

# Avenue of Flags Kickoff 2024 Informational and Funny Skit

Performed 5/7/2024

Credits for today's performance:

- Written by Tom Novak
- Narration, performed by Maha Kashani
- Johnny Appleseed, performed by Tim Clemer
- George Washington, performed by Bob Burkman
- Trumpeter playing Hail to the Chief, performed by Bob Myers
- Betsy Ross, performed by Beth Duncan

## (slide #1: Waving American Flag)

**Tom:** Hi everyone;

**In 2 weeks from tomorrow,** our AOF Fundraiser Program will deliver over 3,400 flags to honor Memorial Day; it will be the 1<sup>st</sup> of 7 National holidays which our AOF will display flags for this year. Like many of our Optimist activities, it takes a lot of volunteer effort prior to the main event to make it a success,

In our Ave of Flags, we are a Team of Teams and I ask all who have helped this year to please stand and be recognized.

If you were here at the same time last year, you may remember that some of our most well recognized historical figures of the past dropped in to visit us? does anyone remember George Washington? or, Ben Franklin? or, Betsy Ross?

I invited each of them to join with us this year: Ben and Betsy have been invited to a party in France; and George Washington replied that he was "TOO BUSY". So, we have a slight change in plans: our own Maha Kashani joined our Club in 2005; and she volunteered to share about those early years of our Ave of Flags. Please give Maha a warm welcome!

**Maha:** Happy Tuesday everyone!

**(Slide #2: AOF poster in early years):**

(Maha starts to share some thoughts of our first years and her excitement and what it meant to her .....! **In less than a minute: Maha ends with:** "It is TRULY incredible how far we've come!"

**Jonny Appleseed (Tim Clemmer from the hallway):** HELLO ...CAN ANYBODY HEAR ME? ? **Jonny enters room:** "can anybody tell me if I am at the right address?"

**Maha:** Well, It appears to me that you may have the wrong day: the Rotary Club meets on Thursday!

**Jonny:** I am looking for the Ave of Flags program of the Centerville Noon Optimist Club!

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**Maha:** O.K..... You're at the right place. And, who are You?

**Jonny:** Don't you recognize me: I'm Jonny Appleseed; You know, I am the guy that planted all these apple trees in Ohio almost 200 years ago!

**Maha:** Jonny, you look pretty good for your age!! Well, your visit is a surprise to me! I don't mean any disrespect to you; I understand your interest with apples, but, not with our Ave of Flags program !

**Jonny:** Well; actually ...those 3 great heroes in our history requested that I stop by this year! They were really impressed with the popularity of your "Ave of Flags" Program in your community! So, I just wanted to see for myself.

**Maha:** Well Jonny, you will have to wait until later this month when our flags to honor Memorial Day are on display. Residents support our fundraiser (slide #3: residence with flag); and, business owners support our fundraiser (slide #4: O'Learys flags). Our AOF volunteer teams deliver over 3,200 flags in 1 day !!

**Jonny:** Well, I planted 3,000 apple trees in your community, but that took me over 3 years! What's the key to your success?

**Maha:** Jonny, in our Club, when many volunteers combine their efforts together, we achieve amazing goals. We have lot of fun and enjoy working together; at the same time we are "giving back" to our community! Jonny, what does this map of our community bring to mind for you? (slide #5: scatter plot map of our flags).

**Jonny:** Wow: that's easy! Those are all of the apple trees I planted: see the yellow delicious apples; see the red delicious apples; see the green McIntosh! Looks like I also planted some purple plum trees. I guess if I had a Team of helpers like you have, I might have been more efficient!

**Maha:** Jonny, sorry, this chart is not about apples.

**Jonny:** Well, then where are my apple trees?

**Maha:** Jonny, that is another story. Each dot is a home owner or business in our community who participates in our flag program. We have 98 Flag Routes; each Route has a Flag Delivery Team. Some of our Teams have their own "warm-up" practice routine before they place flags. (slides #6); and, some Teams just enjoy watching the show while they wait. (slide # 7).

**Jonny:** Wow, I wish your Flag Program was around when I planted my apple trees. It's not only efficient – but it looks like you enjoy what you do!

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Maha: Yes, and we add new teams every year to keep up with our growth; there may be a learning curve for our new helpers as they place a flag for the 1<sup>st</sup> time; (slide #8: a newTeam struggles with flag); but, our helpers are quick learners; and, they become experts real quick. (slide #9: no struggle w flag)

**(Bob Myers plays “Hail to The Chief” music)**

George Washington enters: (slide #10: Hearty cheer for George )

Maha: Mr President: Welcome; but I thought you were too busy to join with us

**(Jonny gives George the microphone)**

George: Well, Maha – You will see why I was so very Busy; I am sure that you know that this year is an important Presidential Election year; and since there is NO AGE LIMIT..... I have thrown my hat in the ring to run for President ! (slide #11: 2 Shouts of “4 more Years”).

But, the most important reason for my visit is that with the increase of flags every year, I know you have room for more volunteers; so Optimists, check in with Tom Novak or Mike Brubaker, or ,,, Bob Burkman; if you can find him before you leave today.

By the way, I have selected my Vice Presidential candidate: May I introduce the next Vice President of our great country to you?

(enter Betsy Ross). (slide # 12: cheer for Betsy Ross)

Let’s all support this wonderful Ave of Flags Program. (slide #13: Uncle Sam ).

Maha: Thanks to our Guests and thanks to our Optimist crowd here today.