#### STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

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

On the shore, dimly seen through the mists of the deep, Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes, What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep, As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses? Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam, In full glory reflected now shines in the stream; 'Tis the star-spangled banner-O long may it wave O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

And where is that band, who so valiantly swore, That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion, A home and a country should leave us no more? Their blood has wash'd out their foul footsteps' pollution; No refuge could save the hireling or slave From the terror of flight or the gloom of the grave, And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

O, thus be it ever when freemen shall stand Between their lov'd homes and the war's desolation! Blest with vict'ry and peace, may the heav'n-rescued land Praise the power that hath made and preserved us a nation! Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just, And this be our motto: "In God is our trust." And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

"I would like to go a step further and insist upon Americans being able to sing 'The Star-Spangled Banner.'

"I have noted audiences singing - I should say trying to sing the American national air, but outside of about 2 percent they are only mumbling or pretending to sing. I would like to have the spirit of America show itself in song. I hope you will insist upon some suitable provision to that end in your code." — President Harding to National Flag Conference called by The American Legion.

It is the flag of all of us alike. Let us accord it honor and loyalty. sign made visible of the strong spirit that has brought liberty and prosperity to the people of America. proud position by love and sacrifice. Citizens have advanced it and heroes have died for it. It is the of the two oceans; and three hundred and five millions owe it allegiance. It has been brought to this million people. Today it flies over fifty states, extending across the continent, and over great islands The flag first rose over thirteen states along the Atlantic seaboard, with a population of some three

government, of civic and religious liberty and of national righteousness throughout the world. natural resources, and the splendid structure of our civilization. It prophesies the triumph of popular Jima. It bears witness to the immense expansion of our national boundaries, the development of our flew at Saratoga, at Yorktown, at Palo Alto, at Gettysburg, at Manila Bay, at Chateau-Thierry, at Iwo thickly about it. Ever victorious, it has emerged triumphant from eight great National conflicts. It names and fame of our heroic dead, the Fathers of the Republic who devoted upon its altars their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor. Twice told tales of National honor and glory cluster is the history of the American people. Emblazoned upon its folds in letters of living light are the It embodies the essence of patriotism. Its spirit is the spirit of the American nation. Its history

an indivisible and invincible force for the defense and succor of the downtrodden. a wondrous assemblage of people from every racial stock of the earth whose united hearts constitute famous Bartholdi Statue of Liberty Enlightening the World to the oppressed of all lands. It floats over Ploating from the lofty pinnacle of American idealism, it is a beacon of enduring hope, like the

righteousness and of justice, and attainable by obedience to self-imposed laws. life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, safeguarded by the stern and lofty principles of duty, of the freedom of unrestraint or the liberty of license, but an unique ideal of equal opportunity for It incarnates for all mankind the spirit of Liberty and the glorious ideal of human Freedom; not

privileges, their obligations and their rights. distinguished for the clear individual conception of its citizens alike of their duties and their united not only by community of interest, but by vital unity of sentiment and purpose; a Nation family or royal house, but of 305 million free people welded into a Nation, one and inseparable, It symbolizes national independence and popular sovereignty. It is not the Flag of a reigning

world, a message of national independence, of individual liberty, of idealism, of patriotism. The United States Flag is unique in the deep and noble significance of its message to the entire

Americans in the course of the war for independence. The first foreign salute to the flag was rendered by the French admiral LaMotte Piquet, off Quiberon Bay, February 13, 1778. territory January 28, 1778, at Nassau, Bahama Islands; Fort Nassau having been captured by the The flag was first carried in battle at the Brandywine, September 11, 1777. It first flew over foreign

Driver of the brig Charles Doggett.

and restricted henceforth to thirteen, representing the thirteen original states; while a star should be added for each succeeding state. That law is the law of today.

The name "Old Glory" was given to our National Flag August 10, 1831, by Captain William there would be too many stripes. So in 1818 Congress enacted that the number of stripes be reduced stripes was raised to fifteen in correspondence. As other states came into the Union it became evident In 1791, Vermont, and in 1792, Kentucky were admitted to the Union and the number of stars and

from her, and the white stripes shall go down to posterity representing Liberty." the red from our mother country, separating it by white stripes, thus showing that we have separated The symbolism of the Flag was thus interpreted by Washington: "We take the stars from Heaven, except as to rights delegated by them to the Federal Government.

is emblematic of our Federal Constitution, which reserves to the States their individual sovereignty as well as lofty aspirations. The constellation of the stars within the union, one star for each state, The star (an ancient symbol of India, Persia and Egypt) symbolizes dominion and sovereignty,

to God, loyalty, sincerity, justice and truth. hope, purity, cleanliness of life, and rectifude of conduct; the blue, the color of heaven, for reverence The colors of the Flag may be thus explained: The red is for valor, zeal and fervency; the white for

for the states at that time had just been erected from the original thirteen colonies. It was first decreed that there should be a star and a stripe for each state, making thirteen of both; August 3, 1777. It was first under fire three days later in the Battle of Oriskany, August 6, 1777. The flag was first flown from Fort Stanwix, on the site of the present city of Rome, New York, on

throughout America. Union lack of Britain or the Tricolor of France.

