



1777 - Present

OFFICIAL HANDBOOK

North Carolina Society

of the

Sons of the American Revolution

Volume 3

US Flag

[Abstract](#)

Information that will assist you in the proper US Flag etiquette. 20 June 2016

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The United States 50–Star Flag



A Toast to the Flag

Here's to the red of it, there's not a thread of it, no nor a shred of it, in all the spread of it from foot to head. But heroes bled for it, faced steel and lead for it, precious blood shed for it, bathing it red.

Here's to the white of it, thrilled by the sight of it, who knows the right of it but feels the might of it through day and night. Womanhood's care for it, made manhood dare for it, purities prayer for it keeps it so white.

Here's to the blue of it, beauteous view of it, heavenly hue of it, star spangle dew of it, constant and true. Diadem gleams for it, states stand supreme for it, liberties beam for it brightens the blue.

Here's to the whole of it, stars, stripes and pole of it. Body and soul of it, oh, and the role of it, sun shining through. Hearts in accord for it, swear by the sword for it, thanking the Lord for it. RED – WHITE – and BLUE.

John J. Daily, 1917



Flag Certificate

The Flag Certificate, authorized in 1987, is presented to individuals, companies and government agencies that fly the United States flag for patriotic purposes only. It is not to be given to any commercial enterprise that obviously flies it for advertising purposes.

It can be presented by a chapter, state or the National Society. The certificate has a line in the lower left corner for the name of the appropriate organization to be engrossed. It also has a line for the appropriate president to sign, and a line for the Flag Chairman. This is usually the person that recommends or presents the certificate.



Articles Relating to the US Flag

The Flag of the United States of America

Nothing evokes such strong emotion as seeing the flag, either a ceremony honoring a great event or draped over a coffin as a sign of mourning for a hero or loved one.

Its unfurled banner, which symbolizes the love and pride that we have as a nation, is a poignant reminder of America's greatness and our fortune to live in a country which values freedom above all else. It signifies the commitment made by our fallen comrades who battled bravely to defend the honor of this sacred emblem - our American unity, our power, and our purpose as a nation, and it exemplifies the devotion of our leaders who continue to uphold its promise of liberty, justice and freedom for all.

Our nation reveres the flag, not out of a sense of unquestioning worship but out of a deep sense of our national heritage. Strengthened by our noble deeds, splendid accomplishments, and untold sacrifices, the flag reflects America's pledge to uphold democracy and work for peace throughout the world. It is America's strength in honor, as dignified in the stars and stripes of the flag, which helps to establish the moral character of our national foundation.

The flag, endearingly referred to as "Old Glory," represents all people of America. We, the people, are America. It is little wonder that the people of America are moved when saluting the flag as it passes by, reminding us that we are a part of this great land. We are "one nation under God."

With Liberty and justice for all



Even before the American Revolution, flags bearing the familiar red and white stripes, which symbolize the unity of the original 13 colonies of America, began to appear. These stripes were later combined with the British Union Jack to produce the Continental flag that flew over George Washington's headquarters during the siege of Boston.

Almost a year passed after the Declaration of Independence was signed before a new flag was adopted by the Congress. But variations in the flag were persistent, and changes continued during much of the 19th century. The Flag Act of 1818 fixed the number of horizontal stripes at 13, and gave the President the authority to determine the star arrangement. The now-familiar stars and stripes were not carried into battle by the United States Army until the Mexican War.

Finally, in 1912, an executive order was established which defined the design of the flag, including the star arrangement. Later, when Alaska and Hawaii entered the Union, stars representing those states were added to the flag, adapting the traditional horizontal arrangement.

American involvement in the Spanish-American War, World War I, and World War II stimulated patriotic sentiments and interest in the flag. In 1942, Congress established rules and customs concerning the flag and the Pledge of Allegiance.

The years since World War II have seen the refinement of various laws and regulations concerning the flag. Today, it has become an accepted part of the decoration of most public buildings and a symbol regarded as appropriate to almost any setting where citizens gather.

Flag Folding

When lowering the flag, make certain that no part of it touches the ground. It should be received by waiting hands and arms. To store the flag, ceremoniously fold it length wise in half, then repeat with the blue field on the outside. Finally, while one person holds it by the blue field, another then makes a triangular fold in the opposite end, continuing to fold it in triangles until only the blue shield shows.

A properly proportioned flag will fold 13 times on the triangles, representing the 13 Original Colonies. When finally complete the triangular folded flag is emblematical of the tri-corner hat worn by the Patriots of the American Revolution. When folded no red or white stripe is to be evident leaving only the honor field of blue and stars.



