

**SOME RELEVANT DOCUMENTS RELATED TO
THE UNITED NATIONS FLAG ISSUE
HENNEPIN COUNTY PLAZA
DECEMBER 2012 - AUGUST 2014**

**assembled by Dick Bernard
Woodbury MN**

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* - At no time has any Hennepin County Board member or other representative explained the specific reasoning for taking down the flag, other than reference to the US Code relating to flags. Such code has no penalty for violation, and the alleged violation is an oddly placed reference within the section of the code relating to flags on "procession", where the flag on Hennepin Plaza was a standing flag for a period of 44 years, next to the U.S. flag, and included with the Minnesota flag.

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August 12, 2014

Henn Co Commissioners Opat, Jeff Johnson, Randy Johnson, McLaughlin, Callison

Re: the Hennepin Plaza Flag Issue

Today is Minnesota Primary Election day, as you know. I'm one of those who always votes in elections. I do my best to vote well-informed. You are the politicians I have come to know best over the last year and a half. Collectively and individually you have come to present a very poor example of who represents we, the people.

Between my July 17, 2014, letter to you and today, I've received one response from Hennepin County about the UN flag issue. It is enclosed, and speaks for itself. (see p. 3)

I have asked a friend, a retired Minnesota attorney, what specific statutory rights I might have, if any, to information about how you made, essentially privately, a very public decision, to remove the UN flag on and before March 27, 2012. **He referred me to Minnesota Statutes Chapter 13, Government Data Practices, and I now make my demand under the provisions of this statute, incorporating by reference my previous questions to you, asked numerous times to each of you over many months, which none of you have ever answered. I ask these responses to be in writing.** (see p. 5)
(Commissioner Randy Johnson did write me in August, 2013 (enclosed) but as easily noted, his letter does not comprise a response to my questions.) (see p. 6)

At this point I harbor no illusions: a reasonable expectation is that you will continue to treat my request with contempt, unworthy of your precious time, and certainly not your honesty. Honesty is dangerous. You don't want your action (and inaction) noticed.

Nonetheless, I demand to know the thread of communications of any kind, and specific names of actors, whether persons or organizations, who insisted that this particular flag come down, including "wink and nod" kinds of communications which led to your final decision March 27, 2012. This is a public matter, not private. I've been on all manner of committees over a great many years, and I know exactly how the formal and informal process works, and a one sentence response that there is nothing "besides the board resolution" does not suffice as an answer. There is a great deal of data each of you doubtless know....

By being opaque for the last year and a half, you have made this UN Flag issue much more compelling to me than it otherwise would have been, and this includes my noticing the currently mischief ridden US Flag Code (violations of which carry no penalty because of a long ago U.S. Supreme Court ruling on freedom of speech re our flag).

My opinion: the U.S. Flag Code has been transformed from simply suggestions for showing respect, to a deadly weapon brandished by ideologues who have temporarily (see p. 13 + following)

achieved power, and you were sucked in to this. Once you erred, none of you can, apparently, admit you were duped, and your action dis-respected your own government elders, Republican and Democrat, who raised the UN Flag on the to-be Hennepin Plaza 44 years earlier, on May 1, 1968.

I now notice "flag etiquette" as it is practiced, as an exercise in inclusion or division, including false "patriotism". I note daily examples including these, in recent days:

1) Monday evening, going through papers from my ancestors well over 100 year old farm in North Dakota, I came across an undated and still attractive U. S. Navy Recruiting Service brochure on **"the Flag of the United States - how to display and respect it."** Most likely it dates from 1942 when my uncle, my mother's younger brother, a son of that farm, went from college graduate to become a Naval Officer on a Destroyer in the Pacific, living through the hell of WWII, coming home in late October, 1945.

(printed at p 13 + following, below)

Of course, there is no reference to the United Nations flag in that brochure. The United Nations did not exist until after WWII (a major drafter of the UN Charter: Minnesota's Harold Stassen.) It was just simple flag etiquette.

The flag code anti-UN phraseology you seem to hide behind apparently did not even exist until fairly recent years, through some as yet mysterious (to me, at least) process. That is another matter of interest to me. I will find out whose idea it was, and when.

2. Returning recently from one of many trips to that farm, we stopped at Nelson Brothers Clearwater Travel Plaza on I-94 near St. Cloud, and happened to park next to a Canada flag flying happily in the breeze, carrying its own message of respect. (Enclosed photo). Of course there was a U.S. flag on the grounds as well, but the Canadian flag was flying, proudly. I might remind you that we - the United States - has been an integral and dominant part of the United Nations for the UNs entire 69 year history.

3. Just last Friday I was at Concordia Language Villages at Bemidji for their August International Day. There was a procession of flags, representing the 14 or so languages taught at the camp. The U.S. flag led the procession in, but as shown by the photo, in the resulting circle of young people, the U.S. flag became, most appropriately, simply one proud flag among many; equal, not dominating its neighbors.

(The word "procession" is specifically chosen - from the Flag Code Sec 4 USC 7. Over the years, apparently, the "procession" code has been appended with regulations that relate not at all to "processions" of flags.... At minimum, the present code, particularly pertaining to the UN, was exceedingly poorly drafted.)

In sum: as a citizen, I have come to expect nothing from you. Hopefully, one or more of you, one day, will surprise me by giving honest and complete answers to my questions, in writing. You will continue to hear from me.

Sincerely,



c: Comm Higgins, Greene and Co Administrator David Hough



Hennepin County

300 South 6th Street
Minneapolis MN 55487
www.hennepin.us

July 29, 2014

Dick Bernard
6905 Romeo Road
Woodbury, MN 55125-2421

Dear Mr. Bernard,

Pursuant to your data request dated June 14, 2014 requesting data on the United Nations Flag, there is no additional information besides the board resolution, which has already been provided.

Thank you,

Kathy Washenberger
Hennepin County Responsible Authority

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July 17, 2014

Mike Opat, Chair, and
Hennepin County Commissioners

Re UN Flag requested documents

Dear Mr. Opat and Comm. McLaughlin, R. and J. Johnson, Callison:

On July 9, 2014, apparently per my June 14, 2014 request to you, I received from Kelly Allen, copied to David Hough, Hennepin County Administrator, two documents, one a single page, the other 13 pages.

(see
p. 12)

The longer document was apparently the entirety of the Minutes of the afternoon session of the March 27, 2012 of the Commission, including the motion passed relating to the UN flag on the Government Center North Plaza. I've long been fully aware of this document. Indeed my first letter to you, December 29, 2012, included a copy of the specific reference from those Minutes.

(see p.
10 + 11)

The other single page was interesting and did include information new to me. It notes that every Hennepin County Commissioner was in attendance when the Flag motion was passed, and all voted Aye. Five of you continue as Commissioners. This letter is specifically to you five. (The posted Minutes for March 27, 2012, previously referenced, indicated two Commissioners, McLaughlin and Jeff Johnson, were absent.)

