

Representative Bivens' Legislative Update: Flag Day – Beneath the stars and stripes



State Representative
Ryan Bivens

Each year on June 14, Americans observe Flag Day, a day set aside to recognize one of our nation's most familiar and meaningful symbols. Unlike many holidays, Flag Day is not marked by fireworks, large celebrations, or long weekends. Instead, it offers an opportunity to pause and reflect.

The American flag is more than cloth and color. For generations, it has represented the values that unite us as a nation - freedom, opportunity, service, and perseverance. It has flown over moments of great triumph and times of great challenge, serving as a reminder of our shared history and the ideals that continue to guide our country. This year's observance carries added

significance as our nation marks the 250th anniversary of American independence. As communities across Kentucky and the nation commemorate America 250, Flag Day offers a fitting moment to reflect on the principles that inspired our founding and the generations of Americans who have worked to preserve them.

Flag Day marks the anniversary of June 14, 1777, when the Continental Congress adopted the first official design for the flag of the United States. In the midst of the Revolutionary War, our nation's founders understood that a free people needed a symbol that could unite them in a common cause. The resolution was simple: thirteen stripes, red and white, and thirteen stars on a blue field representing a new constellation of states.

For nearly 250 years, the Stars and Stripes have flown over moments of triumph and tragedy, peace and war, prosperity and



hardship. It has been carried into battle by soldiers defending freedom, raised over schools and courthouses in communities large and small, and displayed by families proud to call this country home.

The flag tells the story of America. Its thirteen stripes remind us of the original colonies that declared independence from a king and launched an experiment in self-government. Its fifty stars represent a nation that grew from the Atlantic coast to span a continent, wel-

coming new states and new generations into the American story.

But the flag is not simply a symbol of our past. It is also a symbol of our future. It represents ideals that are bigger than any political party, elected official, or moment in time. It stands for liberty, equality, self-government, and the belief that every generation has a responsibility to leave the country stronger than they found it.

Its meaning extends far beyond our own borders. Around the

world, the sight of the American flag has often brought hope to those yearning for freedom and relief to those living under tyranny. At the same time, it has served as a warning to oppressors that free people will not always stand by while liberty is threatened. While America has never been perfect, generations around the globe have looked to our flag as a symbol of the enduring belief that human beings are meant to live free.

Like our nation itself, the flag has endured

challenges. Americans have disagreed, debated, and struggled through some of the most difficult chapters in our history. Yet through it all, the flag has remained a reminder that while we may not always agree on every issue, we share a common bond as citizens of the same republic.

The American flag is, after all, more than stars and stripes. It is a symbol of where we have been, what we believe, and what we hope to become. It reminds us that freedom is never guaranteed, that self-government requires active citizenship, and that each generation has a role to play in preserving the blessings of liberty.

As always, I can be reached anytime through the toll-free message line in Frankfort at 1-800-372-7181. You can also contact me via email at Ryan.Bivens@kylegislature.gov and keep track through the Kentucky legislature's website at legislature.ky.gov.

250th

From page 1A

The dedication of the Montgomery Mill Artifacts Exhibit located at First Street and West Court Street will start at 10:30 a.m.

The dedication's program will include remarks from community leaders, patriotic music, and a salute to our national and state colors.

In the event of inclement weather, the Montgomery Mill Artifacts dedication ceremony will be relocated to the Old Courthouse.

"The Montgomery Mill Artifacts Exhibit serves two important purposes: (1) It preserves the few remaining artifacts from one of our community's best-known grist mills, and (2) It serves to educate our youth about the function and importance of grist mills in the early part of Green County's unique history. Together, the indoor and outdoor exhibits paint a picture of life in Green County during those formative years," said Montgomery Mill Artifacts Exhibit Committee member Tom Akin.

An historic walking tour of Greensburg will be conducted by Green County Genealogical Society member Carolyn Scott.

The tour will begin at 11:30 a.m. at Allen's Inn and will include visits to the Old Green County Clerk's Office, Water Treatment Plant and Old City Hall, General Edward H. Hobson's Home, Old Railroad Depot, Greensburg Presbyterian Church, Jeremiah Abell's Cabin, Simon Settles Gun Shop (currently Stearns-Baker Law Office), and the Old Courthouse.

There will also be a number of sites one may visit at no cost including, the Green County Public Library, from 9 a.m. to noon, offering cornhusk doll making, a variety of kid's activities, and a genealogical presentation on Finding Your Roots;

the Green County Extension Homemakers, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., providing demonstrations on quilting, knitting, and crocheting at Allen's Inn. Also, they will have a number of antique kitchen items on display; the Green County History Museum and Old Courthouse will be open for tours; and the Old Railroad Depot, from 9 a.m. to noon, will display information about Green County's railroad history.

