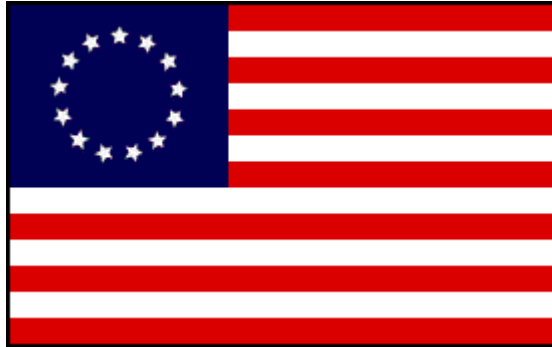
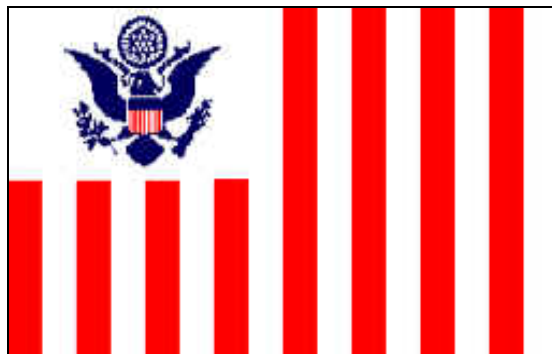


CUSTOMS & ETIQUETTE OF THE AMERICAN FLAG



“Old Glory” – Made by Betsy Ross on July 14, 1777



The Civil Flag of the USA – approved August 1, 1799

FLAG DAY – JUNE 14TH
COURTESY OF THE INDIANA MILITIA CORPS

HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN FLAG

Just as we celebrate the birth of independence on July 4th each year, the people of our Nation celebrate the birth of our Flag every year on June 14th. That special holiday is called FLAG DAY.

Betsy would often tell her children, grandchildren, relatives, and friends of the fateful day when three members of a secret committee from the Continental Congress came to call upon her. Those representatives, George Washington, Robert Morris, and George Ross, asked her to sew the first flag. This meeting occurred in her home some time in May 1776. George Washington was then the head of the Continental Army. Robert Morris, an owner of vast amounts of land, was perhaps the wealthiest citizen in the Colonies. Colonel George Ross was a respected Philadelphian and also the uncle of Betsy's late husband, John Ross. Betsy was a widow struggling to run her own upholstery business. Upholsterers in colonial America not only worked on furniture, but also did all manner of sewing work; for some this included making flags. Impressed with Betsy's ability and her unique method for making five-point stars by hand, the committee entrusted her with making our first flag. On June 14th, one month later, Betsy Ross completed the flag that we affectionately call "Old Glory".

By an act of Congress on June 14, 1777, the Flag Act was passed, setting a standard for the appearance of the flag; "That the flag of the United States be 13 stripes alternating red and white, and that the union be 13 white stars in a blue field, representing a new constellation".

CEREMONIAL FOLDING OF THE FLAG

The flag folding ceremony described by the Uniformed Services is a dramatic and uplifting way to honor the flag on special days, like Memorial Day or Veteran's Day. Here is the sequence of events as narrated by the speaker... [PRELUDE] [begin reading as the Honor Guard comes forward]

"The flag folding ceremony represents the same religious principles on which our country was originally founded. The

portion of the flag, denoting honor is the canton of blue containing the stars representing the states our veterans served in uniform. The canton field of blue dresses from left to right and is inverted when draped as a pall on a casket of a veteran who has served our country honorably in uniform. In the Armed Forces of the United States, at the ceremony of retreat the flag is lowered, folded in a triangle fold and kept under watch throughout the night as a tribute to our nation's honored dead. The next morning it is brought out and, at the ceremony of reveille, run aloft as a symbol of our belief in the resurrection of the body. [PAUSE for the Honor Guard to unravel and fold the flag into a quarter fold.]




1. The first fold of our flag is a symbol of life.



2. The second fold is a symbol of our belief in life everlasting.



3. The third fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veteran departing our ranks who gave a portion of life for the defense of our country.

4.  The fourth fold represents our weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in

God, it is to him we turn in times of peace as well as in times of war for His divine guidance.



5. The fifth fold is a tribute to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but it is still our country, right or wrong."



6. The sixth fold is for where our hearts lie. It is with our heart 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.



7. The seventh fold is a tribute to our Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that we protect our country and our flag against all her enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of our Republic.



8. The eighth fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day, and to honor mother, for whom it flies on mother's day.



9. The ninth fold is a tribute to womanhood; for it has been through their faith, love, loyalty, and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great have been molded.



10. The tenth fold is a tribute to father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of our country since he or she was first born.



11. The eleventh fold, in the eyes of a Hebrew citizen, to them represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and glorifies the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.



12. The twelfth fold, in the eyes of a Christian citizen, represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in their eyes, God the Father, the Son, and Holy Ghost.



13. When the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost, reminding us of our national motto . . .
"In God We Trust."

After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, the hat of the citizen-soldier, the colonial minuteman.