(see
p. 12)

But my questions*, first asked of all of you in April, 2013, and repeated at least nine times since, remain unanswered: in essence, what was the specific chain of people, communications, and events which led to that United Nations flag being taken down March 27, 2012? My questions stand.

(see p. 5)

At least five of you Commissioners personally have direct knowledge and can give me specific answers to all of my questions.

Any one of you, at the beginning, by simply being honest and answering my questions, may well have ended my inquiry. I just wanted to know why a flag which had flown on the Hennepin County Plaza for 44 years was for all intents and purposes covertly taken down, the last item on an agenda at the end of a meeting.

Individually and collectively you Commissioners seem to dismiss me, unworthy of your precious time. You may view me as powerless, unable to impact on any one of you in any way, with no power to impact on your exalted position.

Nonetheless, after more than a year, now, of being stonewalled by every one of you, I want individual answers from every one of you. I will not quietly disappear.

Each of you, answer my questions*, individually, in writing.

Sincerely,

Dick Bernard, Citizen

c: Comm. Higgins and Greene
David Hough, County Administrator

*** - REGARDING THE MARCH 27, 2012 ACTION:**

QUESTIONS FOR EACH HENNEPIN COUNTY BOARD MEMBER:

1. Specifically what constitutes Mr. Opat's "slightly out of compliance" statement? I'd like to know exactly what was "out of compliance".
2. Who, specifically, first raised this issue with the Hennepin County Board, and when did this happen?
3. What public hearings were advertised and held on this matter before the March 27, 2012 action was taken?
4. Which of the flags currently flying on the Plaza replaced the UN Flag?
5. If you voted on this issue on March 27, 2012 (presumably "aye"), why did you vote as you did?
6. There are costs to this action, more than the cost of a flag. Have you even thought about these costs, such as cost to reputation of the County?

(These questions were informal and I elected to stay with the same questions each time, though initially I was expecting at least one substantive response from someone...)

PS:

1. In late December, 2012, when I first explored the general question about the UN flag flying in Hennepin County in 1968, I found the answer to my basic question in a box of Mayor Arthur Naftalin's Archival Papers at the Minnesota Historical Society in St. Paul. I copied the entire file, which included a number of letters he'd received from 15 individuals in 10 states other than MN, commenting on the flag issue, and his response to those letters. Like Mayor Naftalin, you are public officials, with responsibility to keep a public record of your work.

2. Two hours after I mailed the letter to you requesting specific information about this issue (June 14, 2014), I was at a meeting in Hennepin County. The President of our group, a Judge, had brought along an attorney to advise us on a particular billing from a vendor incurred by one of our former Board members without Board authorization.

The issue was routine and is of no interest in itself. But I mention it because of the discussion by counsel. He said that we had essentially three choices:

1) Do nothing; 2) send a letter to the vendor with the reasons we didn't believe the billing to be our responsibility; 3) pay the bill.

We chose #2. Saturday I'll preside at the meeting where we discuss our attorney's five page proposed response.



BOARD OF HENNEPIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
A-2400 GOVERNMENT CENTER
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55487-0240

*Need
8-15-13*

August 13, 2013

Dick Bernard
6905 Romeo Road
Woodbury, MN 55125-2421

Dear Mr. Bernard,

I have received several letters from you regarding the flags that fly at the Hennepin County Government Center. Commissioner Mike Opat, chair of our Board has responded and I agree with him. You continue to write to all the Hennepin County Commissioners urging that we fly the United Nations flag at the Government Center Plaza.

I note that you live in the city of Woodbury in Washington County. It appears that neither Woodbury City Hall nor the Washington County Government Center Campus fly the United Nations flag.

I respectfully suggest you work first on persuading the city and the county where you live to fly the United Nations flag and then, if successful, continue your efforts to persuade others to do so.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randy Johnson".

Randy Johnson
Hennepin County Commissioner
District 5

Cc: Hennepin County Board of Commissioners

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August 16, 2007¹³

Randy Johnson, Commissioner
Hennepin County

Dear Randy:

I received your August 13 letter yesterday. A copy is enclosed. I find it very interesting.

You don't respond to my questions, but then ask me questions, and apparently copy your fellow commissioners. I will answer your questions; I will continue to ask you and the others for specific answers to my questions, as a citizen.

I had no interest in what flag flew where, including the UN flag, until the Hennepin County action, in which you and most of your current colleagues were and are active participants, surfaced for me, in late December, 2012. As I've noted before, I was simply looking for an elusive fact, which I finally found in former Minneapolis Mayor Arthur Naftalins archival papers at the MN Historical Society. All of the rest you know.

In my first letter to you Commissioners, I said "I have no formal standing" in Hennepin County. It occurs to me, though, that I pay taxes like everyone else, and I would guess considerable amounts of my state and federal taxes flow into your coffers; and I am very frequently in Hennepin County. In fact, immediately before I got your letter, I had lunch with a retired colleague in a Minneapolis restaurant; we were preparing for a reunion in another Hennepin County town tomorrow. I could generate a very long list....

Succinctly, you are not some independent country. I may not be able to vote you in or out of office, at least directly, but I do have the right to ask a question and get a straight answer.

You will continue to hear from me. You dishonor your predecessors in your obstruction.

c: Commissioners



BOARD OF HENNEPIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
A-2400 GOVERNMENT CENTER
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55487-0240

March 28, 2013

Dick Bernard
6905 Romeo Road
Woodbury, MN 55125-2421

Dear Mr. Bernard:

Thank you for your letter regarding the flag display on the North Plaza of the Hennepin County Government Center.

Last year, the County Board made a unanimous decision to only fly the flags of the United States, the State of Minnesota and Hennepin County on the North Plaza of the Government Center after it was discerned that our previous arrangement was **slightly out of compliance** with the United States Flag Code.

While I do appreciate your passion and your insight, I do not foresee a policy change with regards to our flag display in the near future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Opat".

Mike Opat, Chair
Hennepin County Board of Commissioners

cc: Hennepin County Board of Commissioners



From: Dick Bernard <dick_bernard@me.com>
Subject: Fwd: The United Nations Flag Issue and a suggestion for Law Day, May 1, 2013
Date: April 8, 2013 7:38:12 PM CDT
To: ~~Barbara Johnson~~

Begin forwarded message:

From: Mike Opat <mike.opat@co.hennepin.mn.us>
Subject: Re: The United Nations Flag Issue and a suggestion for Law Day, May 1, 2013
Date: April 8, 2013 9:49:49 AM CDT
To: Dick Bernard <dick_bernard@me.com>
Cc: Barbara.johnson@minneapolismn.gov, Janna.Hottinger@minneapolismn.gov

Mr. Bernard,

Thank you for your last email. As I think I've explained before, the County Board made the decision to fly three flags on our three flag poles last year after some inquiries as to our policy. I asked for some research and am satisfied that we now have an updated policy that is in line with our place in the pecking order of governments in Minnesota. We will not revisit the matter.

