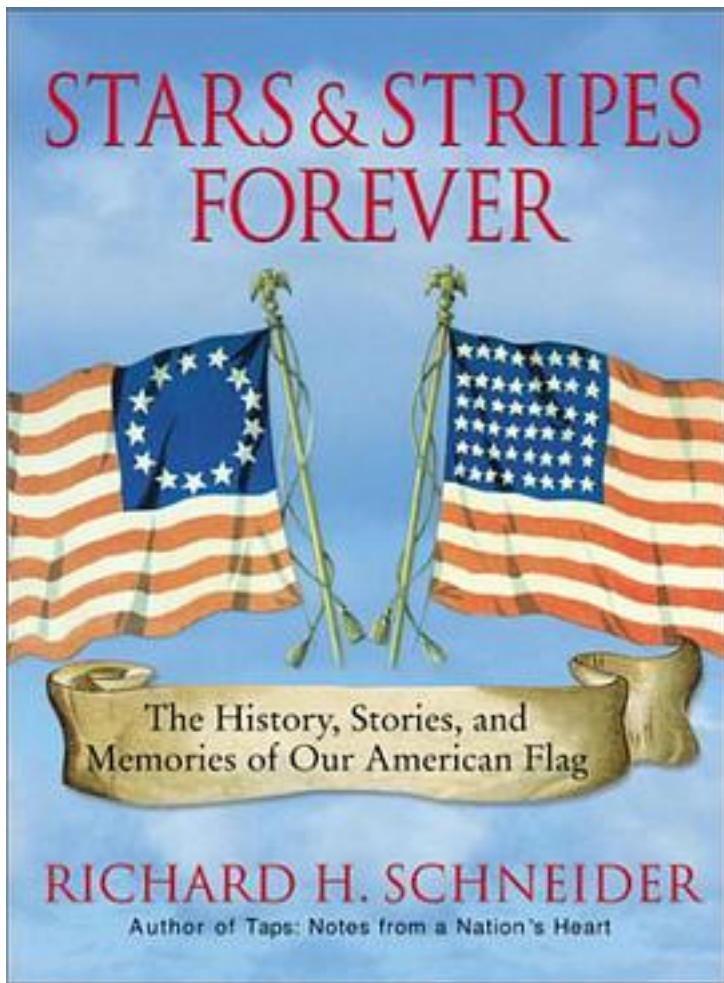


Stars & Stripes Forever



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著者:Richard H. Schneider

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It is a symbol of unity and a subject of controversy. It can be found in the depths of the Earth's oceans and on the rocky surface of the moon. It is our flag -- the Stars and

Stripes -- a swath of red, white, and blue that represents America's past and its present ... and inspires its future. In this moving and informative volume, Richard H. Schneider, the author of the acclaimed *Taps: Notes from a Nation's Heart* and *Freedom's Holy Light: The Statue of Liberty*, delivers an intriguing history and a powerful tribute to our flag. "Stars & Stripes Forever" unfurls the colorful story of this enduring emblem of our national identity, culture, and spirit, from its humble origins more than two hundred years ago to its significance in the twenty-first century. Combining history and legend, fact and lore, Schneider relates how the flag has evolved -- through war and peace, through changing times and honored traditions -- and sets the record straight on many widely held misconceptions. There are many entertaining and enlightening stories, including that of the flag that inspired Francis Scott Key's "The Star-Spangled Banner"; the flag that was stained by Lincoln's blood at Ford's Theater in 1888; and the flag raised at Ground Zero amid the wreckage of the World Trade Center. In addition to historical facts and little-known lore, he offers heartfelt recollections from celebrities and ordinary citizens alike whose lives have been indelibly touched by Old Glory. Sure to speak to the patriot in us all, "Stars & Stripes Forever" tells a story that is as remarkable and diverse as America itself.

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