GUIDELINES FOR DISPLAY OF THE FLAG STANDARDS OF RESPECT

The Flag Code, which formalizes and unifies the traditional ways in which we give respect to the flag, also contains specific instructions on how the flag is not to be used. They are:

- 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. Bunting of blue, white and red stripes is available for these purposes. The blue stripe of the bunting should be on the top.
- The flag should never be used for any advertising purpose. It should not be embroidered, printed or otherwise impressed on such articles as cushions, handkerchiefs, napkins, boxes, or anything

intended to be discarded after temporary use. Advertising signs should not be attached to the staff or halyard.

- 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.
- The flag should never have placed on it, or attached to it, any mark, insignia, letter, word, number, figure, or drawing of any kind.
- The flag should never be used as a receptacle for receiving, holding, carrying, or delivering anything.
- 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.
- The flag should be cleaned and mended when necessary.
- 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. See back cover to learn how you can turn in worn and damaged flags.

DISPLAYING THE FLAG OUTDOORS

When the flag is displayed from a staff projecting from a window, balcony, or a building, the union should be at the peak of the staff unless the flag is at half-staff. (See “The Flag in Mourning”.)



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.



When it is displayed from the same flagpole with another flag - of a state, community, Boy Scout or citizen militia unit - the flag of the United States must always be at the top.



When the flag is displayed over a street, it should be hung vertically, with the union to the north or east. If the flag is suspended over a sidewalk, the flag's union should be farthest from the building.

When flown with flags of states, communities, or societies on separate flagpoles that are of the same height and in a straight line, the flag of the United States is always placed in the position of honor - to its own right. The other flags may be smaller but none may be larger. No other flag ever should be placed above it. The flag of the United States is always the first flag raised and the last to be lowered.

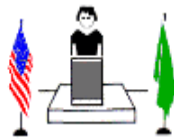


When flown with the national banner of other countries, each flag must be displayed from a separate pole of the same height. Each flag should be the same size. They should be raised and lowered simultaneously. The flag of one nation may not be displayed above that of another nation during peacetime.

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 longest.

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 or sanctuary. 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.



When hung in a window, place the blue union in the upper left, as viewed from the street.



When the flag is displayed on a car, the staff shall be fixed firmly to the chassis or clamped to the right fender.

PARADING AND SALUTING THE FLAG

When carried in a procession, the flag should be to the right of the marchers. When other flags are carried, the flag of the United



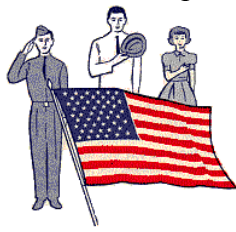
States may be centered in front of the others or carried to their right.

When the flag passes in a procession, or when it is hoisted or lowered, all should face the flag and salute. Persons in uniform will render the salute when it is six paces from the viewer and hold

it until the flag has passed six paces beyond. Salute the flag at the first note of the National Anthem and hold the salute until the last note is played.

THE SALUTE

To salute, all persons come to attention. Those in uniform give the appropriate formal salute. Citizens not in uniform salute by placing their right hand over the heart and people with head cover should remove it and hold it to left shoulder, hand over the heart. Members of organizations in formation will salute upon command of the person in charge.



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 or gubernatorial 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.

About the Civil Flag of the United States of America



The Civil Flag of the United States was approved in Congress on August 1, 1799. The custom of horizontal flag stripes was adopted for use over military posts and vertical stripes adopted for use over civilian posts. Most flag purchase orders were for the military version by the Federal government. Out paced by military purchases, civil flag orders were almost non-existent as the cost

was far more than most Americans could afford. Sightings of the Civilian Flag were rarely seen until U.S. Customs adopted the Civil Flag in its enforcement of tax collection and inspection in ports as opposed to acts of war against merchant ships. For more information about the Civil Flag, visit http://www.civil-liberties.com/pages/mystery_of_the_flag.htm

Do you have a “regulation” Flag?

Is the flag you bought at the store a 3x5 flag? Most are. You may be surprised to learn that this is not a genuine *Flag of the United States of America*; it's a military banner. Military banners are typically shorter than national standards and may include things like gold fringe. The lawful flag of United States civil government is established in law at United States Code, Title 4, Chapter 1, Section 1; and does not have gold fringe. The dimension of the United States Flag is 1:1.9 ...That's 1.9 feet of “Fly” (length) for every foot of “Hoist” (width). For more about lawful flags, visit <http://www.wealth4freedom.com/truth/flag2.htm>

To purchase a proper dimension flag, visit <http://www.title4flags.com>

As an alternative, you can make a properly dimensioned United States Flag by adding exactly 8 inches to a 3x5 ‘flag’. 3’ x 5’8” is equal to the proper 1:1.9 ratio. If you can secure nylon material, strong thread, and skillfully use your own sewing machine then you too can be a modern day Betsy Ross!

We recommend genuine Title 4 flags to all patriots.

Note: The Indiana Militia Corps regularly collects worn and damaged flags for retirement year round, for ceremonial disposal on Flag Day, June 14th. Contact the Indiana Militia Corps and inquire about the availability of this service.

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT THE INDIANA MILITIA AT:

**PO BOX 276, INGALLS INDIANA 46048
(317) 219-3228 OR 888-314-1986**

WWW.INDIANAMILITIA.ORG

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