Please understand the the flag poles of which I am speaking are the property of Hennepin County and are on Hennepin County property. The City of Minneapolis flies flags in various places as well.

who owns Hennepin County?

Mike Opat
Chair
Hennepin County Board of Commissioners

From: Dick Bernard <dick_bernard@me.com>
To: Mike Opat <mike.opat@co.hennepin.mn.us>
Cc: Barbara.johnson@minneapolismn.gov, Janna.Hottinger@minneapolismn.gov
Date: 04/01/2013 05:32 AM
Subject: The United Nations Flag Issue and a suggestion for Law Day, May 1, 2013

April 1, 2013

next page
(original of this letter is attached, and will be posted U.S. mail today.)

Mike Opat, Chair
Board of Hennepin County Commissioners
A-2400 Government Center
Minneapolis MN 55487-0240

Re: The United Nations Flag Issue
and a suggestion for Law Day, May 1, 2013

Dear Mr. Opat:

Please forward this e-mail to your colleague Commissioners. I am sending this to Mayor Rybak and the Minneapolis City Council as well.

I received your March 28, 2013 letter (attached) on March 30. Another person I know received an identically worded

letter from you, so apparently
this is the chosen response to announce the Board's collective decision on what may be considered a nuisance matter.

Given the date of your letter, it is likely that you did not see my blogpost of March 27, which is accessible here <http://www.outsidethewalls.org/blog/2013/03/27/>, and which was also in the March 29 MinnPost Blog Cabin roundup. Please take a look. The post links to the earlier March 5 blog, which has essentially all of the information I have.

This issue is not one I sought; I plan to give it continuing attention.

(see p11)
(see p7)
In your original action March 27, 2012, (Resolution 12-0167) the flag issue was to be re-considered "in compliance with the U.S. Flag Code". In your March 28, 2013, letter you say, without explanation, that "it was discerned that our previous arrangement was slightly out of compliance with the United States Flag Code." This is a most interesting non-response. I now know the issue quite well. There was nothing "out of compliance".

There is no need to re-argue what you already know. I have provided you all of the information I have.

A suggestion: The UN flag raising outside Minneapolis City Hall occurred on Law Day May 1, 1968. It was a major bi-partisan event. I suggest you all find, at minimum, some way to recognize and honor, one month from today, the March 5, 1968, Declaration of World Citizenship your predecessors made. There are people still living who can help with this. I would be delighted to meet personally.

Sincerely,

Dick Bernard

c: Janna Hottinger (for Mayor Rybak)

Barbara Johnson, Minneapolis City Council

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[attachment "Bernard to Mike Opat001.pdf" deleted by Michael Opat/CB/Hennepin] [attachment "Flag Henn Co Opat Mar13001.pdf" deleted by Michael Opat/CB/Hennepin]

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December 29, 2012

TO: Members of Hennepin County Board

Yesterday, unsolicited and totally unexpected, I learned of the Hennepin County Board action noted on the reverse of this letter.

This came as a shock to me, since for a number of months, culminating within the last couple of weeks, I was attempting to ferret out the history of the Minneapolis/Hennepin County Declaration of World Citizenship March 5, 1968, and trying to find out the date the UN flag flew proudly beside the U.S. flag at the City Hall. That turned out to be May 1, 1968. Many of the details are in the enclosure. The keynote speaker that day was Gov. Elmer L. Andersen, who thought his speech on the importance of the UN and World Citizenship was so important that he included it in his book, "I Trust to be Believed", edited by Lori Sturdevant and published shortly before his death in 2004. The speech in question is at pages 151-152 in the brief chapter on World Citizenship.

In your action a few months ago you essentially destroyed the essence of a bipartisan and very carefully discussed decision for Minneapolis and Hennepin County to become, most likely, the first community in the United States to declare themselves World Citizens.

It appears that you relied on erroneous interpretation of the U.S. Flag Code as well. I can see nothing in that code that renders what was first done May 1, 1968, in front of Minneapolis City Hall, to be improper by even the strictest reading of the code (the violation of which, by the way, carries no penalty. The issue is freedom of speech.)

I am not a scholar of parliamentary procedure, but it appears that four of you continue on the Board who voted for the Resolution last March. It would be a simple matter to bring this matter up for reconsideration and reverse your earlier decision. Cynically, you could essentially hide it from public view, as you apparently did last March as well.

As for myself, while I've lived in Minnesota for 49 of my 72 years, including 39 in the Twin Cities, I have never been a resident of either Minneapolis or Hennepin County. So I have no formal standing. At the same time, I am not naive, either, and in my limited spheres, I am going to do my best to call this matter to public attention. I have much more to say about this history, with or without your interest.

Reverse your decision.

c: Minneapolis City Council
Mayor R. T. Rybak

10
(over)

BOARD MINUTES

BOARD OF HENNEPIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Tuesday, March 27, 2012

1:30 PM

The Board of County Commissioners of Hennepin County, Minnesota, met in the Hennepin County Government Center in the City of Minneapolis, at 1:34 PM.

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Opat, Chair, and all Commissioners were present with the exception of Commissioners McLaughlin and Jeff Johnson.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 375.12 and Hennepin County Board Resolution No. 04-5-232, the County Board has directed the Clerk of the Board to publish the board proceedings in a summary manner that conforms to Minnesota Statute 331A.01. The following includes item descriptions, resolution numbers and final disposition of each item dealt with at the meeting. The full text of the board proceedings is available in the Clerk of the Board's office located at A2400 Government Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota and also is available at www.hennepin.us, the County's website.

*

Last of many items on what appears to be a consent agenda of the Board.

12-0167

Display of Flags at the Government Center North Plaza

Resolution No. 12-0167

The following Resolution was moved by Commissioner Opat, seconded by Commissioner Stenglein

BE IT RESOLVED, that Resolution 86-7-539 is hereby rescinded; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Property Services is directed to fly at the Government Center North Plaza solely the flags of the United States, Minnesota and Hennepin County, in compliance with the U.S. Flag Code.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED ON 3/27/12

On motion, the County Board adjourned at 2:01 PM, until Tuesday, March 27, 2012.

Hennepin County, Minnesota

RESOLUTION NO. 12-0167

[2012]



www.hennepin.us

The following Resolution was offered by Commissioner Opat and seconded by Commissioner Stenglein:

BE IT RESOLVED, that Resolution 86-7-539 is hereby rescinded; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Property Services is directed to fly at the Government Center North Plaza solely the flags of the United States, Minnesota and Hennepin County, in compliance with the U.S. Flag Code.