The flag was first authorized by Congress June 14, 1777. This date is now observed as Flag Day

The United States Flag is the third oldest of the National Standards of the world; older than the

#### HISTORY OF THE FLAG

# **FLAG**

# **UNITED STATES**

The Living Symbol of Our Great Republic

HOW TO DISPLAY IT HOW TO RESPECT IT



On Flag Day, June 14, 1923, representatives of over 68 organizations met in Washington for a conference, called by and conducted under the auspices of the National Americanism Commission of The American Legion, to draft an authentic code of flag etiquette. The code drafted by that conference was printed by the national organization of The American Legion and given nationwide distribution. Millions of copies have been placed in the hands of interested citizens since 1923-24. The 77th Congress of the United States (Second Session) passed Public Law 623, which is a codification of the Flag Code. This law was later amended, and the Flag Code has now been changed to comply with the law. Since the original Flag Conferences, in 1923-24, the code has been adopted for use by 45 other organizations. American Legion Posts should bring the rules and diagrams contained in this revised edition of the code to the attention of schools and citizens generally.

Past National Commander, The American Legion.

#### ALVIN M. OWSLEY,

liberty and learn to love it.

races, colors and tongues, that they may come to understand that our flag is the symbol of This tribute to the flag is offered to the country in appeal to all men and women of all They have let loose Old Glory yonder. Stand up-and others will stand with you. Listen, son! The band is playing the national anthem -"The Star-Spangled Banner!"

will never have a worthier emotion. Reverence it as you would reverence the signature of the masts of our ships on all the seas or floating from every flagstaff of the Republic. You Don't be ashamed when your throat chokes and the tears come, as you see it flying from

king-it is the flag of yourself and of all your neighbors. the flag of tomorrow. It is the signal of the "Good Time Coming." It is not the flag of your our fathers as it is the flag of our children, and of all children's children yet unborn. It is Other flags mean a glorious past, this flag a glorious future. It is not so much the flag of

wrongs of men lies in the feeling produced in our bosoms by the sight of that flag. senseless and cruel customs of the past still clinging to us, but the only hope of righting the course we haven't arrived yet at that goal; there are many injustices yet among us, many Your flag stands for humanity, for an equal opportunity to all the sons of men. Of liberty. It is the century plant of human hope in bloom.

five thousand years of struggle upward. It is the full-grown flower of ages of fighting for meaning as the flag of this country. That piece of red, white and blue bunting means For of all the signs and symbols since the world began there is none other so full of

a restaurant or hotel dining room, get up even if you rise alone; stand there and don't be But don't you mind! When Old Glory comes along, salute, and let them think what they please! When you hear the band play "The Star-Spangled Banner" while you are in soldiers marches by with flags to the breeze, some people will think you are showing off. and pray to Almighty God, or if you should stand bareheaded while a company of old bystanders will not pay much attention to you; but if you should get down on your knees sentiment. You may blaspheme in the street and stagger drunken in public places, and the WHEN you see the Stars and Stripes displayed, son, stand up and take off your hat. Somebody may titter. It is in the blood of some to deride all expression of noble

#### RESPECT THE FLAG

to obey its laws; to respect its flag; and to defend it against all enemies.

I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it; to support its constitution;

equality, justice and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives a perfect union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, governed; a democracy in a republic; a sovereign nation of many sovereign states; the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by

> W.M. TYLER PAGE THE AMERICAN'S CREED



# THE FLAG CODE



As Adopted by the National Flag Conference, Washington, D.C., June 14-15, 1923, and Revised and Endorsed by the Second National Flag Conference, Washington, D.C., May 15, 1924. Revised and adopted at P.L. 623, 77th Congress, Second Session, June 22, 1942; as Amended by P.L. 829, 77th Congress, Second Session, December 22, 1942; P.L. 107 83rd Congress, Ist Session, July 9, 1953; P.L. 396, 83rd Congress, Second Session, June 14, 1954; P.L. 363, 90th Congress, Second Session, June 28, 1968; P.L. 344, 94th Congress, Second Session, July 7, 1976; P.L. 322, 103rd Congress, Second Session, September 13, 1994; P.L. 225, 105th Congress, Second Session, August 12, 1998; P.L. 80, 106th Congress, First Session, October 25, 1999; P.L. 110-41, 110th Congress, First Session, June 29, 2007; P.L. 110-181, 110th Congress, Second Session, June 29, 2008; P.L. 110-239, 110th Congress, Second Session, June 3, 2008, P.L. 110-417, 110th Congress, Second Session, October 14, 2008; and P.L. 111-41, 111th Congress, First Session, July 27, 2009.

