

[PRESENTATION TO RYE SELCT BOARD MAY 11.docx](#)

Good evening Select Board members and citizens of Rye.

I am here to express my deep and profound gratitude to you for flying the Honor and Remember flag. It flies under the American flag in the Rye cemetery almost every day as it does over our NH Veterans Cemetery and in many other cities and towns in NH and across our United States.

Not until after January 10, 2015, had I ever heard of the Honor and Remember flag. On that day, five Navy SEALs knocked on our door to inform us that our son Blake had died in a parachute training accident while on active duty. I already knew what a Gold Star Family was, as my aunt had told me stories about blue and gold stars placed in windows during WWII. I certainly never expected that any of these symbols would apply to my family today.

So do not feel uninformed if you never heard of the H and R flag or what a Gold Star license plate means.

As you can see, the H and R flag has a red field, "representing the blood spilled by the brave men and women in America's military throughout our history who gave their lives that our nation would remain free". The white border recognizes the purity of sacrifice. "The Blue Star represents active service in military conflict" and "The Gold Star signifies the ultimate sacrifice". "The flame is an eternal reminder of the spirit that has departed this life yet burns on in the memory of all who knew and loved the fallen hero."

All the symbols together provide comprehensive meaning, but it is the Flame on which I want to focus today: the Spirit, the Memory. I HOPE ALL American citizens feel tremendous pride to realize how many patriots Since our Revolutionary War! have wanted to protect us, to fight for us, for peace, freedom and our democracy. I HOPE all people who see this flag flying in Rye NH will feel inspired to VOTE, RUN for office, Speak Out and Give Back to our community, state and country. I especially HOPE the H and R flag reminds us all to live our lives worthy of these honorable sacrifices.

My question for all of us today is HOW?? How can we educate our community about the meaning of the H and R Flag? The meaning of Freedom? Of Honor? About National Service and Sacrifice?

Can we all learn and work together?

Do you have Questions? Suggestions?