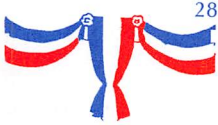
State, territory, or possession, as a mark of respect to their memory. (Sec. 3, m). See page 18 for other days.

27. When displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall, the union should be uppermost and to the Flags 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. (Sec. 3, i).



28. The U.S. Flag should never be used as drapery, never festooned, drawn back, nor up, in folds. It should always be allowed to fall free. Bunting should be used for decoration. (Sec. 4, d).

29. Blue, white and red bunting should be used for covering a speaker's stand, draping a platform front or for general decorations.

    Such bunting should always be arranged with the blue above, white in the middle and red below. (Sec. 4, d).

30. When bunting is displayed vertically, the blue will be to the observer's left, white in the center and red on the right.

31. The Flag should never be fastened, displayed, used or stored in such a manner as will permit it to be easily torn, soiled or damaged. (Sec. 4, e).

32. The Flag should never be used as a ceiling cover. (Sec. 4, f).

33. Never hang or drape the Flag in any position below the seats on a platform. (Sec. 4, d).

34. When used on a speaker's platform, the Flag, if displayed flat, should be above and behind the speaker. Use bunting to decorate a speaker's desk or the front of the platform. (Sec. 3, k).

35. When displayed from a staff in a church or public auditorium, the Flag of the United States of America should hold the position of superior prominence, in advance of the audience, and in the position of honor at the clergyman's or speaker's right as he faces the audience. Any other flag so displayed should be placed on the left of the clergyman or speaker or to the right of the audience. (Sec. 3, k).

36. The U.S. Flag should never be used as a table cover or receptacle for receiving, holding, carrying or delivering anything. (Sec. 4, h).

37. The U.S. Flag should never have placed upon any part of it, nor attached to it, any mark, insignia, letter, word, figure, design, picture or drawing of any nature. (Sec. 4, g).

38. The Flag should never be used for advertising purposes in any manner whatsoever. It should not be embroidered on such articles as cushions or handkerchiefs and the like, printed or otherwise impressed on paper napkins or boxes or anything that is designed for temporary use and discard.

Advertising signs should not be fastened to a staff or halyard from which the flag is flown. (Sec. 4, i).

39. When the Flag is used on a casket its union should be over the deceased's left shoulder. Carry the casket foot first. The Flag should not be lowered into the grave, nor allowed to touch the ground. (Sec. 3, n).

40. After a U.S. Flag has been used as a casket cover it may, and should, be displayed in every normal manner.

41. When the Flag is placed upon a grave, see that it will not touch the ground. Do not leave it there indefinitely. In Arlington and other National Cemeteries Flags are removed the following day.

42. When the Flag is so badly torn, soiled or faded that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display the Flag should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning. A torn Flag may be mended, or if soiled it may be washed or dry cleaned.

43. Any rule or custom pertaining to the display of the U.S. Flag may be changed or repealed, or additional rules may be prescribed only by the President of the United States, acting as Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces. Any such change shall be set forth in a Presidential Proclamation. (Sec. 8).

WHEN TO DISPLAY FLAG

The Flag should be displayed on all days, especially on

New Year's Day, January 1; Inauguration Day, January 20; Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday, third Monday in January; Lincoln's Birthday, February 12; Washington's Birthday, third Monday in February; Easter Sunday (Variable); Mother's Day, second Sunday in May; Armed Forces Day, third Saturday in May; Memorial Day (half-staff until noon), the last Monday in May; Flag Day, June 14; Independence Day, July 4; Labor Day, first Monday in September; Constitution Day, September 17; Columbus Day, second Monday in October; Navy Day, October 27; Veterans Day, November 11; Thanksgiving Day, fourth thursday in November; Christmas Day, December 25; and such other days as may be proclaimed by the President of the United Sates; the birthdays of States (date of admission); and on State holidays.

FLAG PRESENTATION

Presentation of the Flag should be preceded by a brief talk emphasizing the importance of the occasion. The following is suggested:

"May the Flag that is being presented to you always be displayed proudly."

"Guard and respect this Flag at all times, for it is the symbol of every high ideal in the American way of life."