The question was on the adoption of the resolution and there were 7 YEAS and 0 NAYS, as follows:

County of Hennepin Board of County Commissioners	YEAS	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Mike Opat	X			
Mark Stenglein	X			
Gail Dorfman	X			
Peter McLaughlin	X			
Randy Johnson	X			
Jan Callison	X			
Jeff Johnson	X			

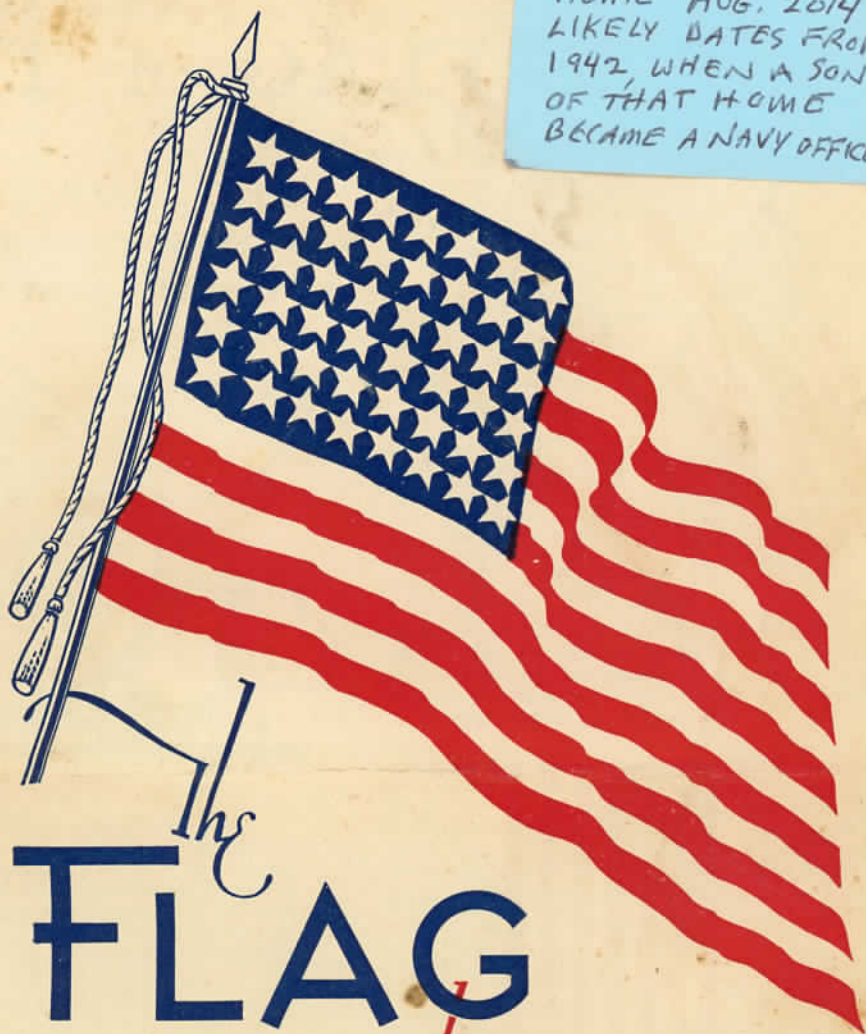
RESOLUTION ADOPTED ON 3/27/2012

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Rashonda A. Rypston'.

ATTEST: _____
Deputy/Clerk to the County Board

1
12

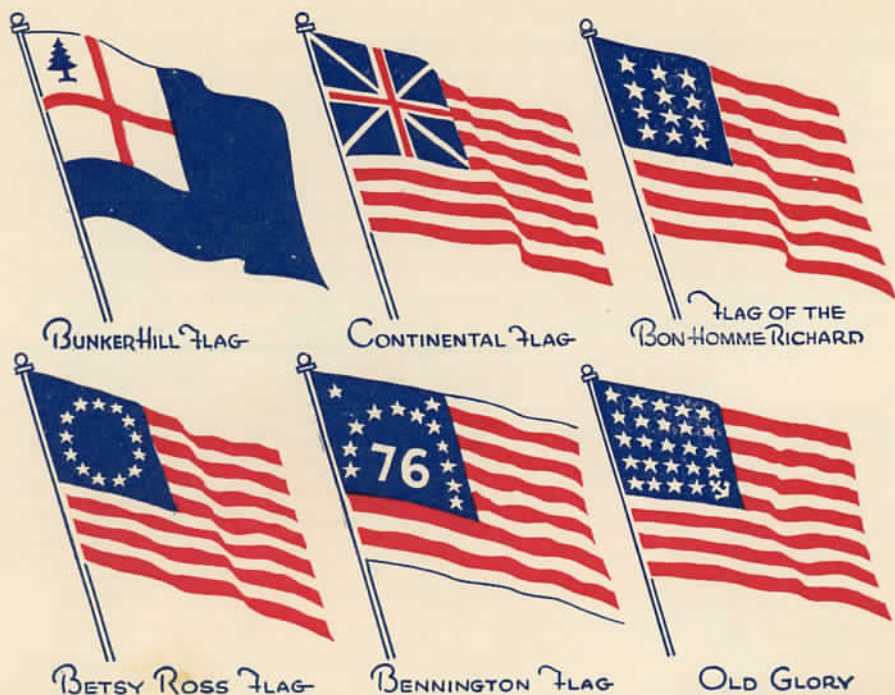
BROCHURE FOUND
IN N.D. FARM
HOME AUG. 2014
LIKELY DATES FROM
1942, WHEN A SON
OF THAT HOME
BECAME A NAVY OFFICER



The
FLAG
OF THE UNITED STATES

*how to display
and respect it*

U.S. NAVY RECRUITING SERVICE



HISTORY OF U. S. FLAGS

From the Lincoln Library

THE origin of the device of stars and stripes in the flag of the United States has occasioned much discussion. Several theories have been advanced to account for the alternating red and white stripes. Some writers have derived these from the Dutch flag, which had flown over New Netherlands from 1609 to 1664. Others point out that the so-called Union or Grand Union flag, raised at Cambridge, Mass., by General Washington, January 2, 1776, was in all particulars the flag of the British East India Company. It is said that at a dinner in Philadelphia, December 13, 1775, Benjamin Franklin suggested the use of the greatest design of this flag, which had thirteen alternating red and white stripes, with a union in which appeared the crosses of St. George and St. Andrew on a blue field. The thirteen stripes symbolized the union of the colonies, while the union jack represented their allegiance to Great Britain.

Throughout the Revolution, many different Colonial and regimental flags were used, in which red and white stripes, stars, and the blue field appear in various combinations. Contemporary prints show the stripes but no stars until the year 1780. It appears, therefore, that the elements which entered into the final design of the national flag were already in common use in the colonies.

The Stars and Stripes. After the Declaration of Independence, the design of the Grand Union flag was inappropriate. The design of stars and stripes, known as the Betsy Ross flag, was therefore presented to the Congress for consideration. On June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress passed the following resolution: "Resolved, that the flag of the United States be thirteen stripes,

alternate red and white, that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation." But this resolution seems to have been generally disregarded for a long time. A communication from General Washington to the war board in May, 1779, contained the statement that "It is not yet settled what is the standard of the United States."

