

Chapter 1 : After the Flag has been folded | Karen Zacharias

*Karen Spears Zacharias's After the Flag Has Been Folded is an engaging, folksy, sometimes harrowing memoir. Spears's father was a Vietnam War casualty, and in this book, she explores all that meansâ€”for a family to lose a loved one to war. The experience took its toll on her sister, brother, mother, and her.*

Message alleges that there is meaning to each fold of the American flag, for example, at a military funeral when the flag is presented to the family of the person who died. Most of them are of spiritual and religious significance. The meaning of the folding of the American flag that is described in this eRumor is not without importance, but it is not official and not required. Public Law , known as the Federal Flag Code, is the law of the land regarding the handling and displaying of the American flag. It does not include anything regarding the significance or meaning of folding the flag. The code was first adopted by Congress in and revised numerous times. According to the American Legion, the code does not call for a ceremonial folding of the flag and the folding procedure is also traditional. Same for the meanings of the folds. Nobody seems to know when or where that originated or who wrote it. There is speculation that it may have come from a chaplain who attached the mostly Judeo-Christian religious meanings to the folds, perhaps for a burial ceremony. Official or not, the statement has gained status as the traditional meaning of the folds and was found in many governmental and military manuals and recited at numerous military funerals. In October, , the National Cemetery Administration banned the practice of giving the meaning of the folds of the flag at all national cemeteries, but the decision was quickly revised. In other words, if the family wants the meaning of the folds to be included, it can be included. The eRumor says the gun salute originated from adding the digits of That is not true. According to Arlington Cemetery, the gun salute evolved from many years of various traditions of honoring dignitaries. A real example of the eRumor as it has appeared on the Internet: The first fold of our flag is a symbol of life. The second fold is a symbol of our belief in eternal life. The third fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing our ranks who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of our country to attain peace throughout the world. The fourth fold represents our weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in time of war for His divine guidance. It is with our heart that we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States Of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all. The seventh fold is a tribute to our Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that we protect our country and our flag against all her enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of our republic. The ninth fold is a tribute to womanhood; for it has been through their faith, their love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great has been molded. The tenth fold is a tribute to the father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of our country since they were first born. The eleventh fold, in the eyes of a Hebrew citizen represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon, and glorifies in their eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The twelfth fold, in the eyes of a Christian citizen, represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in their eyes, God the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit. After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington, and the sailors and marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones, who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for us the rights, privileges, and freedoms we enjoy today. There are some traditions and ways of doing things which have deep meaning. You will see many flags folded in the coming weeks, and now you will know why.

**Chapter 2 : After the Flag Has Been Folded by Karen Spears Zacharias**

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Everyone it seems has an opinion about it, from the local news anchor to the barrista at the local coffee shop. They claim both wars were poorly conceived and poorly executed. Both misguided and hastily entered into. At least I hope they do, because for me FREEDOM means living in a country where wars should always be a matter of fierce debate, not a matter of accepted fate. Their meals are often catered by American contractors. Although to be fair, the Vietnam veteran did have a better choice of drink â€” warm Tiger beer instead of blue Gatorade. He could volunteer for more, and many did. They carry the burden of freedom for the rest of us, over and over again, on multiple tours to the front lines. Many of those troops serving and dying are women. Today they are allotted a year. It had remained unchanged since World War II. Today Gold Star families receive up to half-a-million dollars, as long as their loved ones pay for and plan for that option. When my father died in , I was 9 years old. I was in college by the time that war ended. From the time he died until I was in my late 30s I did not talk about my father or how he died. I felt a shame I could not explain. As if I had done something very bad that had caused his death. Vietnam veterans were treated with disdain, and their families were treated even worse. Right here in Oregon, war widows were threatened by so-called peace activists. And neither could most of our citizenry. A place where I proudly speak the name of my father â€” Staff Sgt. Spears â€” and of the life he gave for his family and his country. Contrast that to my friend Destre Livudais. Nino Livudais, was killed in Iraq. Destre and his brothers Carson and Grant spend a week during the summers with my husband Tim and I. We watch the pelicans feed at McNary Dam. I see in Destre the child that I was, the child who misses the father who loved her. Destre was 5 and living in Alabama when his daddy died. During his last visit to our home I asked Destre if he tells the other kids about how his father died. I know it hurts. A Vietnam veteran friend recently shared these words with me. They were penned by his son, who has been serving on the front lines in Iraq: Looking through the eyes of those before my generation, I see strength. Combat medic, supply, infantry, or whatever you may have done. You have seen the horrors of war. Families awakened in the middle of the night, houses blown into particles, kids running through the street because their family has just been killed, your friend dying in your arms. When I look at myself, I know that my eyes have not seen the worst. Only a glimpse of what happened to you. So as I lay in bed at night, why do I have nightmares? As a nation we have learned some hard lessons. Just as it should be. Just as it should have been when you and my father served. But as Vietnam veterans and their families, our mission will never be complete until we help this nation understand that for children like Destre and men like this young soldier serving now the pain of war continues long after the bombing stops. Thank you for your faithful service to this country â€” then and now. Copyright by Karen Spears Zacharias.