Fly it on High

by Rev. Dr. A. Clark Wiser, le Marquis de Lafayette Chapter, NC SAR Chaplain

I was born on June 14, **1777**. I am more than just cloth shaped into a design. I am the refuge of the world's oppressed people. I am the silent sentinel of freedom. I am the emblem of the greatest sovereign nation on earth. I am the inspiration for which America patriots gave their lives and fortunes. I have led your sons and daughters into battle from Valley Forge to the bloody ridges of Vietnam to the sands of the Persian Gulf and on into the Middle East. I walk in silence with each of your honored dead, to their final resting place beneath the silent white crosses, row upon row - to those special graves beneath God's earth enshrining those fallen in fields of battle.

I have flown through peace and war, strife and prosperity, and amidst it all I have been respected. My red stripes signify the burning tears shed by Americans who lost their sons and daughters. My stars, clustered together, unify the 50 states as one, for God and country. 'Old Glory' is my nickname and proudly I wave on high. Honor me, respect me, defend me with your lives and your fortunes. Never let my enemies tear me down from my lofty position, lest I never return. Keep alight the fires of patriotism and strive earnestly for the spirit of your republic, especially in these times when so many of our men and women are defending our freedom during Operation Iraqi Freedom, and I shall remain the bulwark of peace for all mankind.

When in ceremonial tribute I am smoothed and turned by hands into 13 designed, creased folds - to be presented with dignity and honor into the hands of those close to the fallen hero - I am highly preserved. Each of the 13 folds stands for an immortal and symbolic purpose:

- My first fold symbolizes life.

- The second fold symbolizes the Christian belief in eternal life.
- My third fold is made in honor and remembrance of veterans who have departed our ranks.
- The fourth fold represents our weaker nature as Americans who trust in God.
- My fifth fold pays tribute to our country. My heart and yours lie with
- the sixth fold for it is with our hearts that we
- Pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.
- The seventh fold pays tribute to our armed forces who protect our country and our flag against all enemies inside and beyond our borders.
- My eighth fold pays tribute to the one who enters the valley of the shadow of death, that he or she might see the light of day.
- The ninth fold pays tribute to womanhood, and mothers. Through their faith and love, loyalty and devotion, the character of the men and women who have made this country great have been molded.
- The 10th fold pays tribute to fathers, for they, too, have given their sons and daughters for the defense of our country.
- My 11th fold represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies in Hebrew eyes the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
- The 12th fold symbolizes eternity, and glorifies, in Christian eyes, God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
- The 13th and my last fold holds the stars uppermost to remind us of our national motto, 'In God We Trust'.

After my flag is completely folded and tucked in, I will take on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served with Gen. George Washington, and the sailors and marines who served under Capt. John Paul Jones. They were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the armed forces of the United States, preserving for us the rights, privileges and freedoms we all enjoy. Extending upon the centuries I have been honored, there are many traditions and ways of celebration that have deep meaning.

In the future, when you see me as a flag folded, you can assess the reason why. For me, the folding ceremony is a revelation.

United States Code

- [What is the U.S. Code?](#)
- [About the U.S. Flag Code](#)
- [Where to Purchase a Copy of the U.S. Code](#)
- [UNITED STATES CODE TITLE 36 CHAPTER 10](#)

What is the U.S. Code?

The United States Code is the official, subject matter order, compilation of the Federal laws of a general and permanent nature that are currently in force. In accordance with [section 285b of title 2](#) of the U.S. Code, the Code is compiled by the Office of the Law Revision Counsel of the United States House of Representatives. The Code is divided into 50 titles by subject matter. Each title is divided into sections. Sections within a title may be grouped together as subtitles, chapters, subchapters, parts, subparts, or divisions. Titles may also have appendices which may be divided into sections, rules and/or forms.

The subjects covered by the 50 titles of the U.S. Code are:

1. General Provisions
2. The Congress
3. The President
4. **Flag and Seal, Seat of Government, and the States**
5. Government Organization and Employees
6. Surety Bonds (repealed by the enactment of Title 31)
7. Agriculture
8. Aliens and Nationality
9. Arbitration
10. Armed Forces
11. Bankruptcy
12. Banks and Banking
13. Census
14. Coast Guard
15. Commerce and Trade
16. Conservation
17. Copyrights
18. Crimes and Criminal Procedure
19. Customs Duties