NATIONAL AMERICANISM COMMISSION

THE AMERICAN LEGION

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., U.S.A.

# How to Display the Flag of the United States of America

Title 4, United States Code Chapter 1, Section 4-10

## § 4. 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.

# § 5. 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 this title and Executive Order 10834 issued pursuant thereto.

#### § 6. Time and occasions for display

(a) 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 24 hours a day if properly illuminated during the hours of darkness.

(b) The flag should be hoisted briskly and lowered ceremoniously.

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

(d) The flag should be displayed on all days, especially on New Year's Day, January 1; Inauguration Day, January 20; Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, the third Monday in January; Lincoln's Birthday, February 12; Washington's Birthday, third Monday in February; Easter Sunday (variable); Mother's Day, second Sunday in May; Armed Forces Day, third Saturday in May; Memorial Day (half-staff until noon), the last Monday in May; Flag Day, June 14; Father's Day, third Sunday in June; Independence Day, July 4; National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day, July 27; 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.

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

(f) The flag should be displayed in or near every polling place on election days.
(g) The flag should be displayed

during school days in or near every schoolhouse.

#### § 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.

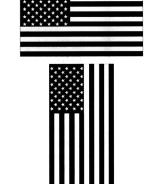


(h) When the flag of the United States is displayed from a staff projecting

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 left of the clergyman or speaker or to the right of the audience.

(1) 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 or the death of a member of the Armed Forces from any State, territory, or possession who dies while serving on active duty, the Governor of that State, territory, or possession may proclaim that the National flag shall be flown at half-staff and the same authority is provided to the Mayor of the District of Columbia with respect to present or former officials of the District of Columbia and members of the Armed Forces from the District of Columbia. When the Governor of a State, territory, or possession, or the Mayor of the District of Columbia, issues a proclamation under the preceding sentence that the National flag be flown at half-staff in that State, territory, or possession or in the District of Columbia because of the death of a member of the Armed Forces, the National flag flown at any Federal installation or facility in the area covered by that proclamation shall be flown at half-staff consistent with that proclamation. The flag shall be flown at half-staff 30 days from the death of the President or a former President; 10 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. The flag shall be flown at half-staff on Peace Officers Memorial Day, unless that day is also Armed Forces Day. As used in this subsection -(1) the term "half-staff" means the

(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, United States Code; 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.

#### § 8. 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 halvard 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.

## § 9. 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, those present in uniform should render the military salute. Members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute. All other persons present should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand over the heart, or if applicable, remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Citizens of other countries should stand at attention. All such conduct toward the flag in a moving column should be rendered at the moment the flag passes.

## § 10. 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.

#### Title 36, Subtitle I, Part A section 301 United States Code National Anthem

(a) Designation.— The composition consisting of the words and music known as the Star-Spangled Banner is the national anthem.

(b) Conduct During Playing.— During a rendition of the national anthem—

when the flag is displayed—

 (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; and

(2) when the flag is not displayed, all present should face toward the music and act in the same manner they would if the flag were displayed.

#### Executive Order No. 10834 August 24, 1959

Executive Order No. 10834 issued by President Dwight D. Eisenhower on August 24, 1959, amended the provisions of Title 4, U.S.C., Chapter 1 and established the 50 star Flag as the official Flag of the United States, effective on July 4, 1960.

## Proportions and sizes of flags and position of stars

#### Part I - Design of the flag

Section 1. The flag of the United States shall have thirteen horizontal stripes, alternate red and white, and a union consisting of white stars on a field of blue. Section 2. The position of the stars in the union of the flag and in the union jack shall be as indicated on the attachment to this order, which is hereby made a part of this order. Section 3. The dimensions of the constituent parts of the flag shall conform to the

HALLYARD FLY

proportions set forth in the attachment

referred to in section 2 of this order.

#### Standard Proportions of the Flag

STAFF

Standard 1 reportions of the 1 mg	
hoist (width) of flag	1.0
fly (length) of flag	1.9
hoist of union	7/13
fly of union	.76
diameter of star	.0616
width of stripe	1/13

## Title 18, United States Code – Chapter 33, Section 700 Desecration of the Flag of the United States

This section of the law has been declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court as of May 14th, 1990. While many states have laws similar to the provisions as stated in this section, it is assumed that if prosecuted, they, too, would be declared as unconstitutional.

Therefore, **no penalties exist** for the improper display of the Flag of the United States, the violation of the Flag Code provisions listed on this page or for the desecration in any manner of the Flag of the United States.