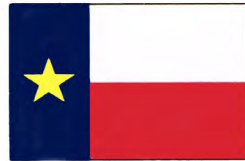
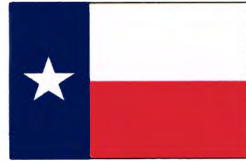
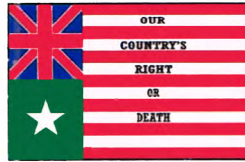
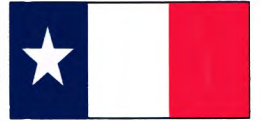


# Flags of the REPUBLIC of TEXAS



## **Historical Flags of the Republic of Texas**

**The State of Texas, due to its previous life as an independent Republic, has a very rich history. The thousands of volunteers who came to the state during the revolution(s) to assist in gaining independence brought with them a rich heritage. That heritage is manifested in the flags of the Republic of Texas. After gaining independence with its overwhelming battlefield victory at San Jacinto, Texas was an independent nation until its annexation in 1845. The flags in this book are all from the era (1813-2006) of the Texas revolution and the Republic(s) of Texas.**

## First Republic of Texas Flag, Apr. 6, 1813 aka Green flag of the Republican Army of the North, 1812 - 1813

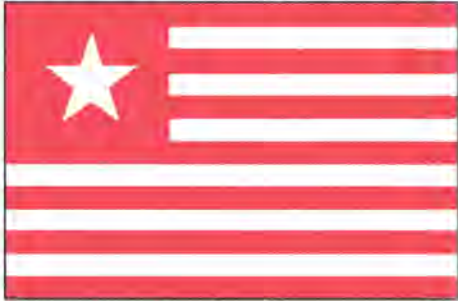


In 1812 a filibustering expedition led by a 24 year old U.S. officer named Augustus Magee liberated Texas from Spanish rule for one year. This solid emerald green flag was thought to have been introduced by Magee, a West Point graduate, a native of Boston, Massachusetts and of Irish background. While serving in the U.S. Army about 1812, he conceived the idea of wresting Texas from Mexico and establishing an independent republic. He soon joined with Jose Bernardo Gutierrez and began enlisting other adventurers including Samuel Kemper, who joined in the plot to wrest Texas from Spain. Gutierrez insisted upon being recognized as commander, but Magee was determined to hold the command. Friction between the leaders began at the very start. Moving into Texas, they succeeded in capturing Nacogdoches with the avowed intention of taking La Bahia and San Antonio.

On March 28th 1813 the Republican Army of the North, was marching toward the mission San Francisco de la Espada, on their way to capture San Antonio de Bexar. They encountered Royalist soldiers of New Spain near the junction of the Rosillo and Salado Creeks. This became known as the Battle of Rosillo. The battle lasted about an hour and was a disaster for Spain. Samuel Kemper, who took command after the death of Augustus Magee, lost only 6 men. This victory brought about the **First Republic of Texas** on April 6, 1813.

Under this green flag, the Republican Army ruled Texas until they met defeat south of San Antonio at the Battle of the Medina in late 1813. Among the Spanish officers who crushed the "*Green Flag Republic*" was a young Spanish Lieutenant named Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna. The harsh treatment of the captured Anglos probably taught him the Prisoner of War etiquette that cost him so dearly in Texas in 1836.

## James Long Flag, 1819 First Texas Lone Star Flag



In 1819, Dr. James Long of Natchez, Mississippi, led an expedition to claim Texas for the United States. Many assumed that Texas had been included in the Louisiana Purchase. The first 'Lone Star' on record in Texas was employed on the 'Long flag' while Texas (Tejas) was still a province of New Spain

The James Long expedition (**Second Republic of Texas**) occupied Goliad in October 1821 and held La Bahia for three days. On the fourth day they were captured by the Mexican army and sent to San Antonio and finally to Mexico City as prisoners. James Long was accidentally shot and killed by a guard, but it was possible that the guard had been hired to kill Long by Jose Felix Tresplalacios, nominal commander of the Long expedition.

