



UNCLE SAM
DIMENSIONS: 6"W x 6.5"D x 12"H

PATRIOTISM
IN
PEAPICKIN CROSSROADS:

UNCLE SAM

The folks of Peapickin Crossroads are proud to be Americans. Their hometown Fourth of July celebration rivals any in the country. A parade, which forms in a field south of town, winds its way up South Main Street, once around Town Square, then up North Main Street to end at the Crossroads Stadium.

Every year, Roger, who owns the grocery store, plays the part of Uncle Sam. He and his little dog, Star, start at the head of the parade and as they march up Main Street, Roger points at children lining the way and says, "I want you to march with me!" The children join Roger and Star, leaving the parents to follow as best they can.

Finally, the parade reaches the stadium and the crowd fills up the bleachers. The many bands that have marched separately now join ranks as one big band. Roger and Star, the mayor, and other dignitaries gather on a podium decorated in red, white, and blue. Special poems and speeches are read. Roger draws names from his large hat and calls them to the podium to lead the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance and in singing

America The Beautiful. Then a group of people of all ages forms two lines side by side on the field. The crowd stands in patriotic reverence as the band strikes up The Star Spangled Banner. The right side of the line takes off running horizontally across the field carrying long banners that eventually make a giant American flag.

Just at that moment, the lights go out in the stadium and the crowd remains very quiet. Suddenly, a single white rocket bursts into red, white, and blue over the scoreboard, followed by a fireworks display that gets better every year. The wonder and beauty are almost too much to take, especially for those old enough to really appreciate what America stands for and who know how important their community of Peapickin Crossroads is.

That night everybody in town sleeps as soundly as the fireworks were bright and awakens the next morning to yet another peaceful day in Peapickin Crossroads.