

FLAG DAY - JUNE 14

“Freedom Is Not Free” • *By Cadet Major Kelly Strong, Air Force Junior ROTC, 1988*

I watched a flag pass by one day.

It fluttered in the breeze.

A young marine saluted it,
and then he stood at ease.

I looked at him in uniform,
So young, so tall, so proud.

With hair cut square and eyes alert,
He'd stand out in any crowd.

I thought how many men like him,
Had fallen through the years.
How many died on foreign soil?
How many mother's tears?

How many pilots' planes shot down?
How many died at sea?
How many died on foreign soil?
No! FREEDOM IS NOT FREE!



I heard the sound of taps one night,
When everything was still.
I listened to the bugler play,
And felt a sudden chill.

I wondered just how many times
That taps had meant, "Amen!"
When a flag had draped a coffin,
Of a brother or a friend.

I thought of all the children,
Of the mothers and the wives,
Of fathers, sons and husbands,
With interrupted lives.

I thought about a graveyard,
At the bottom of the sea,
Of unmarked graves in Arlington
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The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is a proud member of the Citizens Flag Alliance which supports legislation prohibiting physical desecration of the Flag of the United States.