## Constitution of 1824 Flag



The Mexican tricolor with modifications to symbolize support of the Federalist system guaranteed by the Constitution of the United Mexican States of 1824, remained the official banner sanctioned by a government of Texas, official, provisional or otherwise. No other flag was officially sanctioned until the naval flag adopted by President Burnet on April 9, 1836 just before the battle of San Jacinto on April 21.

These banners indicate an evolution from the tricolor of the Republic of Mexico to the addition of the year 1824, to removal of the Mexican eagle and snake. The evolution was in sympathy for independence and separation from the central government of Mexico. A banner employing the Mexican tricolors with reference to the Constitution of 1824 was thought to be preferred by a majority of DeWitt Colonists as their official flag in late 1835 and into early 1836 although

almost all supported independence as a Mexican State and then a sovereign Republic as they prepared for war with the government.

## State Flag of Coahuila y Tejas aka Seguin Flag, 1824 - 1836



DeWitt Colonists lived under the State Flag of Coahuila y Tejas in the 1820's and 1830's. The two stars signified the two regions that comprised the State of Coahuila and Texas.

Both Coahuila and Texas seceded from Mexico because of Santa Anna's attempts to centralize the government, with Texas forming the republic of Texas and Coahuila joining with Nuevo Leon, and Tamaulipas to form the short-lived republic of the Rio Grande.

It has also been speculated that this flag may have been carried by Capt. Juan Seguin's company at the Battle of Bexar and taken with them to the Alamo garrison.

## Fredonia Rebellion Flag, Dec, 1826



The third attempt at independence from Mexico was known as the Fredonia Rebellion led by Haden Edwards. Mexico gave Edwards a contract to settle 800 families in the Nacogdoches area. When he arrived in Nacogdoches, he found that the land was already settled by Indians and Mexican descendants who had been there several generations. Edwards gathered his men in the Stone Fort and declared themselves Fredonians (freedom seekers) when a dispute developed. Edwards made an alliance with Cherokee Indians represented by John Dunn Hunter and Richard Fields and declared the "*Republic of Fredonia*" independent of Mexico under the banner shown. The two colors are thought to symbolize the alliance. Inscribed also in the white field were names of key participants in the alliance. After he failed to rally a significant number of Anglo settlers in the Austin, DeWitt, DeLeon colonies and other areas of Texas, he abandoned the cause and returned to the United States. The flag was said to have been displayed later at rallies for Texas independence in 1835.

## **Sarah Dodson Flag aka Flag of the Harrisburg Volunteers Sept 1835**



This banner was carried by volunteers comprising Capt. Andrew Robinson's company from Harrisburg and designed by Sarah Rudolph Bradley Dodson in September, 1835 for her husband, 1st Lt. A.B. Dodson and colleagues. The flag apparently consisted of three horizontal squares of blue, white, and red, with a white lone star centered in the blue square. The white star allegedly symbolized that Texas was the only Mexican state in which the star of liberty was rising. Lt. Dodson's company marched under the Dodson Flag to San Antonio, and they fought under this flag during the siege of San Antonio and the Texian's capture of the Alamo.

The Dodson flag and the 1839 national flag of the republic of Texas are very similar; in the latter white and red squares are altered into a white stripe over a red stripe. James Ferguson may have carried the Dodson flag as far as Cibolo Creek, and it may have been carried at the battle of Conception and the siege of Bexar. There are also reports that the Dodson flag was flown, along with a bloody-arm flag (possibly either the Dimmitt or Brown flag), over the cabin where the Convention of 1836 met. If the reports are true, it is possible that the Dodson flag was the flag Lorenzo de Zavala proposed for adoption as the national flag.



