

The Proper Way to Respect Old Glory

At this patriotic time of year when Flag Day and July 4th are so close together, it is a good idea to review the proper reverence we should offer Old Glory. Here are some highlights of the American flag etiquette.

DISPLAYING THE FLAG

When the flag is displayed from a staff projecting from a window, balcony, or a building, the union (stars) should be at the peak of the staff unless the flag is at half staff. When the flag is displayed over a street, it should be hung vertically, with the union to the north or east. If the flag is suspended over a sidewalk, the flag's union should be farthest from the building.

When displaying the flag against a wall, vertically or horizontally, the flag's union should be at the top, to the flag's own right, and to the observer's left.

The flag of the United States is always the first flag raised and the last to be lowered. The flag should be raised briskly and lowered slowly and ceremoniously.

Ordinarily, it should be displayed only between sunrise and sunset. It should be illuminated if displayed at night.

The Flag Code also contains specific instructions on how the flag is not to be used:

- ★ The flag should never be dipped to any person or thing. It is flown upside down only as a distress signal.
- ★ The flag should not be used as a decoration, a covering over a speaker's desk, nor a draping over a platform.
- ★ The flag should not be used as part of a costume or athletic uniform, except for a flag patch that may only be used on the uniform of military personnel, fireman, policeman and members of patriotic organizations.



- ★ The flag should never have placed upon, or attached to any mark, insignia, letter, word, number, figure, or drawing of any kind.
- ★ The flag should never be used as a receptacle for receiving, holding, carrying, or delivering anything.

MAINTAINING THE FLAG

When the flag is lowered, no part of it should touch the ground or any other object; it should be received by waiting hands and arms. To store the flag, it should be folded neatly and ceremoniously.

The flag should be cleaned and mended when necessary.

When a flag is so worn that it is no longer fit to serve as a symbol of our country, it should be destroyed by being burned in a dignified manner.