

Philip F. Haxel, Sr. Patriotism Award  
2012 Essay Contest

**Winner & Recipient of the Baton of Patriotism**

Gigi Sellers, Grade 5  
Bay View Elementary School  
910 North East Road  
North East, Maryland 21901  
Principal: Mrs. Jenni F. Hammer

Why is the American Flag Important to Me?

The American Flag is important to me because it is a symbol that represents our freedom, our liberty, and that we are united.

It tells the past, the beginning 13 colonies, and it is history. It shows the present, the 50 states united as "America."

It is a symbol of power and rights. It is a symbol of united people who have won wars to keep our country safe and together.

That is why I love my Flag so much.

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