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Article Title: United Nations Honor Flag

Full Citation: "United Nations Honor Flag," *Nebraska History* 25 (1944): 287-288

URL of article: <http://www.nebraskahistory.org/publish/publicat/history/full-text/NH1944UNFlag.pdf>

Date: 10/13/2017

Article Summary: A Nebraskan, Brooks Harding, designed the United Nations flag flown under Old Glory to honor America's allies in World War II.

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## United Nations Honor Flag

The design of the stars and stripes is closely related to our history. The chief changes in our flag have been through the addition of stars to represent the growing constellation of states. Nebraska was the thirty-seventh state. For nine years from 1867-1876 no state was added. And yet the thirty-seven star flag is very scarce.

The National Park Service is trying to assemble a complete collection of the various United States flags in the museum of the Fort McHenry national monument. As the scene where the "Star Spangled Banner" was written the Fort McHenry museum is the most appropriate location for a complete collection of United States flags.

The United States flag was given its present standard design by Act of Congress, April 4, 1818. The Act called for thirteen horizontal stripes, alternating red and white in color and a white star for each state on a blue field. The inspiring "Star Spangled Banner" of the war of 1812 had fifteen stars and fifteen stripes. These flags of earlier design, even as late as 1900, are treasured by historical museums to complete the varieties in their collection.

A new flag has appeared in this war. It is a flag designed to honor our allies. Flying under Old Glory on many public buildings in Washington, over schools and many other buildings throughout the land has appeared a neat, modest, half-size white field with four vertical crimson bars, the *Honor Flag of the United Nations*.

This honor flag supplies a vital symbol. To pay honor to our forty-three allies of the United Nations with the appropriate national colors of each was almost impossible. Something simple and inclusive was needed. The two flag idea is the answer.

Brooks Harding, born at Humboldt, Nebraska, sensed the need and has devoted his wartime service to supplying the answer in an appropriate and effective way. Brooks Harding was a Uui-

versity of Nebraska student at the outbreak of World War I. He came back from the war interested in aviation and has been one of its effective promoters. In this war he has shifted from supplying the machines of war to promoting the unity of the allies through the appropriate symbol of honor, respect and unity among the nations that have acted together.

The most impressive thing about Brooks Harding's honor flag of the United Nations is the modesty, simplicity and fitness of the symbol. Not a showy flag to replace Old Glory or any other nation's flag. It is just the modest reminder that we remember and respect our allies without whose aid we could not attain victory. It helps us to remember that we are not alone and that we must strive for unity in this war torn world. , ,

The flag may be flown under the national flag or it may be used on the left in a balanced decoration. Where it is flown from the same flag staff as the national colors it should be from half to two-thirds the length of the national flag. The honor flag is easy to make. School children and others are urged to make their own.

The honor flag has been indorsed by foreign ambassadors and officials and it has been used in foreign lands. Mr. Harding has not sought official promulgation. He has preferred to have the symbol as an expression of the peoples of the United Nations rather than their governments. Use by unofficial and non-governmental organizations as well as official usage is sought.

Nebraskans can feel especial pride in this unique and highly significant work that Brooks Harding has undertaken. Mr. Harding has expressed pleasure in the way that Nebraskans have cooperated and supported his efforts.