

# HOW TO HONOR AND DISPLAY THE AMERICAN FLAG



When displaying the flag, it is important to remember to use the guidelines laid out by the U.S. Flag Code:

- When displayed or carried in a procession with other flags, the flag should be positioned to its own right.
- On a stage, the American flag should be placed to the speaker's right and all other flags placed to the left.
- When displayed from a staff projecting horizontally from a windowsill, balcony, or building, the stars of the flag should be placed at the peak of the staff unless the flag is at half-staff.
- When displayed with flags of states, localities, or societies, the American flag should be at the center and at the highest point of the group.

## NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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Toll Free 877-426-2838

## NATIONAL SERVICE AND LEGISLATIVE HEADQUARTERS

807 Maine Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20024  
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TO GET HELP, VOLUNTEER  
OR DONATE, VISIT:

**DAV.ORG**



**FULLFILLING OUR PROMISES**  
TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED

# DISPLAYING THE FLAG



- When the flag is displayed vertically or horizontally against a wall, the stars should be placed at the top of the flag's right (the observer's left).
- When displayed across a street, the flag should be hung vertically, with the stars to the north or east.
- When the American flag is flown with flags of other nations, the flags should be on separate staffs of the same height and each should be of equal size. International law forbids the flag of one nation to be flown above that of another nation during times of peace.
- The flag is flown at half-staff by order of the President upon the death of principal figures of the United States government and the governor of a state, territory, or possession. 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, the governor of that state, territory, or possession may proclaim that the national flag be flown at half-staff.
- When the flag is used to cover a casket, it should be placed with the stars at the head and over the left shoulder. The flag should not be lowered into the grave or be allowed to touch the ground.

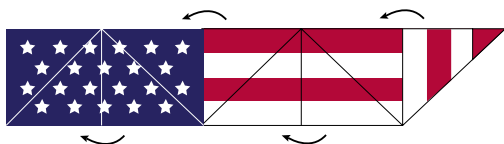
# RESPECTING THE FLAG

No disrespect should be shown to the flag of the United States of America. According to the U.S. code:

- The flag should not be dipped to any person or thing, and can be flown upside down only as a distress signal.
- The flag should never be used as apparel, bedding, or drapery. However, bunting of blue, white, and red can be used for decorative purposes in place of the flag.
- The flag should never be fastened, displayed, used, or stored in such a way that would allow it to be easily torn, soiled, or damaged.
- The flag should never have any mark, insignia, letters, writing, or other designs of any kind placed upon it.
- The flag should never be used for advertising purposes. It should not be embroidered, printed, or otherwise added to such articles as cushions, handkerchiefs, paper napkins, boxes, or anything that is designed for temporary use. Advertising signs should not be fastened to a flag's staff or halyard.
- No part of the flag should be used as an element of a costume or athletic uniform. However, a flag patch may be worn on the uniform of military personnel, firemen, police officers and members of patriotic or other national organizations, such as the uniforms of veterans service organizations or Scout uniforms.

When lowering the flag, make certain that no part of it touches the ground. It should be received by waiting hands and arms. To store the flag, ceremoniously fold it lengthwise in half, then repeat with the blue field on the outside. Finally, while one person holds it by the blue field, another then makes a triangular fold at the opposite end, continuing to fold it in triangles until only the blue field shows.

How to fold the American flag



When a flag is in such a condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, it should be destroyed in a dignified manner, preferably by burning.

# FLYING OUR 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.”**

It is proper to display the flag from sunrise to sunset on all days the weather permits. The flag may also be displayed at night if illuminated by a light. But it is even more important to display the flag on national holidays and days of importance, including:

- New Year’s Day
- Inauguration Day
- Martin Luther King Jr.’s Birthday
- Lincoln’s Birthday
- Washington’s Birthday
- National Vietnam War Veterans Day
- Easter Sunday
- Mother’s Day
- Armed Forces Day
- Memorial Day (half-staff until noon)
- Flag Day
- Father’s Day
- Independence Day
- National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day
- Labor Day
- Constitution Day
- Columbus Day
- Navy Day
- Election Day
- Veterans Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- Christmas Day
- State Holidays
- State Birthdays
- Local Holidays

The information contained in this brochure is adapted from the United States Code (4 USC Chapter 1).

For more details, visit: [dav.la/sq](http://dav.la/sq)

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This brochure is provided as a public service by  
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