The City of Greensburg will be active participants in the celebration from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Starting at 4 p.m., plans include a parade down Main Street, various other activities, and fireworks to end the day.

Vendors, including the Green County Cattlemen's Association, Greensburg American Legion and Eventful Moms from Campbells-ville will be selling their food items.

Blake and Kasey Gordon's World's Best Lemonade and Millie's Famous Candied Pecans will also be there to quench your thirst or enhance your taste buds.

Beginning at 7 p.m., a free concert on West Court Street will feature country music artist J.D. Shelburne, sponsored by the City of Greensburg and the Green County Arts Council.

Opening for J.D. Shelburne will be local artists, The Foster Children.

Mayor John Shuffett said, "The City and the Arts Council, along with our cornerstone partners, are proud to present a celebration of America's 250th anniversary! The afternoon's events will begin with an Americana-themed, kid-focused parade. There will be your favorite food vendors, games, and fun for all ages. A free concert and fireworks show will conclude the day's activities."

1777: The origins of Flag Day

Flag Day is commemorated each year in the United States on June 14, with its origins all the way back to 1777.

The Second Continental Congress formally adopted the flag of the United States on June 14, 1777. That resolution noted certain characteristics of the new flag, including the alternating red and white stripes that remain part of the flag that is celebrated each June 14.

The Farmer's Almanac notes it is customary for the sitting president of the United States to encourage Americans to display the flag outside of their homes and businesses each June 14.

President Woodrow Wilson issued a presidential proclamation on June 14, 1916, that designated the day as Flag Day going forward. Thirty-three years after President Wilson's proclamation, the U.S.

Congress officially established June 14 as National Flag Day.

One notable tidbit Americans can consider this Flag Day is the connection between the flag and seamstress Betsy Ross. Many American schoolchildren were taught that Ms. Ross designed and sewed the first American flag, but historians have since discredited that legend. The Farmer's Almanac notes that many historians now

believe George Washington already had a design for a flag with 13 red and white alternating stripes and 13 six-pointed stars set in a circle when he visited Ms. Ross in Philadelphia. And while historians do not doubt that Ms. Ross sewed a flag reflecting the design George Washington brought with him when visiting the seamstress, it's hard to confirm if she in fact sewed the first flag.

INTRODUCING
PAXTON BLOYD

ACADEMIC & ATHLETIC MENTORSHIP
FOR CENTRAL KENTUCKY STUDENTS

Looking for a positive role model to help your student excel both in the classroom and on the court?
Paxton Bloyd is a rising 17-year-old high school junior offering affordable one-on-one mentorship and training programs for elementary and middle school students throughout Central Kentucky.

ACADEMIC MENTORSHIP
Paxton provides individualized support focused on:

- Improving reading proficiency
- Strengthening math skills and confidence
- Building strong study habits and academic success strategies

BASKETBALL SKILLS TRAINING
Paxton also offers beginner and intermediate basketball instruction, including:

- Ball handling fundamentals
- Shooting mechanics
- Confidence and game preparation
- Increasing game IQ

LEADERSHIP & RECOGNITION
Member of the Leadership Team at Greensburg Global Methodist Church
★ 2025-2026 All "A" Classic 5th Region Team
★ 18th District All Season Team
★ 1st Team All-State Academic Basketball Team
★ Anti-Substance Abuse Policy group
★ Fellowship of Christian Athletes
★ ACLS CPR-Certified

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
Paxton maintains a lifetime 4.0 GPA while pursuing an Advanced Diploma and plans to enter a Pre-Med track in college with the goal of becoming a Radiologist.
As a sophomore, he successfully completed dual-credit coursework at Campbellsville University in:

- U.S. History
- Pre-Calculus
- Chemistry

EARNING ALL A's!

RATE
Tutoring \$15 per hour + Gas Mileage (IRS Rate of .725 cents/mile)
Basketball Training \$25 per session + Gas Mileage (IRS Rate of .725 cents/mile)

A PARENT OR GUARDIAN MUST BE PRESENT DURING TRAINING OR TUTORING

Whether your child needs a boost in reading and math or wants to improve their basketball fundamentals, Paxton combines academic achievement, athletic success, and strong character to help young students reach their goals both on and off the court.

AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT CENTRAL KENTUCKY

CONTACT PAXTON OR HIS FAMILY TODAY!
859-948-4626

jamie@jebpublicaffairs.com
TO SCHEDULE A SESSION AND INVEST IN YOUR STUDENT'S FUTURE BOTH ON AND OFF THE COURT!