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**RICHARD H. DURELL
MANCHESTER, N. H.**

June 29, 1960

Dwight D. Eisenhower, President
United States of America
White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear President Eisenhower:

As a matter of introduction, perhaps you will remember me as the one who sent you, in September, 1955, a picture of Donnie Cameron, your guide while fly-fishing in northern New Hampshire and Maine that year. In fact, your answer to me showing your appreciation of the picture was dated September 16, 1955, which I believe was the week before you were taken ill.

*filed
PP 71-8451
9-16-55*

I have another little thought here which probably will be of interest to you. My granddaughter:

Miss Kathy Edwards
122 School Street
Keene, New Hampshire

who has just graduated from junior high school, was given an assignment by the high school to write an essay on the subject, WHAT THE AMERICAN FLAG MEANS TO ME, a prize in the form of a War Bond to be awarded by The Elks organization in Keene, N.H. Kathy, without aid from anyone and in a matter of ten or fifteen minutes, wrote the enclosed article, and incidentally received the prize, -- a fourteen-year-old young lady's idea of what the American flag meant to her.

I think the thoughts expressed therein are quite appropriate in these hectic times.

President Eisenhower, I want you to know that the family of Durell, and many others here in New Hampshire, are with you 100%-plus. Your untiring efforts on behalf of humanity in general, in this country and throughout the world, is beyond expression. I wish to express myself as strongly as possible on this subject.

Getting back to the article by Kathy Edwards,

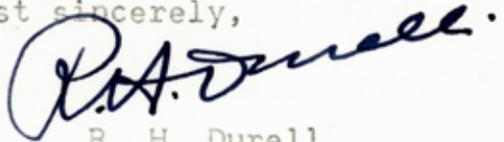
RICHARD H. DURELL
MANCHESTER, N. H.

-2-

(Pres. Dwight D. Eisenhower)

wish to say that if you would like to have it, I can get a photostatic copy of Kathy's essay in her own handwriting. Also, I can have it certified by the proper authorities in Keene - if it would be of help, aid and assistance to you if you wish to use the article.

Most sincerely,



R. H. Durell

P.S. The facts of the case ^{xx} are that I am an ardent fisherman and hunter and have been since I was about five years old -- I am now seventy-two.

Also, you might like to know that your friend and mine, Laurence F. Whittemore of The Brown Company in Berlin, N. H., has recently resigned, and I'm telling you, he is not long for this world. (His home address: Pembroke, New Hampshire.) I called in to see him recently and I doubt very much if you would recognize "Whit".

R.H.D.

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WHAT THE AMERICAN FLAG MEANS TO ME

EVERY MORNING WHEN I WALK INTO MY HOME ROOM AND THE ANNOUNCEMENTS START I REPEAT THE PRAYER AND THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. I SIT DOWN WITHOUT GIVING A THOUGHT TO ITS MEANING. NOW WHEN I SIT DOWN AND REALLY THINK ABOUT IT I KNOW THAT I HAVE BEEN TAKING "OLD GLORY" FOR GRANTED.

MANY AMERICANS REALLY DO TAKE OUR FLAG FOR GRANTED. THIS MAY BE BECAUSE WE HAVE NEVER EXPERIENCED THE FEELING OF BEING OPPRESSED BY A CRUEL DICTATORSHIP, OR NOT BEING ABLE TO SPEAK OR WRITE WHAT WE WISH. WE HAVE NEVER FEARED BEING SHIPPED OFF TO SOME DESOLATE CONCENTRATION CAMP.

A FOREIGNER, WHEN HE REPEATS THE PLEDGE, FEELS THE REAL MEANING OF THE TRUE FREEDOM THAT IS GIVEN BY THE WAVING RED, WHITE, AND BLUE.

WHEN FRANCIS SCOTT KEY SAT IN THE ENEMY BRITISH SHIP WATCHING THE BATTLEWAGE ON, WE KNOW OF THE SWELLING PRIDE HE FELT WHEN HE SAW "OLD GLORY" WAVING HIGH THROUGH THE NIGHT. THE SIGHT INSPIRED HIM TO WRITE "THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER."

THE BEAUTIFUL STATUE OF IWO JIMA TELLS OF THE PRIDE FELT BY THE SOLDIERS WHO SCALED THE MOUNTAIN TO PLANT OUR FLAG AT THE TOP.

SO I THINK THAT AMERICANS SHOULD TAKE TIME EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE TO THINK OF THE MEANING OF OUR BANNER OF FREEDOM, "OLD GLORY."

P.P.F.

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Newport, Rhode Island
July 11, 1960

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AUG-8 1960
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Dear Mr. Durell:

The President asked me to thank you for your thoughtfulness in sending to him Kathy's fine essay on "What the American Flag Means to Me." It is so obviously genuine that the judges must have had no difficulty whatever in awarding her the prize. Won't you please extend to her the President's congratulations on the depth of her feeling and her splendid way of expressing that feeling?

x PP724-C

At the same time, the President expressed his regret that Mr. Whittemore is ill; he hopes very much that his health will rapidly improve.

x PP728-B "D"

With best wishes,

Sincerely,



Ann C. Whitman
Personal Secretary
to The President

Mr. Richard H. Durell
904 Amoskeag Bank Building
Manchester, New Hampshire

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