 the people of China nicknamed our flag the "Flower Flag". Not having seen the American flag until Captain John Greene sailed his ship *The Empress of China* to the Canton River on September 13th, a Chinese viewer remarked it looked like a beautiful flower.

In May of 1812 a log school house at Catamount Hill near Colrain, Massachusetts gained the distinction of first flying the American flag over a school house. The flag was constructed by sisters Rhoda and Lois Shippee. A stone marker memorializes the event. A commissioned painting by Frank Schoonerer in 1941 depicts the flag raising.

President Benjamin Harrison (1889-1893), husband of DAR first President General Caroline Scott Harrison, ordered the American flag to be flown above the White House and other government buildings and urged schools to do the same.

Live television coverage allowed the world to watch Apollo 11 Astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin raise the American flag on the surface of the moon 20 July 1969. The 3 x 5 nylon flag was purchased at Sears for \$5.50. The pole was driven only 6 to 9 inches into the moon's surface. Buzz Aldrin reported that because of the proximity to the lunar module, he believed the flag was blown over by the engine's exhaust during liftoff. The subsequent six manned Apollo missions also planted American flags, and those six flags are believed to still be standing as evidenced by photos taken in 2012 by NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter camera. However, the flags appear to have faded to white.

Flag Day commemorates the date the first Continental Congress adopted the American flag in its First Flag Resolution of June 14, 1777. While flag celebrations took place for many years, Woodrow Wilson was the first president to issue a proclamation that June 14th be called National Flag Day. Calvin Coolidge issued a second proclamation in 1927. Finally, in 1949 Congress approved and President Harry Truman signed the bill officially recognizing Flag Day.

