

Folding The Flag



A)



(A) Straighten out the flag to full length and fold lengthwise once.



B)

(B) Fold it lengthwise a second time to meet the open edge, making sure that the union of stars on the blue field remains outward in full view. (A large flag may have to be folded lengthwise a third time.)



C)

(C) A triangular fold is then started by bringing the striped corner of the folded edge to the open edge.



D)

(D) The outer point is then turned inward, parallel with the open edge, to form a second triangle.



E)

(E) The diagonal or triangular folding is continued toward the blue union until the end is reached, with only the blue showing and the form being that of a cocked (three corner) hat.

(Brochure courtesy of a combat veteran)

Our flag honors those who have fought to protect it, and is a reminder of the sacrifice of our nation's founders and heroes. As the ultimate icon of America's storied history, the Stars and Stripes represents the very best of this nation.

Joe Barton

The Flag of the United States of America

Flag Regulations

-Americans should stand at attention facing the flag with the right hand over the heart. When not in uniform men should remove any non-religious 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. Those who are not U.S. citizens should stand at attention.

-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.

-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.

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

-It is the universal custom to display the flag only from sunrise to sunset on buildings and on stationary flagstaves in the open. However, when a patriotic effect is desired, the flag may be displayed twenty-four hours a day **if properly illuminated** during the hours of darkness.

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

Half Mast Procedures

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.

By "half-staff" is meant lowering the flag to one-half the distance between the top and bottom of the staff.

When the flag is half-masted, all flags are to be half-masted (i.e. state, POW MIA.)

When to half-staff the flag

(to be displayed from sunrise to sunset)

-May 15 - Peace Officers Memorial Day

-Last Monday in May – Memorial Day
(the flag should be displayed at half-staff until noon)

-September 11 - Patriot Day

-December 7 - Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

-Or if otherwise stated by the Governor
(www.michigan.gov/gov (Click on 'Flag Honors'))

Alternate Flag Display

-In a window...Hang the flag vertically with the stars to the left of anyone looking at it from the street.

-Multiple staffs...If you display the flag on a staff with other flags around it, place the flag at the center and highest point. Crossed staffs - Keep the flagstaff higher and on its own right.

-On a vehicle...Attach the flag to the antenna or clamp the flagstaff to the right fender. Do not lay the flag over the vehicle.

-On a building... Hang the flag on a staff or on a rope over the sidewalk with the stars away from the building.

Maintaining Your Flag

Q. My flag touched the ground. Do I need to destroy it?

A. **No.** You should, of course, try to avoid having the flag touch the ground. But if it does, you should correct the situation immediately. If the flag has been dirtied, you should clean it by hand with a mild soap solution and dry it well before returning it to use.

Q. My flag is old and ready to be retired. What should I do?

A. Section 8k of the Flag Code states, "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." We recommend that you contact your local VFW and ask them for help properly disposing of your flag. And be sure to consider providing a small donation to them for their assistance. Or you can contact your local Elks Lodge:

Forgotten Eagles ®
VFW Post 2326- Grand Haven
VFW Post 3023- Grand Rapids
VFW Post 446 –Muskegon
Grand Rapids Elks Lodge #48
Holland Elks Lodge #1315

Q. Should the American flag be taken down during a rain storm?

A. Most flags sold nowadays are all-weather flags (refer to the packaging). **Only these** are permitted to fly during inclement weather.

References:

-U.S. Code
-Army Regulation 840-10
-Navy Flag Regulations Navy NTP-13B