20. Education
21. Food and Drugs
22. Foreign Relations and Intercourse
23. Highways
24. Hospitals and Asylums
25. Indians
26. Internal Revenue Code
27. Intoxicating Liquors
28. Judiciary and Judicial Procedure
29. Labor
30. Mineral Lands and Mining
31. Money and Finance
32. National Guard
33. Navigation and Navigable Waters
34. Navy (eliminated by the enactment of Title 10)
35. Patents
36. **Patriotic Societies and Observations**
37. Pay and Allowances of the Uniformed Services
38. Veterans' Benefits
39. Postal Service
40. Public Buildings, Property, and Works
41. Public Contracts
42. The Public Health and Welfare
43. Public Lands
44. Public Printing and Documents
45. Railroads
46. Shipping
47. Telegraphs, Telephones, and Radiotelegraphs
48. Territories and Insular Possessions
49. Transportation
50. War and National Defense

The "FLAG CODE"

Previous to Flag Day, June 14, 1923 there were no federal or state regulations governing display of the United States Flag. It was on this date that the National Flag Code was adopted by the National Flag Conference which was

attended by representatives of the Army and Navy which had evolved their own procedures, and some 66 other national groups. This purpose of providing guidance based on the Army and Navy procedures relating to display and associated questions about the U. S. Flag was adopted by all organizations in attendance.

A few minor changes were made a year later during the Flag Day 1924 Conference, It was not until June 22, 1942 that Congress passed a joint resolution which was amended on December 22, 1942 to become Public Law 829; Chapter 806, 77th Congress, 2nd session. Exact rules for use and display of the flag (36 U.S.C. 173-178) as well as associated sections (36 U.S.C. 171) Conduct during Playing of the National Anthem, (36 U.S.C. 172) the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, and Manner of Delivery were included.

This code is the guide for all handling and display of the Stars and Stripes. **It does not impose penalties** for misuse of the United States Flag. That is left to the states and to the federal government for the District of Columbia. Each state has its own flag law.

Criminal penalties for certain acts of desecration to the flag were contained in Title 18 of the United States Code prior to 1989. The Supreme Court decision in *Texas v. Johnson*; June 21, 1989, held the statute unconstitutional. This statute was amended when the Flag Protection Act of 1989 (Oct. 28, 1989) imposed a fine and/or up to 1 year in prison for knowingly mutilating, defacing, physically defiling, maintaining on the floor or trampling upon any flag of the United States. The Flag Protection Act of 1989 was struck down by the Supreme Court decision, *United States vs. Eichman*, decided on June 11, 1990.

While the Code empowers the President of the United States to alter, modify, repeal or prescribe additional rules regarding the Flag, no federal agency has the authority to issue 'official' rulings legally binding on civilians or civilian groups. Consequently, different interpretations of various provisions of the Code may continue to be made. The Flag Code may be fairly tested: 'No disrespect should be shown to the Flag of the United States of America.' Therefore, actions not specifically included in the Code may be deemed acceptable as long as proper respect is shown.

UNITED STATES CODE

Where to Purchase a Copy of the U.S. Code

If you are using it for legal research, I urge you to verify your results with the printed U.S. Code available through the U.S. Government Printing Office. The printed U.S. Code is available for purchase through the Government Printing Office (GPO) at (202) 512-1800, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Eastern Time. Orders can also be sent by mail to:

Superintendent of Documents
U.S. Government Printing Office
P.O. Box 371954
Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954

GPO accepts checks, VISA, and MasterCard.

The U.S. Code is also available on CD-ROM from the Government Printing Office. The U.S. Code CD-ROM with the laws in effect as of January 2, 1992, (stock number 052-001-00438-8) is available for \$34. The U.S. Code CD-ROM with the laws in effect as of January 4, 1993, (stock number 052-001-00389-6) will be available (January 17, 1995) for \$36. The U.S. Code CD-ROM with the laws in effect as of January 24, 1994, is scheduled to be available March 31, 1995.

On-Line copy of the U.S. Code.

Source of document below: CD-ROM prepared and published by the Office of the Law Revision Counsel of the House of Representatives. It contains the laws in force on January 4, 1993.

United States Code Title 36 Chapter 10



Patriotic Customs

- § 170. National anthem; Star-Spangled Banner.
- § 171. Conduct during playing.
- § 172. Pledge of allegiance to the flag; manner of delivery.
- § 173. Display and use of flag by civilians; codification of rules and customs; definition.
- § 174. Time and occasions for display.
- § 175. Position and manner of display.
- § 176. Respect for flag.
- § 177. Conduct during hoisting, lowering or passing of flag.
- § 178. Modification of rules and customs by President.
- § 179. Design for service flag; persons entitled to display flag.
- § 180. Design for service lapel button; persons entitled to wear button.
- § 181. Approval of designs by Secretary of Defense; license to manufacture and sell; penalties.
- § 182. Rules and regulations.
- § 182a to 184. Repealed.
- § 185. Transferred.
- § 186. National motto.
- § 187. National floral emblem.
- § 188. National march.
- § 189. Recognition of National League of Families POW/MIA flag.

