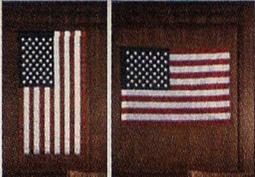
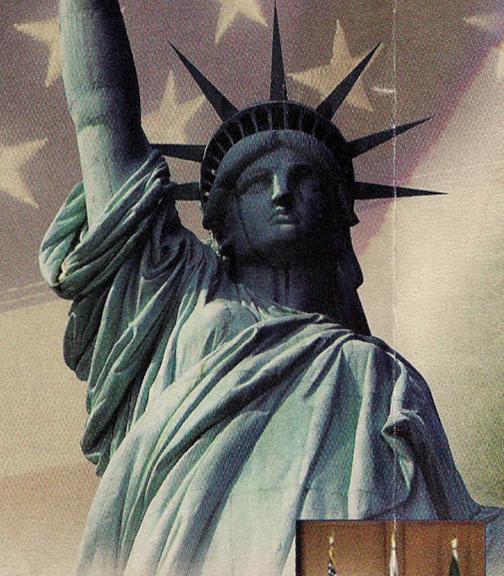


# Displaying AND Honoring THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



# Displaying THE FLAG PROPERLY

*Because the U.S. Flag is the symbol of our country, it should always be displayed in the most prominent, most honored position. No other flag should ever appear more important.*

**A. On a Wall:** When the flag is displayed on a wall, it should be displayed with the union (stars) uppermost and to the observer's left.

**B. In Multi-National Flag Displays:** In the United States, the U.S. Flag is to be displayed first—to "its own right"—followed by the flags of all other countries (at equal height and in alphabetical order) to the left (observer's right) of the U.S. Flag.

**C. Among Subordinate Flags:** When the U.S. Flag is in a line among a group of subordinate flags, the U.S. Flag should be at the left of the line as seen by the observer.

**D. Displayed From a Staff:** When displayed from a staff, the flag should hold the position of superior prominence, in advance of the audience, and to the speaker's right (facing the audience). If other flags are also displayed, they should be displayed to the U.S. Flag's left.

**E. On a Pole:** When several flags are flown from the same pole, the U.S. Flag should always be at the top—except during church services by naval chaplains at sea when the church pennant may be flown above the U.S. Flag on the ship's mast.

**F. On a Lapel:** When the flag is displayed as a lapel pin, it should be worn on the left lapel—near the heart.

**Among Peers:** When flags from two or more nations are displayed, the flag code forbids the display of any nation's flag in a position superior to another in time of peace. Therefore, each flag should be of approximately equal size and flown at the same height.

The United Nations Headquarters Building in New York City, where the U.N. Flag holds the most prominent position, is the only U.S. location exempt from this provision.

# FORMAL Occasions

**Parades and Reviews:** In parades or reviews, at the moment the flag passes, all persons should stand at attention facing the flag until it passes. All in uniform use the military salute. Veterans and members of the Armed Forces not in uniform may render the military salute.

**Processions:** In processions, the flag should be to the right of the marchers. When other flags are included, the U.S. Flag should be centered in front of the others or carried to their right. The flag should never be dipped.

**Memorials, Burials, and Funerals:** During these services, the flag should lay over the casket with the blue field covering the head and left shoulder. The flag must not be lowered into the grave or allowed to touch the ground at any time.

# National ANTHEM

The "Star Spangled Banner" was written in 1814 by Francis Scott Key and declared the national anthem in 1931. When the anthem is played or sung, citizens should stand and face the flag to show their respect for the United States. A non-uniformed person wearing a hat must remove it with the right hand and hold it against the left shoulder, right hand resting over the heart. Those in uniform must stand at attention and salute the flag. (Note: If the flag is not displayed, face the music instead.) Hold your salute until the flag is up or the music is done whichever is last.

# Pledge OF Allegiance

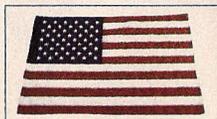
*"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."*

Whenever the **Pledge of Allegiance** is recited, all non-uniformed persons should stand at attention facing the flag with their right hands over their hearts. Persons in uniform should remain silent, face the flag and render the military salute.

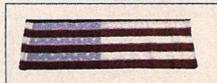
# Folding THE FLAG

To properly fold the U.S. Flag, follow these steps:

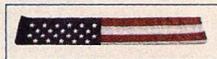
1. Two people face each other, each holding one end of the flag. Stretch it horizontally at waist height and fold in half lengthwise.
2. Fold the flag in half lengthwise again; the union (blue field) should be on the outside with edges held together.
3. One person holds the flag by the union while the other starts at the opposite end by making a triangular fold.
4. Continue to fold in triangles until the flag resembles a cocked hat with only the blue field showing.



1a.



1b.



2.



3.



4.

# Flying AT HALF-STAFF

Flying the U.S. Flag at half-staff, or on a ship at half-mast, is an honored tradition which signifies that the nation is in mourning due to the death of a prominent citizen. In 1976, when the flag code was amended, changes were incorporated concerning whose death meets the criteria befitting a half-staff display. These changes make it difficult to define the half-staff criteria clearly and concisely.

If the flag is fixed to a pole and will not lower, half-staffing can be observed by fixing to the end of the pole two black ribbons about the length from the top stripe to the lower stripe.

When desiring to honor someone who has died but for whom a half-staff display is not appropriate, National Flag Foundation recommends adhering to the flag code by lowering private flags to half-staff (e.g., corporate, fraternal, municipal, etc.). This substitution of flags preserves the integrity of the "nation in mourning" distinction while allowing appropriate mourning for the deceased.

To position the flag at half-staff, first hoist the flag to the peak of the staff for an instant before lowering it to the half-staff position — roughly halfway between the top and bottom of the staff. Before lowering it for the day, raise the flag again to the peak for an instant.



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