



It didn't take long for the symbol to expand its meaning. In 1918, when the names of the men and women who died in the war became known, grief replaced hope. Families covered the blue star with a gold one. The flag now had a different message: a member of this house has made the ultimate sacrifice with his or her life during the war.

The gold star is slightly smaller than the blue one underneath, so it appears that the gold star has a blue border. If there are multiple stars on a flag, the gold one is placed in the top position.

When World War I ended in 1918, these symbols of pride and sacrifice were put away. In the 1940s, after the U.S. entered World War II, the flag made a national reappearance, with more homes displaying it than ever before.

## The Flag Today

In the wars after World War II, the flag was not as popular. It wasn't until the country's involvement in the Middle East that this changed. On April 11, 2003, the 108th Congress made a declaration<sup>2</sup> that "encourages the families of members of the Armed Forces to proudly display the Blue Star Flag or, if their loved one has made the ultimate sacrifice, the Gold Star."

[10] It all started with one flag in one window. But 100 years later, the need that Captain and Mrs. Queisser had to honor their sons hasn't diminished. The flags remind us that these soldiers are true American heroes, and we honor and thank them all.

## Text-Dependent Questions

**Directions:** For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. PART A: Which statement identifies the central idea of the text?
  - A. Captain Queisser developed a Service Flag hoping that he would eventually be able to patent and sell it.
  - B. As people's support for the war diminished, there were fewer Service Flags displayed in windows.
  - C. Captain Queisser's decision to display a flag for his children in the service has evolved into a widely practiced tradition in America.
  - D. As displaying Service Flags became more popular, even Americans who didn't have children in the army started displaying them.
  
2. PART B: Which detail from the text best supports the answer to Part A?
  - A. "Captain Queisser soon applied for a patent on his flag design, which was granted in early November of 1917." (Paragraph 5)
  - B. "In 1918, when the names of the men and women who died in the war became known, grief replaced hope." (Paragraph 6)
  - C. "In the wars after World War II, the flag was not as popular. It wasn't until the country's involvement in the Middle East that this changed." (Paragraph 9)
  - D. "It all started with one flag in one window. But 100 years later, the need that Captain and Mrs. Queisser had to honor their sons hasn't diminished." (Paragraph 10)
  
3. How does paragraph 4 contribute to the development of ideas in the text?
  - A. It shows how the Service Flag took on national significance.
  - B. It explains why people began displaying Service Flags in their windows.
  - C. It shows how the meaning of the Service Flag changed.
  - D. It describes how the Service Flag evolved over time.
  
4. Which of the following describes the author's purpose in the text?
  - A. to prove that the use of the Service Flag has diminished
  - B. to encourage people to continue using the Service Flag
  - C. to explain how the Service Flag became a symbol in America
  - D. to show how Americans are affected by war

5. How has the Service Flag changed over time?

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