§170. National anthem; Star-Spangled Banner

The composition consisting of the words and music known as The Star-Spangled Banner is designated the national anthem of the United States of America.

During the playing of the anthem when the flag is displayed, persons not in uniform should stand at attention facing the flag with their right hand over their heart. Those in uniform should begin saluting the flag at the first note of the music, and hold the salute until the last note of the anthem is played.

Again, this applies to those wearing veterans' organizations caps or the uniforms of other patriotic organizations.

§171. Conduct during playing

During rendition of the national anthem when the flag is displayed, all present except those in uniform should stand at attention facing the flag with the right hand over the heart. Men not in uniform should remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Persons in uniform should render the military salute at the first note of the anthem and retain this position until the last note. When the flag is not displayed, those present should face toward the music and act in the same manner they would if the flag were displayed there.

§172. Pledge of allegiance to the flag; manner of delivery

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, 'I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.', should be rendered by standing at attention facing the flag with the right hand over the heart. When not in uniform men should remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Persons in uniform should remain silent, face the flag, and render the military salute.

Persons wearing the caps of veterans' service organizations, such as the Disabled American Veterans, are expected to salute. Others, such as Boy or Girl Scouts in uniform, should render respect to the flag in accordance with the traditions of the organization whose uniform they are wearing.

After first appearing in a copy of the Youth's Companion in 1892, as a celebration of the 400th anniversary of the discovery of America, the pledge to the flag received the official recognition of Congress on June 22, 1942. The phrase, "under God," was added to the pledge by Congress on June 14, 1954, by President Dwight D.

Eisenhower, who said that "in this way we are reaffirming the transcendence of religious faith in America's heritage and future; in this way we shall constantly strengthen those spiritual weapons which forever will be our country's most powerful resource in peace and war."



§173. Display and use of flag by civilians; codification of rules and customs; definition

The following codification of existing rules and customs pertaining to the display and use of the flag of the United States of America is established for the use of such civilians or civilian groups or organizations as may not be required to conform with regulations promulgated by one or more executive departments of the Government of the United States. The flag of the United States for the purpose of this chapter shall be defined according to sections 1 and 2 of title 4 and Executive Order 10834 issued pursuant thereto.

§174. Time and occasions for display**(a) Display on buildings and stationary flagstaffs in open; night display**

It is the universal custom to display the flag only from sunrise to sunset on buildings and on stationary flagstaffs 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.

(b) Manner of hoisting

The flag should be hoisted briskly and lowered ceremoniously.

(c) Inclement weather

The flag should not be displayed on days when the weather is inclement, except when an all-weather flag is displayed.

(d) Particular days of display

The flag should be displayed on all days, especially on New Year's Day, January 1; Inauguration Day, January 20; 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 States; the birthdays of States (date of admission); and on State holidays.

It is proper to display the flag from sunrise to sunset on all days the weather permits. The flag may also be displayed at night if illuminated by a light. But it is even more important to display the flag on national holidays and days of importance. The preceding paragraph is reiterated in columnar form below.

<i>January 1</i>	<i>New Year's Day</i>
<i>3^d Monday in January</i>	<i>Martin Luther King Jr's Birthday</i>
<i>January 20</i>	<i>Inauguration Day (every fourth year)</i>
<i>February 12</i>	<i>Lincoln's Birthday</i>
<i>February 22</i>	<i>Washington's Birthday</i>
<i>3^d Monday in February</i>	<i>Presidents Day</i>
<i>Easter Sunday</i>	<i>Easter Sunday</i>
<i>1st Thursday in May</i>	<i>National Day of Prayer</i>
<i>2nd Sunday in May</i>	<i>Mother's Day</i>
<i>3^d Saturday in May</i>	<i>Armed Forces Day</i>
<i>Last Monday in May</i>	<i>Memorial Day (half-staff until noon)</i>
<i>June 14</i>	<i>Flag Day</i>
<i>3^d Sunday in June</i>	<i>Father's Day</i>
<i>July 4</i>	<i>Independence Day</i>
<i>1st Monday in September</i>	<i>Labor Day</i>
<i>September 17</i>	<i>Constitution Day</i>
<i>2nd Monday in October</i>	<i>Columbus Day</i>
<i>November (Variable)</i>	<i>Election Day</i>
<i>November 11</i>	<i>Veterans Day</i>
<i>November 21</i>	<i>North Carolina Statehood (NC approved US Constitution on November 21, 1789)</i>
<i>4th Thursday in November</i>	<i>Thanksgiving Day</i>
<i>December 25</i>	<i>Christmas Day</i>
	<i>EVERYDAY!</i>

Other days the flag may be flown at half-mast may be proclaimed by the President of the United States or the Governor of the state.

