Hello, Remember Me?

Some people call me Old Glory, others call me the Star Spangled Banner, but whatever they call me, I am your Flag, the Flag of the United States of America...Something has been bothering me, so I thought I might talk it over with you, because it is about you and me.

I remember some time ago people lined up on both sides of the street to watch the parade and naturally I was leading every parade, proudly waving in the breeze. When your daddy saw me coming, he immediately removed his hat and place it against his left shoulder so that the hand was directly over his heart. Remember?

And you, I remember you. Standing there straight as a soldier. You didn't have a hat, but you were giving the right salute. Remember little sister? Not to be outdone, she was saluting the same as you with her right hand over her heart. Remember?

What happened? I'm still the same old flag. Oh, I have a few more Stars since you were a boy. A lot more blood has been shed since those parades of long ago.

But now I don't feel as proud as I used to. When I come down your street, you just stand there with your hands in your pockets. I may get a small glance and then you look away. Then I see the children running around and shouting; they don't seem to know who I am. I saw one man take his hat off, then look around. He didn't see anybody else with theirs off so he quickly put his back on.

Is it a sin to be patriotic any more? Have you forgotten what I stand for and where I've been? Anzio, Guadalcanal, Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan and Iraq. Take a look at the Memorial Honor Rolls sometimes, of those who never came back to keep this Republic free.

One Nation Under God, when you salute me, you are saluting them. Well, it won't be long until I'll be coming down your street again. So, when you see me, stand straight, place your right hand over your heart and I'll salute you, by waving back, and I'll know that...

YOU REMEMBERED!

Author Unknown...

Courtesy of American Legion Post 354, New Bethlehem, PA

Walter W. Craig American Legion Post 354

Meetings at 7:00pm First Tuesday Each Month in the Basement of the Redbank Valley History Center, New Bethlehem, PA

OPEN TO ALL VETERANS!

(Entrance on Lafayette Street side), parking is available on Broad Street or the municipal parking lot behind the History Center.