## Gonzales Flag, aka "Come and Take It", Oct. 1835



In late September, 1835, the Mexican garrison at San Antonio sent a few men to Gonzales to recover a cannon that had been loaned to the town. The citizens of Gonzales denied the request. The Mexicans sent dragoons under Captain Francisco Castaneda to demand the cannon be returned. As word of the conflict spread, a group of 200 armed Texians was formed. Two women in Gonzales, Cynthia Burns and Evaline DeWitt, painted this flag on cotton cloth. Some say it was made from the white silk of the wedding dress of Empresario DeWitt's daughter, Naomi. The flag, depicting the cannon and the Texas Lone Star was a clear taunt to the Mexicans. The Mexican troops moved north to Gonzales. The Texians decided that they had to attack before Mexican forces grew larger and stronger. They crossed the river that evening, formed their battle lines and surprised the Mexicans at dawn on October 2, 1835. The battle that day was short; when the Texians opened fire, the Mexicans withdrew.

## New Orleans Greys Flag, Oct. 1835



The New Orleans Greys, two companies of United States volunteers that served together in the Texas Revolution, were organized on October 13, 1835. Nacogdoches alcalde Nicholas Adolphus Sterne was present at the meeting at the arcade owned by Thomas Banks and offered weapons to the first fifty men who would volunteer for Texas. By the evening's end nearly 120 men appear to have been recruited; no original muster role exists. Two companies were formed, the first under Capt. Thomas H. Breece and the second under Capt. Robert C. Morris.

Between the Gaines ferry and San Augustine, a delegation of local women greeted the company and presented it with a blue silk banner that bore the words "First Company of Texan Volunteers from New Orleans." The Grey's Flag is the only flag known with certainty to have been at The Alamo. Captured by Mexican leader Santa Anna, it was sent to Mexico City where it remains today.

The Greys later split up into two groups. One joined Col. Fannin's ill-fated men who would be slaughtered after surrendering at Goliad. One remained with this flag, joining the small band holding The Alamo. Between 180 and 250 Alamo defenders held out for 13 days before perishing in the onslaught of 6,000 Mexican troops on March 6, 1836. The flag was retained and transported to Mexico as a symbol of foreign military intervention in the affairs of Mexican Texas. The flag is said to have deteriorated in storage over the years at various locations in Mexico and it is unclear how much of the original still exists versus additions in restoration. Several attempts have been made to obtain the flag for traveling exhibition or even return to a site in Texas or the U.S.

## William Scott Flag, Fall of 1835



As dictatorial acts contrary to the liberal Mexican Constitution of 1824 began to mount, the number of Texians known as the Liberal Faction or War Party increased. The Conservatives rallied under the Mexican flags of 1824 hoping for a peaceful settlement with their adopted government and a return to the principles of local self-determination. Capt. William Scott of Kentucky raised a company of men. This banner was apparently the earliest symbol of those who had abandoned hopes for reconciliation. A banner of similar color and design without the lettering was first used in 1810 when American frontiersmen rebelled against Spanish authorities at Baton Rouge in Spanish West Florida.

In Lynchburg, Mrs. John Lynch took 4 yards of pure silk provided by Capt. Wm. Scott and sewed a border next to the staff and Italian Charles Lanco painted the white star and the words "*Independence*" on the silk. Although never official, this design became famous as "*The Bonnie Blue Flag*" symbol in the Confederate States of America after secession in 1861.

## Alabama Red Rovers Flag, Fall 1835



Like their uniforms, this solid blood red flag was the banner of the Red Rovers, a company of volunteers from Alabama who came to Texas in the fall of 1835 to aid the Texian forces. The Red Rovers were in large part massacred at Goliad on Palm Sunday, March 27, 1836, although there were some survivors among them. The Rovers were recruited, supported and commanded by Dr. and Capt. Jack Shackelford of Courtland, Alabama, who was with them at Goliad. Dr. Shackelford's life was spared because he was a surgeon.

## Brown's Flag of Independence, Dec. 1835



This flag is said to have been designed by Capt. William S. Brown at Velasco in the fall of 1835 preceding Capt. Dimmitt's bloody-arm flag with which it has been commonly confused since it employs the same symbol. Which came first is uncertain, but it is likely that one influenced the other. This banner may have been flown by Capt. Brown and his men at the Battle of Bexar and with him when he went to Goliad after the battle where he was a signer of the Goliad Declaration of Independence.