### Chapter 3 : Top shelves for After the Flag Has Been Folded

*After the Flag Has Been Folded: A Daughter Remembers the Father She Lost to War--and the Mother Who Held Her Family Together by Karen Spears Zacharias* Karen Spears was nine years old, living with her family in a trailer in rural Tennessee, when her father, David Spears, was killed in the Ia Drang Valley in Vietnam.

I tried as best I could to do as Daddy had asked. I learned at an early age to handle the burning things of life with mitts of silence. It was featured prominently in the nightly newscasts and in the daily papers. November was a month chock full of news. A lot of it was election stuff. It was the biggest Democratic victory Georgians had ever seen. But not everybody in the city or state was rejoicing. Family members of the sixty-seven Georgia servicemen listed as missing in action or prisoners of war gathered in Atlanta and drafted a letter to the Viet Cong delegation at the Paris Peace Talks. At Columbus High School several of my classmates wore engraved bracelets bearing the names of those men. Some of the jury selections proceedings in the Calley trial occurred on my fourteenth birthday – November 12 – the day after Veterans Day. The highly-publicized trial was never discussed in my classes at Columbus High. Columbus has always been very patriotic and deeply loyal to the military community at Fort Benning. But soldiers are warned not to marry local girls. The Vicks were a prominent Columbus family. Well loved and highly regarded, they own the popular V. Vick Jewelers at Cross Country Plaza. Calley still runs the family business. It was considered uncouth to discuss unpleasant topics. The trial that made daily headlines nationwide was largely ignored at dinner tables and in civics classes. But occasionally I would overhear discussions among the students as we waited between classes for the bell to ring: A trained killer, like all those other soldiers over there. He said the general feeling among the teaching staff was that Calley was being made a scapegoat. The only teachers I heard talk about Calley felt that he was just doing what he was ordered to do. The talk in the locker rooms and dorms painted Calley as a bloodthirsty maniac. Frank listened in silence as his classmates debated the issues among themselves. He never once chimed in. And he certainly made it a point to not divulge that his own father was a casualty of Vietnam. We had no one we could talk to about it, not even each other. And so it was, month after month after month. A verdict by a six-officer jury was returned on March 29, Calley was convicted of premeditated murder of twenty-two civilians, including women and infants. He also was convicted of assault with intent to murder a child, believed to be about two-years old. Throughout the trial, Calley maintained that he was acting upon the orders of Captain Ernest Medina, his superior, to kill everyone in My Lai. Calley was sentenced to life in prison. On November 9, a few days before my eighteenth birthday, he was released on bond after a federal judge overturned his conviction. I was a freshman in college. He had served three-and-half years, most of that under house arrest at Fort Benning.

### Chapter 4 : The meaning of the folding of the American flag-Truth! & Fiction! - Truth or Fiction?

*Beginning on the day Karen learns of her father's death and ending thirty years later with her pilgrimage to the battlefield where he died, half a world away from the family's hometown, After the Flag Has Been Folded is a triumphant tale of reconciliation between a daughter and her father, a daughter and her nation – and a poignant remembrance of a mother's love and heroism.*

### Chapter 5 : After the Flag has been Folded: Excerpt II | Karen Zacharias

*Beginning on the day Karen learns of her father's death and ending thirty years later with her pilgrimage to the battlefield where he died, half a world away from the family's hometown, After the Flag Has Been Folded is a triumphant tale of reconciliation between a daughter and her father, a daughter and her nation – and a poignant.*

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*Throughout the trial, Calley maintained that he was acting upon the orders of Captain Ernest Medina, his superior, to kill everyone in My Lai. The jury didn't buy it. Calley was sentenced to life in prison. On November 9, a few days before my eighteenth birthday, he was released on bond after a federal judge overturned his conviction.*

### Chapter 7 : After The Flag Has Been Folded : Karen Spears Zacharias :

*after the flag has been folded a daughter remembers the, strange as this weather has been ann pancake, a big elephant has been killed a novel, sample property has been sold tenant to move, crusty crones get out and about the cauldron has been stirred where next, matrix of power how.*

### Chapter 8 : After the Flag Has Been Folded - North Central Regional Library - OverDrive

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### Chapter 9 : After the Flag Has Been Folded | Zacharias, | eBook | [blog.quintoapp.com](http://blog.quintoapp.com)

*The thing about traveling as much as I do is that it is very easy to get lost. I've been lost in about every city in every state I've ever been in.*