The claim is well established, however, that a flag of this design of stars and stripes, made of pieces of clothing, was hoisted at Fort Stanwix, called Fort Schuyler at the time, near the present city of Rome, N. Y., in August, 1777. The design persisted, both stripes and stars being regarded apparently as representing the thirteen states of the Union.

On January 15, 1794, Congress, in order to adapt the flag to the new number of states, fifteen after the admission of Vermont and Kentucky, enacted "That, from and after May 1, 1795, the flag of the United States be fifteen stripes, alternate red and white and the union be fifteen stars, white in a blue field." In 1818 the number of stripes was reduced to the original number, and Congress ordered that the number of stars should correspond to the number of states, a star to be added on the 4th of July next following the admission of a new state.

Various arrangements of the stars were used until 1896, when Secretary of War Daniel Lamont ordered that they should be placed in six rows. An executive order of President Taft, in 1912, fixed the arrangement of stars as six rows of eight stars each, the stars symbolizing the states in the order of their ratification of the Constitution and their admission to the Union, as follows: Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, South Carolina, New Hampshire, Virginia, New York, North Carolina, Rhode Island, Vermont, Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio, Louisiana, Indiana, Mississippi, Illinois, Alabama, Maine, Missouri, Arkansas, Michigan, Florida, Texas, Iowa, Wisconsin, California, Minnesota, Oregon, Kansas, West Virginia, Nevada, Nebraska, Colorado, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Washington, Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona.

The inspiring name of Old Glory was given to the American flag by Captain William Driver of Salem, Mass., in 1831. The words were his salute to a beautiful new flag presented to his ship when starting on a voyage around the world.

The symbolic meanings of the colors in the flag are suggested in a "remark" which Will Barton, the designer of the seal of the Confederation, attached to the description of his design in 1782: "White signifies purity, innocence; red, hardiness and valor. Blue is the ground of the American uniform, and this color signifies vigilance, perseverance, and justice."

Instruction in the symbolic and historical meanings of the national banner has come to be recognized as part of the work of every American school. The first recorded raising of the flag over a school, now so general a custom, took place on Catamount Hill, Colrain, Mass., in May, 1812. A suitable monument marks the site of the old log schoolhouse. June 14, the anniversary of the Congressional adoption of the Stars and Stripes, is widely observed as Flag Day. In many schools, the following pledge of allegiance, given by teachers and pupils, is a part of the daily program, as well as a part of the Flag Day exercises:

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America,
and to the republic for which it stands; one nation, indivisible,
with liberty and justice for all."

DISPLAY OF THE FLAG ON BOARD SHIP

(1) **At Anchor.** When anchored in port, the flag is flown from the flagstaff daily from 8:00 A.M. to sunset. It is flown prior to 8:00 A.M. and after sunset when other vessels are entering or leaving the port.

(2) **Underway.** When entering or leaving port, in sight of land or other vessel the flag is flown during daylight from the gaff if rigged, otherwise from the flagstaff.

USE OF THE YACHT ENSIGN ON YACHTS AND SMALL CRAFT



U.S. YACHT ENSIGN

The United States Yacht Ensign shall be displayed by a yacht in commission when prescribed.

At anchor the ensign shall be displayed at all times between morning and evening colors. When underway, the ensign shall be displayed when in inland waters, when meeting or passing other vessels, and on approaching light vessels, lighthouses, signal stations, military posts, or towns.

Steamers and other power yachts shall display the yacht ensign from a staff at the stern while at anchor.

Sailing yachts when underway shall display the ensign at the after peak. When at anchor, sailing yachts shall display the ensign from a staff at the stern on the starboard side of the boom. (The ensign shall never be made up and broken out).

The Union Jack may be displayed while at anchor at the Jackstaff from 8:00 A.M. to sunset when wash clothes are not triced up.

YACHT ENSIGN SALUTES

All salutes are to be made by dipping the ensign once, and in the following instances:

- (1) When passing vessels of the U. S. Navy and foreign navies.
- (2) When passing or joining other yachts in accordance with yachting instructions.
- (3) When visiting the anchorage of another yacht club.
- (4) All salutes shall be answered in kind.

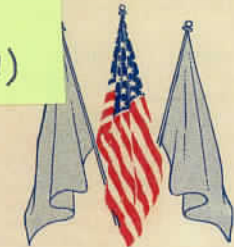
The FLAG of The UNITED STATES



When displayed with another flag against a wall from crossed staffs, the flag of the United States should be on the right—the flag's own right—and its staff should be in front of the staff of the other flag.

It should be the duty of every citizen in life, to know the correct manner and the proper method of saluting the flag.

17
(see pp 18-21)



When a number of flags are grouped and displayed from staffs with the flag of the United States, the latter should be in the center or the highest point of the group.



When displayed over the middle of a street, the flag 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.



When carried in a procession with another flag or flags, the flag of the United States should be either on the marching right, i.e., the flag's own right, or, when there is a line of other flags, the flag of the United States may be in the front of the center of that line.



When the flags of states or cities or premiums of societies are flown on the same halyard with the flag of the United States, the latter should always be at the peak. When flown from adjacent staffs the flag of the United States should be hoisted first and lowered last.



When it is to be flown at half-mast, the flag should be hoisted to the peak for an instant and then lowered to the half-mast position, but before lowering the flag for the day, it should be raised again to the peak. By half-mast is meant hauling down the flag to one-half the distance between the top and the bottom of the staff. If local conditions require, divergence from this position is permissible. Ashore on Memorial day, May 30th, the flag is displayed at half-mast from sunrise until noon and at full-mast from noon until sunset. At U. S. Naval stations and on board U. S. Navy ships it is flown at half-mast only at noon during the firing of the salute.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

During the ceremony of hoisting or lowering the flag or when the flag is passing in a parade or in a review, all persons present should face the flag and stand at attention. Those in uniform should salute. Men not in uniform should remove their headpiece with the right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Women should salute by placing the right hand over the heart. The salute to the flag is a moving column to be rendered at the moment the flag passes.

HOW AND WHEN TO DISPLAY IT

Organizations or individuals may, of course, display, in a proper manner, the National Flag on any day or at any time as desired. The following days may be considered appropriate: New Year's Day (January 1); Lincoln's Birthday (February 12); Washington's Birthday (February 22); Easter Sunday (variable); Memorial Day (May 30); Flag Day (June 14); Independence Day (July 4); Labor Day (First Monday in September); Columbus Day (October 12); Armistice Day (November 11); Thanksgiving Day; Christmas Day (December 25); and other appropriate local or national public or historical occasions of a military, civil or religious nature.

Do not permit disrespect to be shown to the flag.

Do not let the flag touch the ground, deck or water.

Do not place any emblem or object of any kind on or above the flag except the authorized head staffs.

