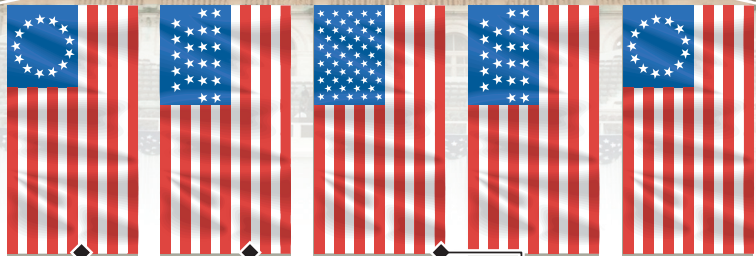


President Obama's star-spangled ceremony

Barack Obama will be the first president to take the Oath of Office using Abraham Lincoln's Bible since its initial use in 1861. The ceremony at the U.S. Capitol takes place against a backdrop of flags symbolizing the history of the United States



Betsy Ross flag:

Thirteen stars and stripes represent the original 13 colonies that rebelled against the British Crown to become the first states of the Union in 1776

21-star flag: Became the official U.S. flag on July 4, 1819, when a star was added for the admission of Illinois – the home state of both Barack Obama and Abraham Lincoln

50-star flag: The 27th flag was ordered by President Dwight D. Eisenhower to mark the admittance of Hawaii in 1959. President Obama will be the 11th president to serve under this flag