

The American Eagle
The Great Seal of the United States – 1782 - 2023
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After the Declaration was ratified, and before Congress adjourned on July 4, 1776, a resolution was passed that said; *Resolve, that Dr. Franklin, Mr. J. Adams and Mr. Jefferson, be a committee, to bring in a device for a seal for the United States of America.* That first committee discussed both Biblical and classical themes. The Eye of Providence, date of independence, and the shield and Latin motto, *E Pluribus Unum* (out of many, one) would endure through two more committees until Charles Thomson, secretary of the Continental Congress, utilizing the native American Bald Eagle as the primary symbol.

The Eagle was displayed as though in flight, with the left talon clutching arrows and the right an olive branch. The shield, representing the 13 original states in its stars and stripes, would be complimented by the fact that the eagle would face the symbol of peace, and not war. The Bureau of Public Affairs from the U.S. Department of States states; *the seal reflects the beliefs and values that the Founding Fathers attached to the new nation and wished to pass on their descendants.*” We honor our nation’s defense of peace, and those who have been willing to defend it with the ultimate price of freedom. Watch for the giant bald eagle in this year’s parade as we honor our veterans!