This information is provided as a public service by the:



*Disabled American Veterans
National Headquarters
P.O. Box 14301
Cincinnati, Ohio 45250-0301*

US Flag Code - http://www.legion.org/our_flag/of_main.htm

(e) Display on or near administration building of public institutions

The flag should be displayed daily on or near the main administration building of every public institution.

(f) Display in or near polling places

The flag should be displayed in or near every polling place on election days.

(g) Display in or near schoolhouses

The flag should be displayed during school days in or near every schoolhouse.

§175. 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.



(a) The flag should not be displayed on a float in a parade except from a staff, or as provided in subsection (i) of this section.

(b) The flag should not be draped over the hood, top, sides, or back of a vehicle or of a railroad train or a boat. When the flag is displayed on a motorcar, the staff shall be fixed firmly to the chassis or clamped to the right fender.

(c) 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, except during church services conducted by naval chaplains at sea, when the church pennant may be flown above the flag during church services for the personnel of the Navy. No person shall display the flag of the United Nations or any other national or international flag equal, above, or in a position of superior prominence or honor to, or in place of, the flag of the United States at any place within the United States or any Territory or possession thereof: Provided, That nothing in this section shall make unlawful the continuance of the practice heretofore followed of displaying the flag of the United Nations in a position of superior prominence or honor, and other national flags in positions of equal prominence or honor, with that of the flag of the United States at the headquarters of the United Nations.

(d) The flag of the United States of America, when it is displayed with another flag against a wall from crossed staffs, should be on the right, the flag's own right, and its staff should be in front of the staff of the other flag.

(e) 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 or localities or pennants of societies are grouped and displayed from staffs.



(f) 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.

(g) When flags of two or more nations are displayed, they are to be flown from separate staffs of the same height. The flags should be of approximately equal size. International usage forbids the display of the flag of one nation above that of another nation in time of peace.



(h) 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 the flag is suspended over a sidewalk

from a rope extending from a house to a pole at the edge of the sidewalk, the flag should be hoisted out, union first, from the building.

(i) 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.



(j) When the flag is displayed over the middle of the street, it should be suspended vertically with the union to the north in an east and west street or to the east in a north and south street.



(k) When used on a speaker's platform, the flag, if displayed flat, should be displayed above and behind the speaker. 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.

(l) The flag should form a distinctive feature of the ceremony of unveiling a statue or monument, but it should never be used as the covering for the statue or monument.

(m) The flag, when flown at half-staff, should be first hoisted to the peak for an instant and then lowered to the half-staff position. The flag should be again raised to the peak before it is lowered for the day. On Memorial Day the flag should be displayed at half-staff until noon only, then raised to the top of the staff. By order of the President, the flag shall be flown at half-staff upon the death of principal figures of the United States Government and the Governor of a State, territory, or possession, as a mark of respect to their memory. In the event of the death of other officials or foreign dignitaries, the flag is to be displayed at half-staff according to Presidential instructions or orders, or in accordance with recognized customs or practices not inconsistent with law. In the event of the death of a present or former official of the government of any State, territory, or possession of the

United States, the Governor of that State, territory, or possession may proclaim that the National flag shall be flown at half-staff. The flag shall be flown at half-staff thirty days from the death of the President or a former President; ten days from the day of death of the Vice President, the Chief Justice or a retired Chief Justice of the United States, or the Speaker of the House of Representatives; from the day of death until interment of an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, a Secretary of an executive or military department, a former Vice President, or the Governor of a State, territory, or possession; and on the day of death and the following day for a Member of Congress. As used in this subsection -

- (1) The term 'half-staff' means the position of the flag when it is one-half the distance between the top and bottom of the staff;
- (2) The term 'executive or military department' means any agency listed under sections 101 and 102 of title 5; and
- (3) The term 'Member of Congress' means a Senator, a Representative, a Delegate, or the Resident Commissioner from Puerto Rico.

(n) When the flag is used to cover a casket, it should be so placed that the union is at the head and over the left shoulder. The flag should not be lowered into the grave or allowed to touch the ground.