Do not drape the flag over the hood, top, sides, or back of a vehicle, train, or boat. When displayed from an automobile, or train, or vehicle, it should be from a staff firmly affixed.

Do not display the flag on a float in a parade except from a staff.

Do not use the flag as a covering for a ceiling.

Do not carry the flag flat or horizontally but always aloft and free.

Do not use the flag as a portion of costume or dress.

Do not put lettering of any kind on the flag.

Do not use the flag in any form of advertising or fasten any advertising to a pole or halyard from which the flag is flown.

Do not use the flag festooned over doorways or arches, tied in a bow knot or otherwise employed in a purely decorative manner. For these purposes, hunting of the national colors is more appropriate, and since the blue Union is the flag's honor point, the hunting should be arranged with that color uppermost.

Do not use the flag for any purpose lacking in dignity and respect.

Always treat the flag of a foreign nation with the same respect as that of the United States.

The church pennant is the only flag ever to be hoisted over the flag. It is displayed only during divine services.

Displaying the flag upside down is a recognized signal of distress.



When used on a speaker's platform the flag, if displayed flat, should be displayed above and behind the speaker. If flown from a staff, it should be in the position of honor, at the speaker's right. It should never be used to cover the speaker's desk or drape the front of the platform.

Bunting of blue, white, and red should be used for covering a speaker's desk, draping over the front of the platform and for decorating in general. Bunting should be arranged with the blue above, the white in the middle, and the red below.



When the flag is displayed from a staff projecting horizontally or at an angle from the window sill, balcony or front of building, the union of the flag should go clear to the peak of the staff unless the flag is at half-mast.



When flags of two or more nations are displayed they should be flown from separate staffs of the same height and the flags should be of approximately equal size. International usage forbids the display of the flag of one nation above that of another.



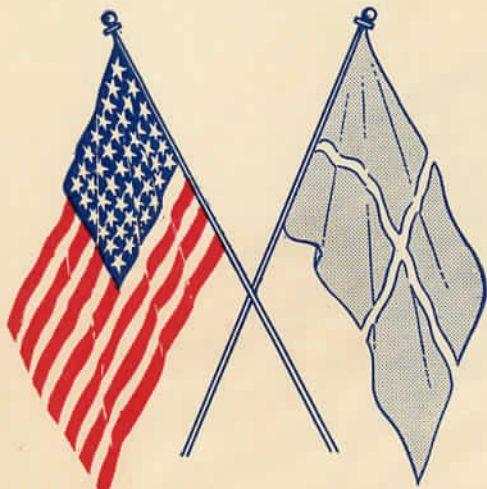
If in the chancel or on the platform, the flag will be placed on the clergyman's right as he faces the congregation and the other flags on the left as shown above.

When the flag is displayed in the body of a church it should be from a staff placed in position of honor at the congregation's right as they face the clergyman.

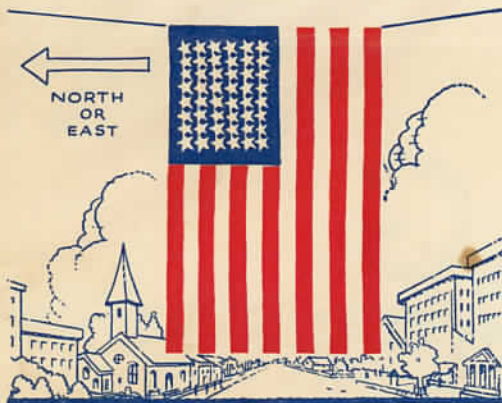


When the flag is displayed in a manner other than being flown from a staff it should be displayed flat, whether indoors or out. When displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall the union should be uppermost and to the flag's own right, i.e., to the observer's left. When displayed in a window it should be displayed the same way; that is, with the union or blue field to the left of the observer in the street. When festoons, rosettes, or drapings are required, bunting of blue, white, and red should be used, but never the flag.

The FLAG of The UNITED STATES



When displayed with another flag against a wall from crossed staffs, the flag of the United States should be on the right—the flag's own right—and its staff should be in front of the staff of the other flag.

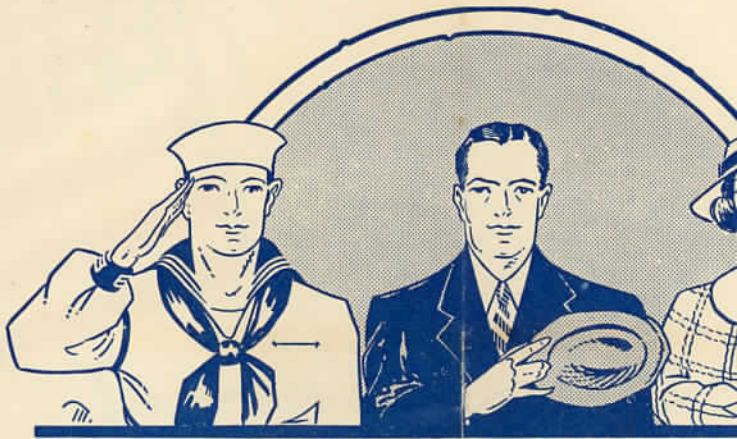


When displayed over the middle of a street, the flag should be suspended vertically with the union to the north in an east and west street or to the east in a north and south street.



When carried in a procession with another flag or flags, the flag of the United States should be either on the marching right, i.e., the flag's own right, or, when there is a line of other flags, the flag of the United States may be in the front of the center of that line.

It should be the duty of every citizen, regardless of age or sex, in life, to know the correct manner of displaying the flag of his country and the proper method of showing his respect for it.



SALUTE TO THE FLAG

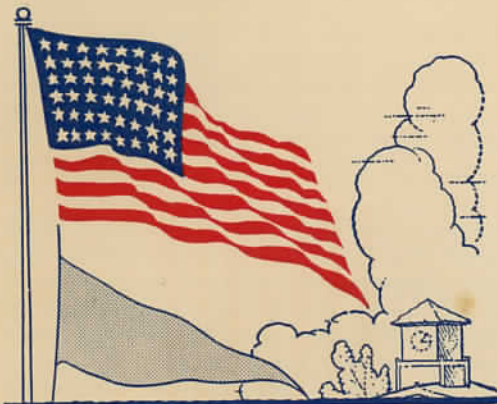
During the ceremony of hoisting or lowering the flag or when the flag is passed in a parade or in a review, all persons present should face the flag and stand at attention. Men in uniform should salute. Men not in uniform should remove their headdress with the right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Women should place the right hand over the heart. The salute to the flag in a military review is rendered at the moment the flag passes.