"The red in our nation's Flag is made more brilliant by the heroism and sacrifices of our brave defenders; the white more stainlessly pure because of the motives which impelled them; and the blue in the starry field of our banner is made more beautiful by the loyalty and unity of all our peoples - for liberty and justice."

Following the presentation all present should salute the flag, recite the pledge of allegiance and sing the national anthem.

FOLDING THE FLAG

1. Two persons, facing each other, hold the Flag waist high

and horizontally between them.

2. They fold the lower striped section, lengthwise, over the blue field. Hold bottom to top, edges together, securely.

3. Then fold the Flag again, lengthwise, folded edge to open edge.

4. A triangular fold is started along the length of the Flag from the end to the heading, by bringing the striped corner of the folded edge to meet the open edge.

5. Outer point is turned inward parallel with the open edge, forming a second triangle.

6. Repeat the triangular folding until entire length of the Flag is folded.

7. When the Flag is completely folded only the triangular blue field should be visible.

SOME QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Q: What should you do with a worn or torn U.S. Flag ? **A:** Such a Flag should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning. Some VFW Posts and other community groups collect worn flags and conduct a retirement ceremony. Check in your community for who conducts the ceremony.

Q: Is it proper to place the Bible, flowers, a lodge emblem or any other object upon the U.S. Flag ? **A:** No. Nothing should ever rest upon the U.S. Flag.

Q: Is it correct to half-staff the U.S. Flag on Veterans Day ? **A:**

No, because this occasion, originally known as Armistice Day, was a day of celebration, not of mourning.

Q: How long should a U.S. Flag be left upon a grave ? **A:** Not more than one day.

Q: Would it be proper to fly or display a U.S. Flag after it has served as a casket flag ? **A:** Yes.

Q: Should a Flag having less than 50 stars be discarded ? **A:** No. While it is better to have a current Flag it is not improper to display an earlier one.

Q: If two flags are staffed before the entrance of a building on which side should be the U.S. Flag? **A:** On the left as observed from the street.

Q: Is it permissible to wear a button or pin properly depicting the U.S. Flag ? **A:** Yes, such may be worn as a patriotic item.

Q: Should one rise and salute each of many U.S. Flags carried in a parade ? **A:** Technically, yes, but it is acceptable to salute the lead flag and stand at attention as others pass.

Q: What is the correct way to carry the Flag into a lodge or other meeting room and place it in its stand ? **A:** With the audience standing silently facing the platform the color bearer, followed by escort, marches to the front and faces the audience. Escorts take positions on either side of the Flag bearer. The audience may then recite the pledge of allegiance and sing the national anthem. Flag bearer places Flag in its stand. Audience is seated. Flag detail departs.

Q: Should a Flag bearer hold any portion of the Flag against the staff ? **A:** Only when lowering staff through a doorway.

Q: In addition to Memorial Day, what other days does the President declare the Flag at half-staff? **A:** The Flag is at half-staff from sunrise to sunset on Peace Officers Memorial Day, May 15; National Korean War Armistice Day, July 27; Patriot Day, September 11; and National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, December 7.

"THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER"*

O say, can you see -
By the dawn's early light
What so proudly we hail'd
At the twilight's last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars,
Through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watch'd
Were so gallantly streaming?
And the rocket's red glare,
The bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night
That our Flag was still there,
O say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free
And the home of the brave?

O, thus be it ever
when free men shall stand
Between their loved homes
And the war's desolation!
Blest with vict'ry and peace
May the heav'n rescued land
Praise the Pow'r that hath made
And preserved us a nation!
Then conquer we must
When our cause it is just,
and this be our motto:
"In God is our Trust."
And the Star Spangled Banner in triumph
shall wave
O'er the land of the free
And the home of the brave.

*Arranged for easy singing reading. The first and fourth stanzas written by Francis Scott Key Baltimore lawyer, in 1814. Congress adopted the song in 1931 as our national anthem, the result of a nation-wide campaign initiated by the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
of the
UNITED STATES

National Americanism Department
406 West 34th Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64111

Revised 2003

www.vfw.org