

# Why I Care About the Great American Flag

*By Josh Dorfman*

The Great American Flag is an awe-inspiring sight and has been at the heart of key turning points in American history for decades. Its sheer size reminds us of America's strength and its perseverance through forgotten-ness reminds us of our country's resilience. However, I care most about restoring and preserving this national treasure because of the story it tells. It is a story of immigrants. It is a story of small towns. Of unions and blue-collar, hard work. Of hostages and elected leaders. In a nutshell, it is the story of America.

As time progresses, some of these chapters of American history are fading into forgotten-ness. In an increasingly digital era, the allure of a monstrous physical memorial is fading. Who will ever recreate such a breathtaking sight? The Great American Flag captures this history and gives permanence to the Americans who contributed to its creation and preservation.

The Great American Flag is not the creation of a corporate giant or the government. It was not bankrolled by a wealthy benefactor. Instead, the idea of the flag was conceived by a man in small-town Vermont. Its physical creation took place at a family-owned business in Evansville, Indiana, worked on entirely with donated labor. Monetary donations to the flag poured in by the nickels, dimes, and quarters from union workers across the country, even while on strike.

Our nation has many symbols of strength and history. The Liberty Bell reminds us of our fight for independence and the sacrifice of the men and women who fought for it then and now. The Statue of Liberty gives hope to immigrants and welcomes them to our great country. The countless monuments in Washington immortalize veterans, founding fathers and founding mothers, and many other inspirations over the past 250 years. These physical monuments are tremendous and serve a vital purpose. But so much of this national commemoration remains immobile in a 234 mile stretch from Washington, DC to NYC.

What other testament to American patriotism has visited Spartansburg, South Carolina, Jennerstown, Pennsylvania, and Wichita, Kansas? Folks in these parts of the country love America every bit as much as those in big cities on the East Coast. Bringing the Great American Flag to these small towns across the country reminds them that they are a part of something special and that their contributions are appreciated. As a child, I remember Lee Greenwood's "God Bless the USA" reverberating loudly as the Great American Flag was displayed in Jennerstown near the Flight 93 crash site. His lyrics pay homage to Americans far and wide whose hearts wept in September 2001.

"From the lakes of Minnesota  
To the hills of Tennessee  
Across the plains of Texas  
From sea to shining sea

From Detroit down to Houston  
And New York to L.A.  
There's pride in every American heart  
And it's time we stand and say

That I'm proud to be an American”

The Great American Flag is the only monument I know of that has the power of mobility. It has the power to visit citizens across the country. To be displayed proudly at celebrations and holidays. To lay solemnly at memorials and funerals. And to preserve, in awe-inspiring physical form, the history of the immigrants, laborers, veterans, airline passengers, and other patriots whose story may otherwise be forgotten.

I write to ask for your support in restoring and preserving this American treasure. It came into creation as the work of many individuals, companies, and organizations collectively giving their time, expertise, labor, and monetary resources. Today, as we work diligently to restore it, we know it will require the same collective effort to restore and preserve. However you feel most compelled to contribute, please know I personally, along with the entire team at the Great American Flag Preservation Group, genuinely appreciate your support on behalf of our non-profit, charitable 501(c)3 organization.