Although Capt. Dimmitt's flag is thought to be the primary one at the ceremonial announcement of the declaration, the Brown flag was probably present and may have also been displayed. References to the fact that Brown's flag was first unfurled at Goliad may refer to the simpler Dimmitt flag consisting of only the arm and knife on a field of white. Afterwards

Brown also went to San Felipe where the banner was again said to be unfurled prior to his return home to Velasco.

## Dimmitt's Goliad Flag, Dec. 1835



This militant and defiant banner, designed by Goliad garrison commander, Capt. Phillip Dimmitt, dramatically reflected the political shift of Texians and Capt. Dimmitt away from support of the independent statehood of Texas in the Mexican Federalist Republic and return to the Constitution of 1824. Support changed to the complete separation from Mexico as an independent Republic. Before he returned from the Siege and Battle of Bexar to Goliad in the middle of December 1835, Capt. Dimmitt was an avid Mexican Federalist and opposed the separation which was symbolized in the 1824 Mexican Tricolor. This flag is also thought to be of Dimmitt's own design.

Dimmitt's bloody arm flag was said to have been raised ceremonially on December 20, upon the signing of the Goliad Declaration of Independence as the official flag of the occasion. The banners of the companies of Capt. William S. Brown (*Brown's Flag of Independence*) and Capt. William Scott (*William Scott Flag*) were also present at Goliad at the time.

## 1824 Flag of the Texas Revolution, aka “The Alamo Flag”, 1835 - 1836



Initially, the Texians were fighting for liberties guaranteed to them under the Mexican Constitution of 1824. This flag may have been hoisted over the fortifications at the Alamo in San Antonio de Bexar, and flew there during the epic thirteen day siege where between 180 and 250 Texians held off a Mexican army of over 6,000 men. The flag is a Mexican National flag with the national seal removed from the center and replaced with the year of the Constitution.

### **A different view.**

For well over 150 years, popular culture has placed the 1824 Flag flying from the walls of the Alamo during those fateful thirteen days when a handful of determined men stood before the might of the Mexican army and shouted “*Liberty or Death.*” The idea that the defenders would have considered flying the 1824 Flag from the walls of their fortress is, at the very least, farfetched and, at the most, demeaning to their cause and their memory.

## Troutman Goliad Flag, Jan. 1836



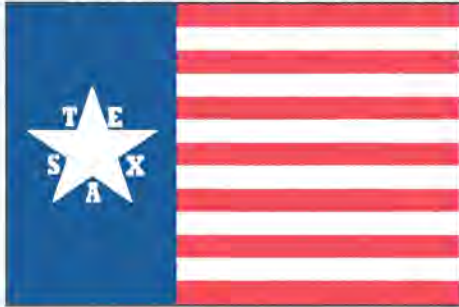
This flag was designed in November 1835 by Johanna Troutman, sometimes called the Betsy Ross of Texas. When the Georgia Battalion of Volunteers under Captain William Ward marched from Macon to Columbus, Georgia on their way to Texas in response to an appeal for aid for Texas by Col. Fannin, Miss Troutman (daughter of Col. C.A. Troutman of Knoxville, Georgia and later Mrs. Pope), presented the troop with the flag to carry with them. According to a family member interviewed in 2008, the banner was made from the white petticoat of Miss Troutman.

On one side were the words "*Liberty or Death*" and on the other side the Latin words "*Ubi libertas habitat ibi nostra patria est--Where Liberty Dwells, There is my Home*". Author John Henry Brown says that the flag was flown at the American Hotel in Velasco in January

1836 upon the arrival of the Georgia Battalion in Texas and some have claimed it also flew at the Texas Independence convention at Washington-on-the-Brazos. However, it was said to have been taken to and flown at Goliad by Col. Fannin. Guy M Bryan in a speech before the Texas Veterans Association in 1873 states "*The Georgia battalion flag was azure, lone star, five points, in a white field. This flag was raised as a national flag on the walls of Goliad by Fannin when he heard of the Declaration of Independence.*" The flag was thought to have been destroyed in haste to get it down upon retreat from the garrison at Goliad.

