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AMERICAN FLAG

ART, DESIGN
FASHION

MARY EMMERLING
PHOTOS BY REED DAVIS

A white apron is hanging on a metal rack. The apron features a red and blue embroidered American flag design. Below the flag, the words "Old Glory" are embroidered in red. At the bottom of the apron, there is a wide band of blue and white checkered embroidery. The background is dark and out of focus, showing what appears to be a kitchen or workshop setting.

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Vintage **AMERICANA**

DURING MY YOUNG YEARS IN WASHINGTON, DC, and Rehoboth, Delaware, I learned to love the American flag. It seemed to be on display everywhere, from monuments, embassies, parades, and museums to the boardwalk, at ride parks, miniature golf, and the beach houses in the summer.

In the 1960s, when I started collecting antiques, the fad was to purchase things mainly from Europe and Great Britain. Then in 1976, a Bicentennial exhibition at the Whitney Museum in New York City—I think it was called the Flowering of American Antiques—fascinated me. And the American Antiques show really woke me up to purchasing American antiques *only*—especially since I did most of my antiques hunting in New England, where they were old and plentiful. That's when I really started buying antiques with flags on them.





A 1940s American Women's Voluntary Services enamel eagle badge may not have been an official issue with the uniform but could be worn with it.

RIGHT & FACING: Rhinestoned, furling flag pins have remained popular over many decades. A contemporary bracelet spells out a well-loved slogan.