(o) When the flag is suspended across a corridor or lobby in a building with only one main entrance, it should be suspended vertically with the union of the flag to the observer's left upon entering. If the building has more than one main entrance, the flag should be suspended vertically near the center of the corridor or lobby with the union to the north, when entrances are to the east and west or to the east when entrances are to the north and south. If there are entrances in more than two directions, the union should be to the east.

§176. Respect for flag

No disrespect should be shown to the flag of the United States of America; the flag should not be dipped to any person or thing. Regimental colors, State flags, and organization or institutional flags are to be dipped as a mark of honor.

(a) The flag should never be displayed with the union down, except as a signal of dire distress in instances of extreme danger to life or property.



(b) The flag should never touch anything beneath it, such as the ground, the floor, water, or merchandise.

(c) The flag should never be carried flat or horizontally, but always aloft and free.

(d) The flag should never be used as wearing apparel, bedding, or drapery. It should never be festooned, drawn back, nor up, in folds, but always allowed to fall free. Bunting of blue, white, and red, always arranged with the blue above, the white in the middle, and the red below, should be used for covering a speaker's desk, draping the front of the platform, and for decoration in general.

(e) The flag should never be fastened, displayed, used, or stored in such a manner as to permit it to be easily torn, soiled, or damaged in any way.

(f) The flag should never be used as a covering for a ceiling.

(g) The flag should never have placed upon it, nor on any part of it, nor attached to it any mark, insignia, letter, word, figure, design, picture, or drawing of any nature.

(h) The flag should never be used as a receptacle for receiving, holding, carrying, or delivering anything.

(i) 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.

(j) No part of the flag should ever be used as a costume or athletic uniform. However, a flag patch may be affixed to the uniform of military personnel, firemen, policemen, and members of patriotic organizations. The flag represents a living country and is itself considered a living thing. Therefore, the lapel flag pin being a replica, should be worn on the left lapel near the heart.

(k) The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.

§177. Conduct during hoisting, lowering or passing of flag

During the ceremony of hoisting or lowering the flag or when the flag is passing in a parade or in review, all persons present except those in uniform should face the flag and stand at attention with the right hand over the heart. Those present in uniform should render the military salute. When not in uniform, men should remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Aliens should stand at attention. The salute to the flag in a moving column should be rendered at the moment the flag passes.

§178. Modification of rules and customs by President

Any rule or custom pertaining to the display of the flag of the United States of America, set forth herein, may be altered, modified, or repealed, or additional rules with respect thereto may be prescribed, by the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the United States, whenever he deems it to be appropriate or desirable; and any such alteration or additional rule shall be set forth in a proclamation.

§186. National motto

The national motto of the United States is declared to be 'In God we trust.'

§187. National floral emblem

The flower commonly known as the rose is designated and adopted as the national floral emblem of the United States of America, and the President of the United States is authorized and requested to declare such fact by proclamation.

§188. National march

The composition by John Philip Sousa entitled 'The Stars and Stripes Forever' is hereby designated as the national march of the United States of America.

§189. Recognition of National League of Families POW/MIA flag

The National League of Families POW/MIA flag is hereby recognized officially and designated as the symbol of our Nation's concern and commitment to resolving as fully as possible the fates of Americans still prisoner, missing and unaccounted for in Southeast Asia, thus ending the uncertainty for their families and the Nation.

Miscellaneous References

United States Code Title 4 Chapter 1 – The Flag

§1. Flag; stripes and stars on

The flag of the United States shall be thirteen horizontal stripes, alternate red and white; and the union of the flag shall be forty-eight stars, white in a blue field.

§ 2. Same; additional stars

On the admission of a new State into the Union one star shall be added to the union of the flag; and such addition shall take effect on the fourth day of July then next succeeding such admission.

§ 3. Use of flag for advertising purposes; mutilation of flag

Any person who, within the District of Columbia, in any manner, for exhibition or display, shall place or cause to be placed any word, figure, mark, picture, design, drawing, or any advertisement of any nature upon any flag, standard, colors, or ensign of the United States of America; or shall expose or cause to be exposed to public view any such flag, standard, colors, or ensign upon which shall have been printed, painted, or otherwise placed, or to which shall be attached, appended, affixed, or annexed any word, figure, mark, picture, design, or drawing, or any advertisement of any nature; or who, within the District of Columbia, shall manufacture, sell, expose for sale, or to public view, or give away or have in possession for sale, or to be given away or for use for any purpose, any article or substance being an article of merchandise, or a receptacle for merchandise or article or thing for carrying or transporting merchandise, upon which shall have been printed, painted, attached, or otherwise placed a representation of any such flag, standard, colors, or ensign, to advertise, call attention to, decorate, mark, or distinguish the article or substance on which so placed shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine not exceeding \$100 or by imprisonment for not more than thirty days, or both, in the discretion of the court. The words 'flag, standard, colors, or ensign', as used herein, shall include any flag, standard, colors, ensign, or any picture or representation of either, or of any part or parts of either, made of any substance or represented on any substance, of any size evidently purporting to be either of said flag, standard, colors, or ensign of the United States of America or a picture or a representation of either, upon which shall be shown the colors, the stars and the stripes, in any number of either thereof, or of any part or parts of either, by which the average person seeing the same without deliberation may believe the same to represent the flag, colors, standard, or ensign of the United States of America.