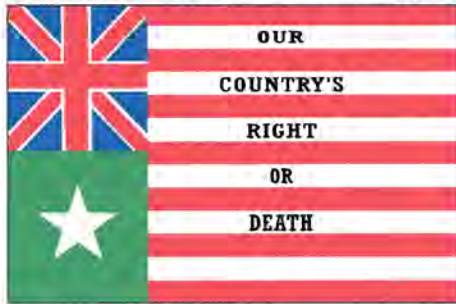


## Davy Crockett's Flag, 1836



There are several theories about what flag was flown by the Texians during the siege of the Alamo. According to David Crockett's journal entry for February 23, 1836, the Alamo defenders flew a national flag. Life of David Crockett, "we have had a large national flag made; it is composed of thirteen stripes, red and white, alternately, on a blue ground with a large white star, of five points, in the center, and between the points the letters TEXAS.... we set about raising our flag on the battlements [of the Alamo]."

## Captain Baker's San Felipe Flag, Mar. 1836



According to the Telegraph and Texas Register, San Felipe, March 5, 1836 "...the English Jack showing the origin of Anglo-Americans, thirteen stripes representing that most of the colonists in Texas are from the United States; the Star is Texas, the only state in Mexico retaining the least spark of the light of Liberty; tricolor is Mexican, showing that we once belonged to the confederacy; the whole flag is historic."

It was dubbed the San Felipe flag based on ideas expressed to Gail Borden Jr. by Stephen F. Austin in a letter from New Orleans on January 18, 1836: "I shall preach independence all over the US wherever I go--What do you think of the enclosed idea of a flag." The flag was presented to the company of volunteers commanded by Captain Moseley Baker by Gail Borden Jr. in the name of "two ladies" from the area as they marched from San Felipe

on February 29, 1836 for Gonzales. Capt. Baker made a speech to his company in response to the presentation referring to the flag "this banner of independence." It was claimed to have been flown at San Jacinto by those in Sherman's division.

## Lorenzo de Zavala Flag, Mar. 1836



On March 2, 1836, a delegation at Washington-on-the-Brazos adopted the Texas Declaration of Independence, and thus was born the **third republic of Texas**.

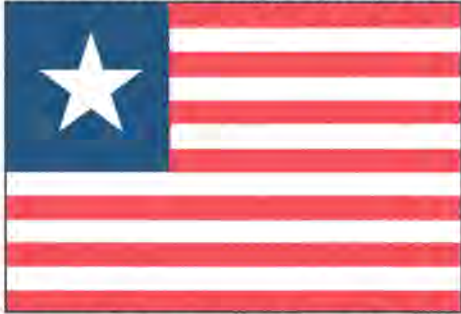
The first Constitutional Convention at Washington-on-the-Brazos on March 2, 1836 declared Texas' Independence from Mexico, wrote the first republic of Texas Constitution, and appointed its first leaders. They also, allegedly, found time to design the flag of the new republic.

Proceedings of the Texas Independence Convention appear to indicate that Lorenzo de Zavala, an accomplished statesman, proposed a simple Lone Star flag depicted as the first official flag of the republic of Texas. The Davy Crockett flag with its five pointed star and the

letters T E X A S may have influenced the design of the Zavala flag. Proceedings also indicate *"On the motion of Mr. Scates, the Rainbow and star of five points above the western horizon; and the star of six points sinking below, was added to the flag of Mr. Zavala accepted on Friday last. Mr. Taylor introduced the following resolution: Resolved that the word "Texas" be placed, one letter between each point of the star on the national flag."* It is unclear whether any of the proposed modifications including the indicated lettering were ever employed. The design of the flag served as the reverse side of the new republic of Texas currency.

