

## Patriotic Poem



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## Ragged Old Flag



by  
Johnny Cash

Note: This is the only poem ever written by Johnny Cash that was not intended to be sung.

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## Ragged Old Flag



I walked through a country courthouse square,  
on a park bench an old man was sitting there.  
I said, "Your old courthouse is kinda run down."  
He said, "Naw, it'll do for our little town."  
I said, "Your flagpole has leaned a little bit,  
And that's a Ragged Old Flag you got hanging on it."

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**Ragged  
Old  
Flag**



He said, "Have a seat", and I sat down.  
"Is this the first time you've been to our little town?"  
I said, "I think it is." He said, "I don't like to brag,  
But we're kinda proud of that Ragged Old Flag."

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**Ragged  
Old  
Flag**



"You see, we got a little hole in that flag there  
When Washington took it across the Delaware.  
And it got powder-burned the night Francis Scott Key  
Sat watching it writing \_Oh Say Can You See\_  
And it got a bad rip in New Orleans  
With Packingham and Jackson tuggin' at its seams."

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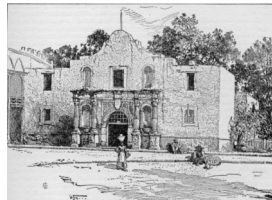
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**Ragged  
Old  
Flag**



"And it almost fell at the Alamo  
Beside the Texas flag, but she waved on through.  
She got cut with a sword and Chancellorsville  
And she got cut again at Shiloh Hill.  
There was Robert E. Lee, Beauregard, and Bragg,  
And the south wind blew hard on that Ragged Old Flag."

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**Ragged  
Old  
Flag**



“On Flanders Field in World War I  
She got a big hole from a Bertha gun.  
She turned blood red in World War II  
She hung limp and low by the time it went through.  
She was in Korea and Vietnam.  
She went where she was sent by her Uncle Sam.”

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**Ragged  
Old  
Flag**



“She waved from our ships upon the briny foam, And  
now they’ve about quit waving her back here at home.  
In her own good land she’s been abused –  
She’s been burned, dishonored, denied and refused.”

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**Ragged  
Old  
Flag**



“And the government for which she stands  
Is scandalized throughout the land.  
And she’s getting threadbare and wearing thin,  
But she’s in good shape for the shape she’s in.  
‘Cause she’s been through the fire before  
And I believe she can take a whole lot more.”

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**Ragged  
Old  
Flag**



“So we raise her up every morning,  
Take her down every night.  
We don't let her touch the ground  
And we fold her up right.  
On second thought I DO like to brag,  
“Cause I'm mighty proud of theat Ragged Old Flag.”

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**Ragged Old Flag**



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