§ 700. Desecration of the flag of the United States; penalties

(a) Desecration

(1) Whoever knowingly mutilates, defaces, physically defiles, burns, maintains on the floor or ground, or tramples upon any flag of the United States shall be fined under this title or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both.

(2) This subsection does not prohibit any conduct consisting of the disposal of a flag when it has become worn or soiled.

(b) As used in this section, the term 'flag of the United States' means any flag of the United States, or any part thereof, made of any substance, of any size, in a form that is commonly displayed.

(c) Nothing in this section shall be construed as indicating an intent on the part of Congress to deprive any State, territory, possession, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico of jurisdiction over any offense over which it would have jurisdiction in the absence of this section.

(d) Appeal

(1) An appeal may be taken directly to the Supreme Court of the United States from any interlocutory or final judgment, decree, or order issued by a United States district court ruling upon the constitutionality of subsection (a).

(2) The Supreme Court shall, if it has not previously ruled on the question, accept jurisdiction over the appeal and advance on the docket and expedite to the greatest extent possible.

Updated: July 8, 1995 This page is maintained by Duane Streufert, oldglory@usflag.org.

Source: <http://www.usflag.org/uscode36.html>

Flags carried by the SAR Color Guard

At a minimum, the Color Guard should carry the United States National Flag and the flag of the state in which the Color Guard resides or the SAR flag. Other flags can be added as the Color Guard grows. The question becomes one of what flags to add. While there is no set answer to this question other than the Color Guard should follow proper protocol when carrying the flags.

Proper protocol provides that flags should be carried in a specific order. The SAR has adopted the following protocol with respect to established flag regulations for usage by a single Color Guard unit.

- United States National Flag;
- Any Official US Flag (e.g. Hopkinson, Star Spangled Banner, etc.) [See Note 2 below]
- Betsy Ross Flag;
- State Flag of the Color Guard Unit;
- SAR Flag;
- Other historical flags of the Revolution.

Since the Color Guard participates in many events (such as Cowpens or Yorktown) where the Color Guard will be made up of a combination of guardsmen from multiple states or units, the protocol is slightly different.

- United States National Flag;
- Any Official US Flag (e.g. Hopkinson, Star Spangled Banner, etc.) [See Note 2 below]
- Betsy Ross Flag;
- State Flag of the Host State Society;
- State Flags of other State Societies (carried in order of the state's date of admission to the union);
- SAR Flags (state society flags first, chapter flags last);
- Other historical flags of the Revolution.

Note 1: If the President General is in attendance, and if the flag of his state is available, it is carried prior to the state flag of the host state society.

Note 2: Any official United States National Flag (13 star / Hopkinson up to and including the 49-star flag) would take precedent over the Betsy Ross Flag but would be behind the current 50-star flag. This should be noted when the Hopkinson and/or Star Spangled Banner (15-star) flags are carried.

Source: NSSAR Color Guard Handbook

Order of Precedence-Partners in Patriotism

The following is the order of precedence of flags, according to Army regulations. This should be used when participating in a Partners in Patriotism event

1. The flag of the United States.
2. Foreign national flags. (Normally, these are displayed in alphabetical order using the English alphabet.)
3. Flag of the President of the United States of America.
4. State and territorial flags. Normally, state flags are displayed in order of admittance of the State to the Union. However, they may also be displayed in alphabetical order using the English alphabet. Territorial flags are displayed after the State flags either in the order they were recognized by the United States or alphabetically.
5. Military organizational flags of the Services in order of precedence
 - a. Cadets, United States Military Academy
 - b. Midshipmen, United States Naval Academy
 - c. Cadets, United States Air Force Academy
 - d. Cadets, United States Coast Guard Academy
 - e. Midshipmen, United States Merchant Marine Academy
 - f. United States Army
 - g. United States Marine Corps
 - h. United States Navy
 - i. United States Air Force
 - j. United States Coast Guard
 - k. Army National Guard of the United States
 - l. Army Reserve
 - m. Marine Corps Reserve
 - n. Naval Reserve
 - o. Air National Guard of the United States
 - p. Air Force Reserve
 - q. Coast Guard Reserve
 - r. Other training organizations of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard, in that order, respectively.
6. Military organizational flags within a Service by echelon. The flag for the regimental corps will have precedence immediately before the regimental proponent's command flag. The regimental corps flag will never have precedence above a MACOM flag.
7. Individual flags in order of rank. For the purpose of order of precedence, the term "individual flags" includes the Department of the Army Senior Executive Service flag.
8. Other
 - a. When authorized, the following may be flown beneath the flag of the United States:*
 - i. The Prisoner of War/Missing in Action (POW/MIA) flag