Proceedings of the Independence Convention at Washington-on-the-Brazos, March 12, 1836 stated: *Mr. Childress introduced the following resolution: "Resolved that a single star of five points, either of gold or silver, be adopted as the peculiar emblem of this republic; & that every officer & soldier of the army and members of this convention and all friends of Texas, be requested to wear it on their hats or bosoms; which was adopted,"*

## Texas Navy Flag, April, 1836



In November of 1835, the General Council formed the Texas Navy, purchasing the first ships: the *Independence*, *Brutus*, *Liberty* and *Invincible*.

These ships flew both the Alamo flag and a new design created by Charles Hawkins, who was later appointed as the first Senior Captain and as Commodore of the Texas Navy. Hawkins' design was approved by President Burnet in April of 1836, and ratified by the First Congress of the Republic that December. In addition to protecting the Texas coast, the navy also seized Mexican ships and sent their cargoes to the aid of the Texas volunteers.

The Texas flag was raised briefly over Cozumel, and three Texas ships sailed 70 miles up the Tabasco River to San Juan Bautista, where the astounded citizens paid \$25,000 to prevent the destruction of the city. The Texas Navy's victory in 1843 over superior Mexican forces at Campeche is distinguished as the only time sailing ships defeated steam-powered craft in a major sea battle.

## San Jacinto Battle Flag, aka Sherman's Volunteers Flag, Apr. 1836



The San Jacinto battle flag, brought to Texas by Sidney Sherman, was allegedly painted by James H. Beard and presented to the Newport (Kentucky) Rifle Company by Katherine Isabelle (Cox) Sherman, Sherman's wife. The flag is made of white or light blue silk with the painted figure of a partially bare-breasted woman grasping in one hand a sword over which is draped a streamer with the words "*LIBERTY OR DEATH*." The flag was probably based on Eugène Delacroix's painting *Liberty Leading the People*; the woman in the flag is said to symbolize Liberty.

After Santa Anna's victory at the Alamo, he marched across Texas, intent on destroying the Texas Army, and forcing settlers back to the United States. His army exceeded 6,000 men and was divided into 3 columns approximately 50 miles apart. Santa Anna led his men north onto a narrow strip of land surrounded by San Jacinto Bay. Sam Houston realized this put Santa Anna in a vulnerable position, and he seized the opportunity and attacked. On April 21, 1836 Houston attacked and routed Santa Anna and his army. The only flag flown by the Texans at this battle was one presented to a volunteer company from Newport, Kentucky. The battle was over in 18 minutes.

## Morgan's Lone Star Flag, Dec. 1836



The Morgan flag flew after the revolution. Thomas Jefferson Morgan organized a company of soldiers in Washington, Pennsylvania. He had a flag made that is said to have consisted of a lone star and the words "LIBERTY OR DEATH."

The flag was flown in front of the courthouse, where it angered some that were not sympathetic with the Texas cause. Militia officers ordered Morgan to remove the flag, but he refused and threatened to have anyone shot that disturbed the colors. A compromise was reached in which Morgan displayed the flag in front of his residence. The flag was brought to Texas in December 1836 when the company reported to Camp Independence.

## **Burnet Lone Star Flag, Dec. 10, 1836. Apr. 22, 2006**



In December of 1836 the new Texas Government approved the recommendation of David Burnet (Texas President) for a new design for the "National Flag" of Texas. *"Be it further enacted, That for the future there shall be a national flag, to be an azure ground, with a large golden star central."* This flag is known as David G. Burnet's flag, named after the president of the ad interim government. Little consideration was given to the previous National Flag design by Zavala which had been adopted eight months earlier.

On March 3, 1837, the republic of Texas, under this flag, was recognized by the United States of America as a sovereign and independent nation, a status it enjoyed for nine years. Although President Burnet's flag was never explicitly replaced as one of the Republic's official flags by the Lone Star Flag, the need for a separate war flag ended with statehood in

1845. Also, the state legislature reised the code of laws in 1879, and repealed all laws not explicitly re-enacted -- thereby ending any legislative sanction for Burnet's flag.

On April 22, 2006, a House Resolution No. 10-01-14-006 and Senate No. 2006-01-014 was enacted.

