



# NIFDA

National Independent Flag Dealers Association

Celebrating our 33<sup>rd</sup> Year!

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **NIFDA ANNOUNCES GRAND PRIZE WINNERS for AMERICAN FLAG PHOTO CONTEST #USAflagSpotter**

The National Independent Flag Dealers Association (NIFDA) announces six Grand Prize Winners in the American Flag Photo Contest #USAflagSpotter; who will each receive a 20FT Flagpole kit donated by Concord-American Flagpole. Additional prizes were donated by: Annin Flagmakers; Allied Flag; Eder Flag; Flagzone; and Valley Forge Flag Company.

### GRAND PRIZE WINNERS:

1. Tina Lauer of Indiana for the photo of her family walking through field on their family farm.
2. Joe Werlins of New Jersey for his photo of the American Flag on the George Washington Bridge in NYC.
3. Ann Fried of Pennsylvania for her photo of the American Flag in front of a ship with signal flags.
4. Miya Grunert of Wisconsin for her photo of a barn with God Bless America sign & American Flag.
5. Robert Holcomb of Florida for his self-portrait: Navy Sailor with baby wrapped in American Flag.
6. Annelise Docel of Illinois for her photo of the Blue Angels with American Flag flying in foreground.

Hundreds of photos were submitted from across the country, creating a daunting task for our Contest judges to choose their favorites.

NIFDA partnered with The Stephen Sillers Tunnel To Towers Foundation to recruit FDNY & NYPD 9-11 First responders to judge the photos of our American Flag, a symbol that these heroes hold dear to their hearts.

Tunnel to Towers Foundation is a non-profit charitable organization, founded by Frank Siller to honor his brother, fallen firefighter Stephen Siller, who ran from the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel to the World Trade Center on 9/11/2001.

The selfless spirit of Firefighter Stephen Siller, and countless first responders, have motivated thousands of people across the country to volunteer within their community to benefit the greater good, inspiring others to help their fellow man, thank a veteran, or just fly the American Flag on their home. The American Flag embodies the spirit of these American Heroes, creating a living memorial for the fallen.

It is this humanitarian spirit that NIFDA recognizes as Patriotic values, all woven within the fabric of the Stars and Stripes. This Photo Contest is a testament to that spirit and designed to bring about awareness and appreciation for the American Flag.

September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001 represents a poignant time in American history, when the entire nation became unified under one symbol, The American Flag.

To mark the 20th Anniversary of the tragedy of September 11, 2001, NIFDA spent some time with 9-11 First Responders who shared their memories and interpretations of what the American Flag means to them. Visit [www.nifda.net/photo-contest](http://www.nifda.net/photo-contest) to view the short 4-minute video reflecting on 9-11; as well as the photo contest slideshow. Then pause and take a moment to reflect on the meaningful power the American Flag holds as a symbol of hope & unification during the most disparaging of times.

*The National Independent Flag Dealers Association is a non-profit trade association, established in 1988, committed to the manufacture and sale of American-made U.S.A. flags.*

*NIFDA supports its members within the flag and flagpole industry with a variety of programs, including annual conferences, the exchange of ideas, networking forums, and community outreach education. NIFDA members represent the top 10% in the flag industry nation-wide. For more information on NIFDA, visit [www.nifda.net](http://www.nifda.net)*

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