HOW AND WHEN TO DISPLAY IT

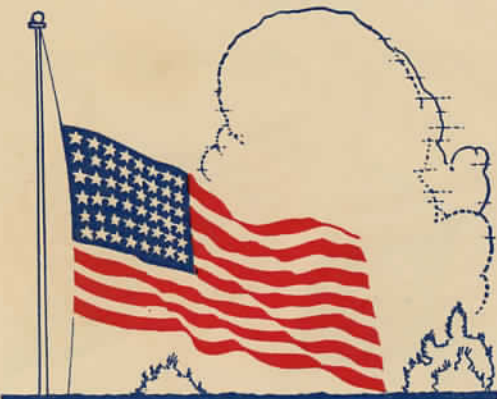
Organizations or individuals may, of course, display, in a proper manner, the flag of the United States either daily or as often as desired. The following days may be considered as especially appropriate for the display of the flag: New Year's Day (January 1); Lincoln's Birthday (February 12); Washington's Birthday (February 22); Easter Sunday (variable); Memorial Day (May 30); Independence Day (July 4); Labor Day (First Monday in September); Columbus Day (October 12); Armistice Day (November 11); Thanksgiving Day (December 25); and other appropriate local or national public or historical occasions of a military, civil or religious nature.

- Do not permit disrespect to be shown to the flag.
- Do not let the flag touch the ground, deck or water.
- Do not place any emblem or object of any kind on or above the flag or the authorized head staffs.
- Do not drape the flag over the hood, top, sides, or back of a vehicle or boat. When displayed from an automobile, or train, or other conveyance, the flag should be from a staff firmly affixed.
- Do not display the flag on a float in a parade except from a staff.
- Do not use the flag as a covering for a ceiling.
- Do not carry the flag flat or horizontally but always aloft and free.
- Do not use the flag as a portion of costume or dress.
- Do not put lettering of any kind on the flag.
- Do not use the flag in any form of advertising or fasten any advertisement to the pole or halyard from which the flag is flown.
- Do not use the flag festooned over doorways or arches, tied in bunches, or otherwise employed in a purely decorative manner. For the display of the national colors is more appropriate, and since the top is the flag's honor point, the bunting should be arranged with the stars uppermost.
- Do not use the flag for any purpose lacking in dignity and respect.
- Always treat the flag of a foreign nation with the same respect as the United States.

When carried in a procession with another flag or flags, the flag of the United States should be either on the marching right, i.e., the flag's own right, or, when there is a line of other flags, the flag of the United States may be in the front of the center of that line.



When the flags of states or cities 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 flown from adjacent staffs the flag of the United States should be hoisted first and lowered last.



When it is to be flown at half-mast, the flag should be hoisted to the peak for an instant and then lowered to the half-mast position, but before lowering the flag for the day, it should be raised again to the peak. By half-mast is meant hauling down the flag to one-half the distance between the top and the bottom of the staff. If local conditions require, divergence from this position is permissible. Ashore on Memorial day, May 30th, the flag is displayed at half-mast from sunrise until noon and at full-mast from noon until sunset. At U. S. Naval stations and on board U. S. Navy ships it is flown at half-mast only at noon during the firing of the salute.

For information concerning ceremonies not covered above, apply to the nearest

Do not use the flag as a portion of costume or dress.

Do not put lettering of any kind on the flag.

Do not use the flag in any form of advertising or fasten any article to the pole or halyard from which the flag is flown.

Do not use the flag festooned over doorways or arches, tied in bunting or otherwise employed in a purely decorative manner. For the bunting of the national colors is more appropriate, and since the Union is the flag's honor point, the bunting should be arranged with the color uppermost.

Do not use the flag for any purpose lacking in dignity and respect.

Always treat the flag of a foreign nation with the same respect as the flag of the United States.

The church pennant is the only flag ever to be hoisted over a church; it is displayed only during divine services.

Displaying the flag upside down is a recognized signal of distress.



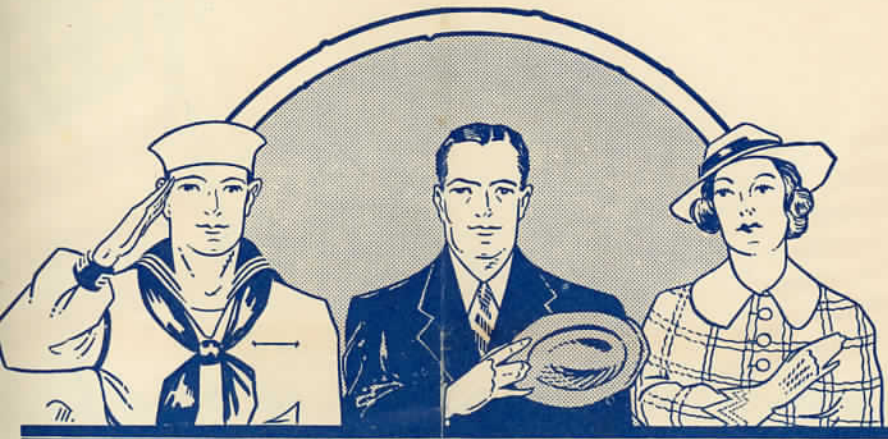
When used on a speaker's platform the flag, if displayed from a staff, it should be in the position of honor, to the speaker's right. It should never be used to cover the speaker's desk or drape the front of the platform.

Bunting of blue, white, and red should be used for decorating a speaker's desk, draping over the front of the platform, or for decorating in general. Bunting should be arranged with the blue above, the white in the middle, and the red below.

When the flag is flown horizontally or vertically, it should be displayed with the Union to the left of the observer. When the flag's own right is required, bunting should be arranged with the blue above, the white in the middle, and the red below.

AG of The UNITED STATES

It should be the duty of every citizen, regardless of his station in life, to know the correct manner of displaying the flag of his country and the proper method of showing his respect for it.



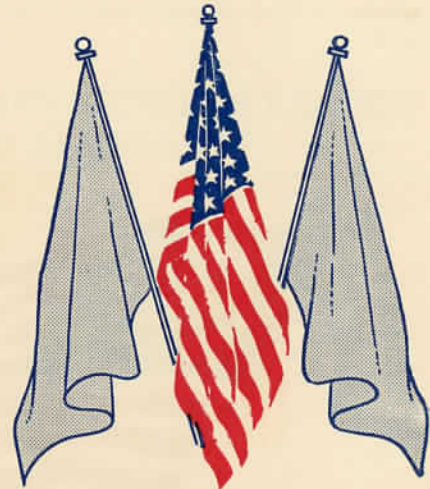
SALUTE TO THE FLAG

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

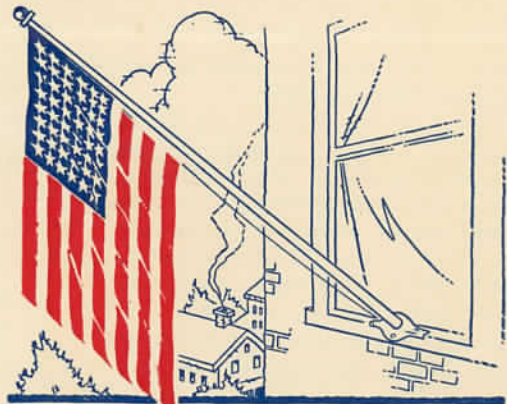
HOW AND WHEN TO DISPLAY IT

Organizations or individuals may, of course, display, in a proper manner, the National Flag either daily or as often as desired. The following days may be considered appropriate: New Year's Day (January 1); Lincoln's Birthday (February 12); Washington's Birthday (February 22); Easter Sunday (variable); Memorial Day (May 30); Flag Day (June 14); Independence Day (July 4); Labor Day (First Monday in September); Columbus Day (October 12); Armistice Day (November 11); Thanksgiving Day; Christmas Day (December 25); and other appropriate local or national public or historical occasions of a military, civil or religious nature.