Sec. 3. Be it further enacted, from and after passage of this act, the national flag for the republic of Texas is commonly known as the "Burnet Flag", is rectangular with a width to length ratio of six units rise (vertical) to ten units fly (horizontal) with a single symmetrical five pointed golden star centered in all directions on the azure ground. One point of the star is oriented at a right angle to the rise toward the top fly edge (long dimension) of the flag. Each of the points of the said star is 72 degrees from its adjacent points on an imaginary circumscribing circle having a diameter equal to seven-twelfths (7/12) of the rise of the flag; anything in the act to which this is an amendment to the contrary notwithstanding.

## The Lone Star Flag, Jan. 25, 1839. Apr. 22, 2006



After Santa Anna's defeat at the Battle of San Jacinto on April 21, 1836, the new Texas republic thrived and, in keeping with the rising prominence of the new nation, a more distinctive national flag was desired.

Meeting in Houston in 1839, the Third Congress of the republic of Texas selected a new flag created by Charles Stewart, the second man to sign the Declaration of Independence.

On December 29, 1844, Texas was admitted to the United States and the flag of the republic of Texas became the state flag. Three months later the United States declared war on Mexico.

On April 22, 2006, a House Resolution No. 10-01-14-006 and Senate No. 2006-01-014 was enacted.

*Sec. 4.* Be it further enacted, from and after passage of this act, the national flag for the republic of Texas military and maritime service is the tri-colored flag commonly known as the "Lone Star Flag" consisting of a blue perpendicular stripe of the width of one-third of the whole length of the flag, with a single white star of five points in the center thereof, and two horizontal stripes of equal breadth, the upper stripe white, the lower red, of the length of two-thirds of the whole length of the flag; and thing in the act to which this is an amendment to the contrary notwithstanding.



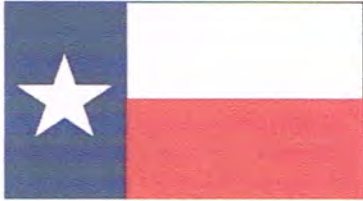
## The Lone Star Flag Custom

### April 22, 2006



On April 22, 2006 a House Resolution No. 10-01-14-006 and Senate No. 2006-01-014 was enacted.

Sec. 5. Be it further enacted, from and after passage of this act, the national flag for the republic of Texas revenue service is the tri-colored flag commonly known as the "Lone Star Flag" consisting of a blue perpendicular stripe of the width of one-third of the whole length of the flag, with a single golden star of five points in the center thereof, and two horizontal stripes of equal breadth, the upper stripe white, the lower red, of the length of two-thirds of the whole length of the flag; anything in the act to which this is an amendment to the contrary notwithstanding.



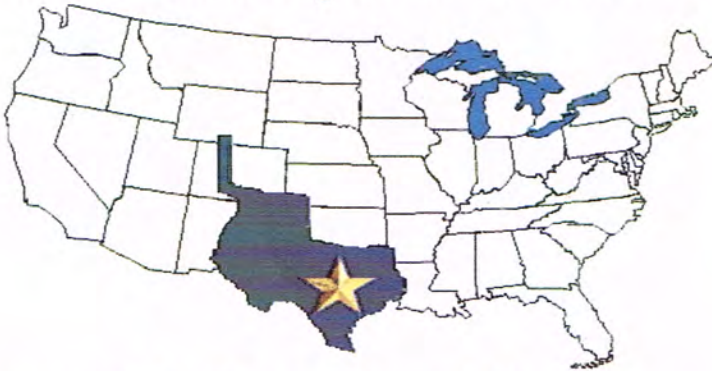
**The republic of Texas  
Admiralty flag of 1839**

State of Texas Government Code  
CHAPTER 3100. STATE FLAG  
"The state flag is the 1839 national  
Flag of the Republic of Texas"



**The republic of Texas  
National Standard 1836**

## What is the republic of Texas?



[www.TheTexasRepublic.com](http://www.TheTexasRepublic.com)