RISING OF THE NATIONAL FLAG

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We see it almost every day, flying and waving across the sky. We conduct ceremonies every Mondays and Fridays to put it up and bring it back down. But how do we all know our own flag?

The newer generation might take it for granted because it seemed to be just a piece of cloth with colors in it. But in order to attain even just the rights to be able to rise our flag many lives were sacrificed. Blood was shed to the soil of our mother land just so we can have a symbol of our independence.

The Philippine flag have under gone some changes through out the years. From the one sewn by Filipino expatriates in Hong Kong when General Emilio Aguinaldo was there in exile. When the general returned to the country on May 28, 1898, to rally the troops for battle against the Spanish forces in Cavite, the flag was used as a revolutionary standard. The first flag was consisting of three colors, blue, white, and red with three stars and a sun with a face. A month later on June 12, 1898, the historic waving of the Philippine flag on Aguinaldo’s residence on Kawit, Cavite, making the proclamation of independence from the Spanish regime. This flag was used from 1898 to 1907.

When Aguinaldo was captured and the Philippine Republic was abolished in 1901, the American insular government declared that with the Filipino officers either captured or withdrawn, the Philippines was hence forth under the sovereignty of the United States of America. Several years after that the Philippine flag continued to soar so in retaliation, the Philippine Commission, which was ruled by the Americas passed a law that prohibit the rising of the Philippine flag and the playing of our national anthem.
It took twelve years before the flag was waved again. Although it took some minor modifications like the removal of the face of the sun, and the rays of the sun being more put together. This version of the flag was used from 1919 to 1936, up until the inauguration of the Commonwealth of the Philippines.

President Manuel L. Quezon moved the commemoration of the Philippine flag from October, to June 12, the date when Emilio Aguinaldo first raised the Philippine flag on Kawit, Cavite. He also issued a ACT which indicates the specification of the Flag, the correct shade of blue, red, white, and yellow, as well as the number of rays of the sun and the placement of the stars. This will we of effect until the second world war.

During the second world war President Manuel L. Quezon reverted the design of the flag to that of Emilio Aguinaldo. But instead of the blue stipe up, it was raised with the red stipe up to indicate the time of war. Several years after that after the war with the Japanese has ended, the design of the flag once again followed the specification that Manuel L. Quezon decreed. That design will remain throughout the second, third, and forth republic of the Philippines.

Then in 1985, under the reign of President Ferdinand E. Marcos, the shade of blue used for the flag was change from navy blue to a light sky blue. This decision was based on the historic debate regarding the true and original design of the Philippine flag. But after the EDSA people power revolution on 1986 which overthrew President Marcos, the specification was then returned to the pre-martial law of navy blue.

Commonwealth regulations were preserved until 1998, when Republic Act. No. 8491 also known as the “Flag and Heraldic Code of the Philippines” was legislated, changing the shade of blue once again from navy to royal, regarded as a historical compromise.

Today the flag of the Philippines flies high and proud. After overseeing the events that shaded the country to what it is today. Although there some murmurs of changes,
the public is still keen on keeping the original version of the flag and any opinions otherwise are met with absolute resistance. It only show that people still do care for the flag, the symbol of our freedom and autonomy.

References:

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