- ii. The Army Savings Program (Minuteman Flag)
- iii. The Retiree flag
- iv. Commander-in-Chief's Installation Excellence Award flag
- b. Organizational Flags - Flags representing Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) chartered by the U.S. Congress and that have been approved by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to represent Veterans in front of the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), are positioned in the following order:
 - i. American Ex-Prisoners of War
 - ii. American Legion
 - iii. AMVETS
 - iv. Blinded Veterans Association
 - v. Catholic War Veterans
 - vi. Congressional Medal of Honor Society
 - vii. Disabled American Veterans
 - viii. Jewish War Veterans
 - ix. Legion of Valor
 - x. Military Order of the Purple Heart
 - xi. Military Order of the World Wars
 - xii. National Association for Black Veterans
 - xiii. Paralyzed Veterans of America
 - xiv. The Retired Enlisted Association
 - xv. Veterans of Foreign Wars
 - xvi. Veterans of the Vietnam War
 - xvii. Vietnam Veterans of America
 - xviii. Flags representing all other organizations chartered by the U.S. Congress are positioned next, followed by civic groups and patriotic organizations in alphabetical order and then alphabetically or numerically within equal groups.

*Army Regulation 840-10 2-2.c, reads, "The flag of the United States is the only flag that may be flown from a flagpole over a CONUS Army installation unless an exception is granted by TIOH, U.S. Army. However, the Minuteman flag (AR608-15), the Prisoner of War/Missing in Action (POW/MIA) flag, the Retiree flag, or the Commander-in-Chief's Installation Excellence Award flag, when authorized, may be flown beneath the flag of the United States without referral to TIOH for exception.

The POW/MIA flag will be flown beneath the flag of the United States on Armed Forces Day, the third Saturday in May; Memorial Day, the last Monday in May; Flag Day, June 14; Independence Day, July 4; National POW/MIA Day; Veterans Day, November 11 and on occasions when the installation is hosting POW/MIA activities. The Retiree flag may be flown on Veterans Day or occasions when the installation is sponsoring activities for retirees such as open house or retiree day. Not more than one flag will be displayed below the flag of the United States and, if displayed, will be approximately 6 inches below the flag of the United States." In civilian usage, the POW/MIA flag flies beneath the US flag.

Source: <https://www.bnl.gov/bera/activities/va/pdf/2013-FlagEtiquette.pdf>

Retirees and Veterans allowed to Salute Flag

Traditionally, members of the nation's veterans' service organizations have rendered the hand-salute during the national anthem and at events involving the national flag only while wearing their organization's official head-gear.

The National Defense Authorization Act of 2008 contained an amendment to allow un-uniformed service members, military retirees, and veterans to render a hand salute during the hoisting, lowering, or passing of the U.S. flag.

A later amendment further authorized hand-salutes during the national anthem by veterans and out-of-uniform military personnel. This was included in the Defense Authorization Act of 2009, which President Bush signed on Oct. 14, 2008.

Here is the actual text from the law:

SEC. 595. MILITARY SALUTE FOR THE FLAG DURING THE NATIONAL ANTHEM BY MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES NOT IN UNIFORM AND BY VETERANS.

Section 301(b)(1) of title 36, United States Code, is amended by striking subparagraphs (A) through (C) and inserting the following new subparagraphs:

- (A) individuals in uniform should give the military salute at the first note of the anthem and maintain that position until the last note;
- (B) members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute in the manner provided for individuals in uniform; and
- (C) all other persons present should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand over the heart, and men not in uniform, if applicable, should remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart;

Note: Part (C) applies to those not in the military and non-veterans. The phrase "men not in uniform" refers to civil service uniforms like police, fire fighters, and letter carriers - non-veteran civil servants who might normally render a salute while in uniform. [Source: http://www.military.com/flag-day/rules-for-saluting-us-flag.html](http://www.military.com/flag-day/rules-for-saluting-us-flag.html)