



## **FLAG ETIQUETTE**

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## **AGENDA**



- Standards of Respect
- Displaying the Flag Outdoors
- Raising and Lowering the Flag
- Displaying the Flag Indoors
- The Pledge of Allegiance and National Anthem
- The Flag in Mourning
- Time and occasions for display



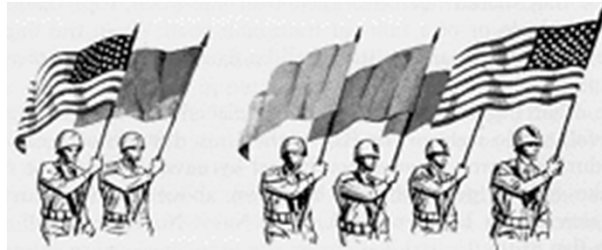
## Standards of Respect



- The flag should never be dipped to any person or thing. It is flown upside down only as a distress signal.
- The flag should not be used as a drapery, or for covering a speakers desk, draping a platform, or for any decoration in general.
- The flag should not be used as part of a costume or athletic uniform, except that a flag patch may be used on the uniform of military personnel, fireman, policeman and members of patriotic organizations.



## Position and manner of display



The flag, when carried in a procession with another flag or flags, should be either on the marching right; that is, the flag's own right, or, if there is a line of other flags, in front of the center of that line.



## Raising and Lowering the Flag



- The flag should be raised briskly and lowered slowly and ceremoniously. Ordinarily it should be displayed only between sunrise and sunset. It should be illuminated if displayed at night.
- The flag of the United States of America is saluted as it is hoisted and lowered. The salute is held until the flag is unsnapped from the halyard or through the last note of music, whichever is the longest.
- When the flag is lowered, no part of it should touch the ground or any other object; it should be received by waiting hands and arms. To store the flag it should be folded neatly and ceremoniously.



## Displaying the Flag Outdoors



No other flag or pennant should be placed above or, if on the same level, to the right of the flag of the United States of America



## Displaying the Flag Outdoors



When flags of States, cities, or localities, or pennants of societies are flown on the same halyard with the flag of the United States, the latter should always be at the peak. When the flags are flown from adjacent staffs, the flag of the United States should be hoisted first and lowered last. No such flag or pennant may be placed above the flag of the United States or to the United States flag's right.



## Displaying the Flag Outdoors



When the flag of the United States is displayed from a staff projecting horizontally or at an angle from the window sill, balcony, or front of a building, the union of the flag should be placed at the peak of the staff unless the flag is at half staff.

When displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall, the union should be uppermost and to the flag's own right, that is, to the observer's left. When displayed in a window, the flag should be displayed in the same way, with the union or blue field to the left of the observer in the street.





## Displaying the Flag Indoors



When on display, the flag is accorded the place of honor, always positioned to its own right. Place it to the right of the speaker or staging area. Other flags should be to the left. The flag of the United States of America should be at the center and at the highest point of the group when a number of flags of states, localities, or societies are grouped for display.

When one flag is used with the flag of the United States of America and the staffs are crossed, the flag of the United States is placed on its own right with its staff in front of the other flag.

When displaying the flag against a wall, vertically or horizontally, the flag's union (stars) should be at the top, to the flag's own right, and to the observer's left.



## Pledge of Allegiance and National Anthem



- The pledge of allegiance should be rendered by standing at attention, facing the flag, and saluting.
- When the national anthem is played or sung, citizens should stand at attention and salute at the first note and hold the salute through the last note. The salute is directed to the flag, if displayed, otherwise to the music.



## The Flag in Mourning



To place the flag at half staff, hoist it to the peak for an instant and lower it to a position half way between the top and bottom of the staff. The flag is to be raised again to the peak for a moment before it is lowered. On Memorial Day the flag is displayed at half staff until noon and at full staff from noon to sunset. The flag is to be flown at half staff in mourning for designated, principal government leaders and upon Presidential order.

When used to cover a casket, the flag should be placed with the union at the head and over the left shoulder. It should not be lowered into the grave



## Time and occasions for display



- It is the universal custom to display the flag only from sunrise to sunset on buildings and on stationary flag staffs in the open. However, when a patriotic effect is desired, the flag may be displayed twenty-four hours a day if properly illuminated during the hours of darkness.
- The flag should not be displayed on days when the weather is inclement, except when an all weather flag is displayed.
- The flag should be displayed on all days, especially on
  - New Year's Day - January 1
  - Martin Luther King Jr's Birthday
  - Washington's Birthday
  - Mother's Day
  - Memorial Day (half-staff until noon)
  - Independence Day - July 4
  - Labor Day
  - Navy Day
  - Thanksgiving Day
  - Inauguration Day - January 20
  - Lincoln's Birthday - February 12
  - Easter Sunday
  - Armed Forces Day
  - Flag Day - June 14
  - National Korean War Veterans Day
  - Columbus Day
  - Veterans Day
  - Christmas Day
- The flag should be displayed daily on or near the main administration building of every public institution.
- The flag should be displayed in or near every polling place on election days.
- The flag should be displayed during school days in or near every schoolhouse.
- Other days as may be proclaimed by the President of the United States. (halfstaff.org)



## Disposal of Unserviceable Flags Ceremony



- When a flag is so worn it is no longer fit to serve as a symbol of our country, it should be destroyed by burning in a dignified manner.
- Most American Legion Posts regularly conduct a dignified flag burning ceremony, often on Flag Day, June 14th.
- Also, Cub Scout Packs, Boy Scout Troops, and Girl Scout Troops retire flags regularly as well.



**QUESTIONS?**