

## *MM — When Flag Burning is a Moment — 10/15/18*

### **FLAG BURNING DAY**

**Jean and I burned our American flag today...  
something I learned to do in Boy Scouts...  
singing “God bless America” as it burned.**

**I took it down yesterday...  
our season here at the cabin ends...  
it’s the middle of October after all.**

**I was singing “*that old rugged flag...*”  
seeing its tattered and torn  
fragments of color.**

**The “*emblem of suffering and shame...*”  
and of pride and glory  
and of 50 states united.**

**The first thing I remember memorizing...  
“*I pledge allegiance to the flag  
of the United States of America.*”**

**Every morning in school  
had us standing and pledging  
and singing “*My country ‘tis of Thee.*”**

**I look at our tattered flag today...  
red stripes pulled apart from the white...  
50 stars still solidly held together by the blue.**

**I try not to see the obvious metaphor of divided colors...  
wishing we could come together again  
as one nation with “*liberty and justice for all.*”**

**It’s time to turn my flag into ashes  
when the stripes won’t hold together  
and it can no longer proudly wave.**

**Art Morgan**