"Light in the Window"
Blue Star Service Flag Pattern

Finished size 12" wide; length varies.

Blue Star Service Flag was introduced in World War I as an unofficial symbol of a child in the service. The tradition became more widely used during World War II and subsequent US conflicts. There is a regulation flag, but no prohibition against making your own to honor a loved one serving on active military duty. Recommended color for borders and binding is red.

Use our panel to make a basic flag. Enhance it with photographs or text included on our panel to indicate branch of the military in which your loved one is serving.

Terminology & General Information

WOF means, "width of fabric". Where you see this, cut from selvage to selvage.
RST means "right sides together" - printed surfaces face each other.
WST means "wrong sides together"

Borders on all 4 sides of star are cut 3½", finished 3". Other horizontal sashing strips are cut 2½" h, finished 2" h. Width of horizontal strips is cut 6½" w and finished 6" w.

Size photo to 6¼" square, and cut fabric 6½" square. Finish 6" square.

Finished width of banner is 12". Finished length depends upon how you personalize yours, but cut your backing and batting 14" wide, and 4" longer than the finished length of your banner. You will trim after construction.

When planning size of your banner, measure height of each text rectangle. Height varies.

Assemble entire 6½" center section, then add 3½" border strips to length of left and right sides; side borders are cut extra long and trimmed after construction.

Materials List

"Light in the Window" Hand Printed Panel by Block Party Studios
Flag and Binding - ½ yard of red fabric
Backing - 14" x WOF
Batting - craft or scrap size. If using scrap, you'll need a piece 14" w x 4" longer than finished banner height.
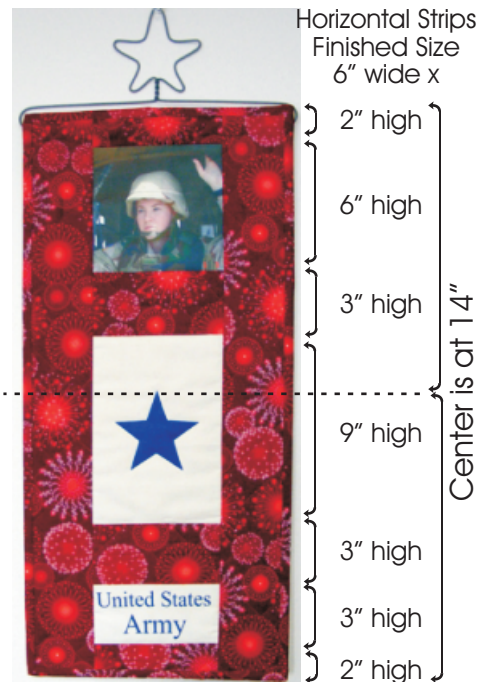
Optional - Ink Jet Printer Fabric such as Printed Treasures, for photo printing.*
Optional - 12" star hanger.*
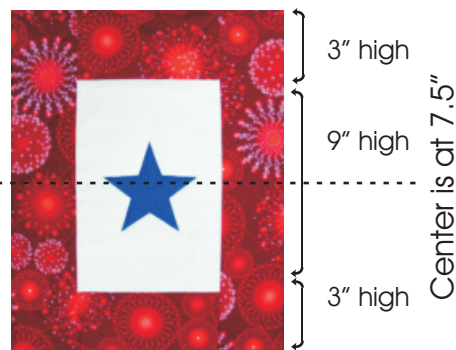
* Available at www.blockpartystudios.com

Photograph

If you use a photograph in your banner, these tips will be helpful in producing a quality print on fabric. Start with an 8 x10 print and scan it, or use a digital image in sharp focus. You will not have a sharp print if you try to enlarge a photo from a small snapshot. Use your computer to brighten and size the photo to 6¼" square. We recommend Printed Treasures Printer fabric. It produces vibrant color prints on fabric. Your print on fabric will only be as good as the photograph you start with. Print according to package directions, then trim block to 6½" square.

Horizontal Strips Finished Size 6" wide x
2" high
6" high
3" high
9" high
3" high
3" high
2" high
Center is at 14"
United States Army
Version A — Finished height 28"

3" high
9" high
3" high
Center is at 7.5"
Version B Basic Flag — Finished height 15"

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Cutting

Cut star and chosen text from hand printed "Light In The Window" panel along cut marks.

Version A

<u>Red</u> <u>Fabric</u>
2 - 3½" x WOF strips. From each, cut 1 - 6½" strip and 1 - 30" strip.
1 - 2½" x WOF strip. From this, cut 2 - 2½" x 6½" rectangles.
2 - 1¾" x WOF strips for "Press-Perfect Binding"**. If you have a preferred binding method, there is enough yardage to cut 2½" strips.
<u>Backing</u> - cut 1 - 14" x 32"
<u>Batting</u> - cut 1 - 14" x 32"

Version B

<u>Red</u> <u>Fabric</u>
2 - 3½" strips. From each, cut 1 - 6½" strip and 1 - 17" strip.
2 - 1¾" x WOF strips for "Press-Perfect Binding"**. If you have a preferred binding method, there is enough yardage to cut 2½" strips.
<u>Backing</u> - cut 1 - 14" x 19"
<u>Batting</u> - cut 1 - 14" x 19"

To make a unique banner, plan which words to use and where to place them. Cut enough fabric for sashing and binding strips, using dimensions under Terminology & General Information on pattern front.

Assembly

Banner is completed using a "quilt as you go" technique, as follows: Press-mark center of 14" backing fabric by folding in half lengthwise, then crosswise, and pressing. Lay flat, wrong side up. Press-mark batting in same fashion. Lay batting atop wrong side of lining. Match fold lines of backing and batting. Pin along matched lines and smooth so they lay out flat without bumps or creases.

Find center point of banner. Starting in the middle of backing/batting where the folds formed a "+", lay center atop backing/batting along marked fold. Place sashing strips RST along top and bottom edges of center piece and stitch through all layers using a ¼" seam. Press open. Be sure you start the first pieces going straight along the center fold. You have excess on all four sides which you will trim when construction is complete.

Lay the next two strips, centered, RST on each of the two raw edges. Pin and stitch each seam through all layers using a ¼" inch seam. Press open. Periodically turn backing side up and press to assure that backing is smooth and free of puckers. Repeat, adding strips and stitching through all layers. Add side borders using same technique.

Quilt as desired. Using a mat, ruler, and rotary cutter, trim banner to 12" wide x appropriate length.

If you plan to use a star hanger, make a sleeve. Cut 2½" X 13" strip of fabric (larger if you will use a larger hanger). Hem each end. Fold in half lengthwise and press. Place raw edge of sleeve along raw edge of quilt BACK and pin into place. Stitch sleeve to back as you stitch binding to front. Binding will cover raw edge of sleeve on quilt back. Secure folded edge of sleeve to backing.

Add binding using Block Party's "Press-Perfect Binding"** technique or your own favorite technique.

**

Press-Perfect Binding
Click here to download free instructions

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to download FREE
binding Instructions!
www.blockpartystudios.com

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