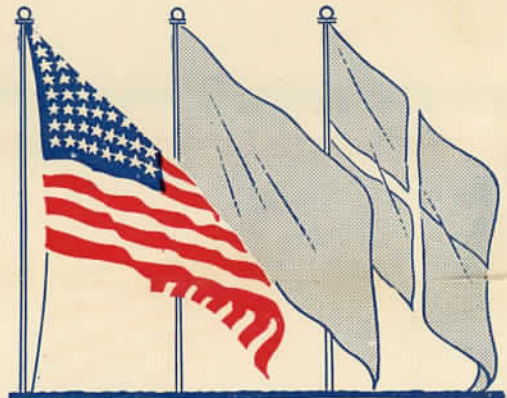
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- Do not drape the flag over the hood, top, sides, or back of a vehicle, train, or boat. When displayed from an automobile, or train, or vehicle, it should be from a staff firmly affixed.
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- Do not use the flag as a covering for a ceiling.
- Do not carry the flag flat or horizontally but always aloft and free.
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- Do not use the flag in any form of advertising or fasten any advertising to a pole or halyard from which the flag is flown.
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- Do not use the flag for any purpose lacking in dignity and respect.
- Always treat the flag of a foreign nation with the same respect as that of the United States.



When a number of flags are grouped and displayed from staffs with the flag of the United States, the latter should be in the center or the highest point of the group.



When the flag is displayed from a staff projecting horizontally or at an angle from the window sill, balcony or front of building, the union of the flag should go clear to the peak of the staff unless the flag is at half-staff.



When flags of two or more nations are displayed they should be flown from separate staffs of the same height and the flags should be of approximately equal size. International usage forbids the display of the flag of one nation above that of another.



20

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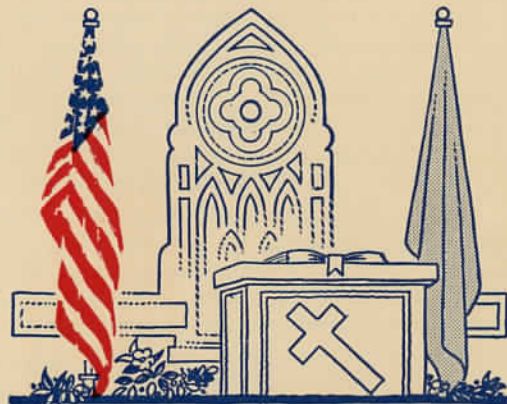
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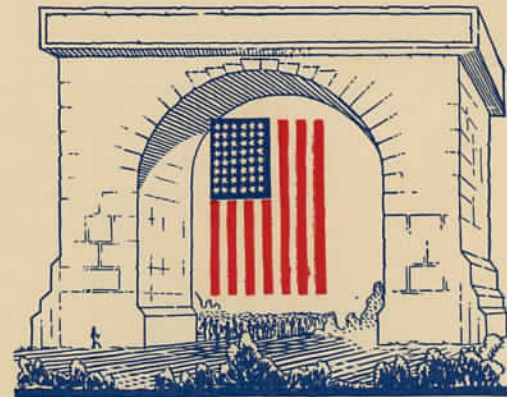
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When the flag is displayed in the body of a church it should be from a staff placed in position of honor at the congregation's right as they face the clergyman.



When used on a speaker's platform the flag, if displayed flat, should be displayed above and behind the speaker. If flown from a staff, it should be in the position of honor, at the speaker's right. It should never be used to cover the speaker's desk or drape the front of the platform.

Bunting of blue, white, and red should be used for covering a speaker's desk, draping over the front of the platform and for decorating in general. Bunting should be arranged with the blue above, the white in the middle, and the red below.



When the flag is displayed in a manner other than being flown from a staff it should be displayed flat, whether indoors or out. When displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall the union should be uppermost and to the flag's own right, i.e., to the observer's left. When displayed in a window it should be displayed the same way; that is, with the union or blue field to the left of the observer in the street. When festoons, rosettes, or drapings are required, bunting of blue, white, and red should be used, but never the flag.

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...but before lowering the flag
...half-mast is meant hauling
...top and the bottom of the
...this position is permissible.
...isplayed at half-mast from
...til sunset. At U. S. Naval
...at half-mast only at noon

...ing ceremonies not covered above, apply to the nearest U. S. Navy Recruiting Station

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

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Do not permit disrespect to be shown to the flag.

Do not let the flag touch the ground, deck or water.

Do not place any emblem or object of any kind on or above the flag except the authorized head staffs.

Do not drape the flag over the hood, top, sides, or back of a vehicle, train, or boat. When displayed from an automobile, or train, or vehicle, it should be from a staff firmly affixed.

Do not display the flag on a float in a parade except from a staff.

Do not use the flag as a covering for a ceiling.

Do not carry the flag flat or horizontally but always aloft and free.

Do not use the flag as a portion of costume or dress.

Do not put lettering of any kind on the flag.

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21A

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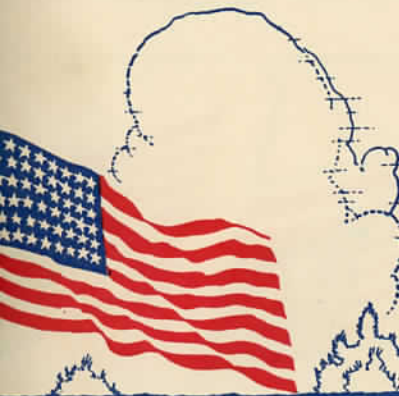
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4 USC 7: Position and manner of display

Text contains those laws in effect on August 1, 2014

From Title 4-FLAG AND SEAL, SEAT OF GOVERNMENT, AND THE STATES

CHAPTER 1-THE FLAG

Jump To:

[Source Credit](#)

[Amendments](#)

[Miscellaneous](#)

[Executive Documents](#)

APPARENT RELEVANT PROVISION
(THERE HAS NEVER BEEN ANY SPECIFIC CITATION GIVEN) UNKNOWN AS TO WHEN OR BY WHOM THE HILITED AMENDMENT WAS MADE. (IN 1998, CODE WAS AMENDED AUTHORIZING PRESIDENT TO AMEND THE CODE AT WILL)

§7. 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

