



Texas Lone Star

The Lone Star has been a symbol for Texas since its origins as an independent state. According to eyewitnesses, various versions of a lone star flag stirred Texans into action at the Siege of Bexar (December 1835), Velasco (January 1836), the Alamo (March 1836), and San Jacinto (April 1836).¹ In December 1836, Congress of the Republic of Texas designated the “David G. Burnet” flag as the new nation’s official banner, stipulating a golden five-pointed star on a solid background of azure blue. Three years later the legislature adopted the Texas flag that we recognize today: a horizontal block of white, a horizontal block of red, a vertical block of blue to the left side, and a white star centered on the blue panel.

Why the Lone Star—what did it symbolize? Some say it was a proclamation of independence and carried that meaning since the filibustering expedition of James Long in 1819.² Others say it represented Texas’s leadership among Mexicans partisans in revolt to restore the Constitution of 1824.³ Others believe it indicated the desire of many Texans to emulate and join the United States (a desire fulfilled with the annexation of 1845).⁴ In 1933, the Texas state legislature codified the colors of red, blue and white as representations of “bravery, loyalty, and purity.”⁵

Today most people associate the Lone Star with a feisty spirit of independence characteristic of true Texans. Businesses, festivals, and individuals adopt the symbol as a way to express their identity and allegiance. The Lone Star appears on car dealerships, restaurants, monuments, engraved invitations. The Texas state quarter, issued in 2004, shows a prominent Lone Star superimposed over the shape of the state. At its unveiling, Governor Rick Perry explained the message underlying the coin’s design: “The Lone Star is one of the most identifiable symbols of Texas. . . . Its continued presence today reminds people that Texans are a different breed, set apart by their fierce individualism and their unyielding desire for freedom.”⁶

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¹ “Texas Symbols, State Names,” SHG Resources, <http://www.shgresources.com/tx/symbols/names/> (accessed April 8, 2009); *Handbook of Texas Online*, s.v. “Flags of the Texas Revolution,” <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/FF/msf2.html> (accessed May 29, 2009).

² “Historical Texas Flags (U.S.),” *Flags of the World*, <http://www.fotw.net/flags/us-txhs.html> (accessed May 29, 2009).

³ “Texas Symbols, State Names”; *Handbook of Texas Online*, s.v. “Flags of the Texas Revolution.”

⁴ “Texas Symbols, State Names.”

⁵ “The Texas State Flag,” *Netstate.com*, http://www.netstate.com/states/symb/flags/tx_flag.htm (accessed April 6, 2009).

⁶ “Gov. Rick Perry’s Remarks at the Texas Quarter Unveiling,” Office of Governor Rick Perry, June 9, 2004. <http://governor.state.tx.us/news/speech/10488/> (accessed April 8, 2009).

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