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Keep the Flag Up

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Keep the Flag Up

Emiliano Lebron

The American Flag
Made of a strong, durable, weatherproof fabric
A profoundly powerful symbol
The very symbol of patriotism.
Problem:
It's a bit flimsy
It's fabric, after all
And fabric has no support
So how do we support it?
How about a pole?
Not just any pole;
A tall vertical steel pole
About twenty-one feet, give or take.
It's not for decoration
It's not to look pretty
It's out of respect
Respect for those who fought to protect all for which this country stood
All the freedoms guaranteed to us by our law
Those who were battered, bruised, beaten, bloodied
Those who risked their lives to protect their country
Who dodged bullets and explosives behind their flag
Who erected the flag to the highest heights in victory
Who saluted the flag even in times of certain doom
Their trench coffins laced with concertina
Their makeshift graves guiding rivers of blood to antiquity.
All the tortures of war dissolved
Dissolved by the very flag behind which they stood.
So keep the flag up
Raise it as high as possible
Let no one try to move what should be sturdy and stationary
Never let it reach the ground
Never let it be taken down
Let it stand with pride
Let all people see
So they will all remember the sacrifice
The sacrifice that keeps the Constitution pasted in government halls
The sacrifice that keeps Old Glory tattooed on every American citizen's heart
But most of all, let them remember that the flag symbolizes freedom
And the pole symbolizes stability
Let them remember what we fought for then
What we fight for now
And what we will fight for until we reach our graves.