



# Flag Etiquette

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Sunday, June 23, 2024  
Section 2

Ogle County Life  
Monday, June 24, 2024  
Section C

FLAG ETIQUETTE | DISPLAYING THE FLAG

# Flying the Flag At Night

**T**HE flag may be displayed 24 hours a day if well lit during the hours of darkness. The Congressional Research Service reports that the dignity accorded to the banner is preserved by lighting that prevents its being enveloped in darkness.

If you feel your flag should wave during nighttime hours, it's important to have a sufficient light source to display its recognizable stars and stripes. Here are some ideas to consider when creating a patriotic display.

**play.**  
If you're flagpole is not around an electrical source, you have a few different options to provide light. Remember your budget when you decide which avenue is the best for your yard.

**Extension cord:** One way to achieve a beam of light is investing in a light bulb rated for outdoor use. Check your local hardware store for a spike-mounted beam so you can easily transport it out of your way during daytime hours. You also could choose

a heavy-duty extension cord designed to handle the electricity required for extended periods of time.

**Outdoor outlet:** If you would rather have a permanent light fixture in your yard to display Old Glory, assistance from a licensed electrician is a must. They can tap into your home's current electrical source and install an approved outdoor outlet.

**Solar lights:** Modern solar power is incredibly efficient as a light source; just be sure it has the power and durability to maintain its shine

overnight.

If you intend to wave your flag 24 hours, it's crucial to have a banner that can withstand the extended use and inclement-outdoor elements. According to the U.S. Flag Code, "The flag should not be displayed on days when the weather is inclement, except when an all-weather flag is displayed." An all-weather flag provides you with a banner that is made of high-quality materials while being able to flow in the breeze.

During your search,



look for flags made from a nylon material for extra-long use or heavyweight

cotton to maintain a traditional appearance while boosting durability.

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## FLAG ETIQUETTE | DOING YOUR PART

# Showing Respect For the Flag

The Flag Code was adopted to protect our nation's symbol of freedom and accomplishment of those who have served. If you are unfamiliar with the rules of the banner, it's possible to be unintentionally disrespectful.

**L**EARN the basics from Chapter 4 U.S.C 8, to understand how to honor the flag, per the Government Publishing Office.

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.

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

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

The flag should never

be used as wearing apparel, bedding or drapery.

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.

The flag should never be used as a covering for a ceiling.

The flag should never have placed upon it, nor on any part of it, nor attached to it any mark, insignia, word, figure, design, picture or any drawing of any nature.

The flag should never be used as a receptacle for receiving, holding, carrying or delivering anything.

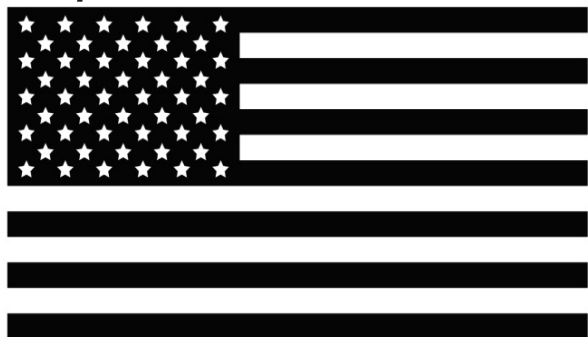
The flag should never be used for advertising purposes in any manner whatsoever. It should not be embroidered on such articles as cushions or handkerchiefs and the like.

No part of the flag should ever be used as a costume or athletic uniform. However, a patch may be affixed to the uniform of military personnel, firemen, policemen and members of patriotic organizations.

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.



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# Restore and Repair Your Flag

**L**IGHT damage or a dirty appearance doesn't always mean a flag should be retired. In fact, the Flag Code encourages banners to be cleaned or mended when necessary. Before committing to a retirement ceremony, try to prolong a flag's duty with maintenance or repairs. While it is disrespectful for a flag to touch the ground, it can happen during regular raising and lowering. It's important to eliminate the dirt or grime immediately to avoid a lasting stain.

If you are unsure on how to properly wash your American flag, don't hesitate to visit a local-dry cleaner. Most experts can analyze the current condition and decide a best course of action. It's important to follow their cleaning instructions, as improper techniques may cause irreversible damage to your banner. Here are a couple of ways to prolong the life of your symbol of American tradition and heritage.

## At-Home Washing

For those who can clean a flag without the help of a professional service, special care should be administered. If possible, reach out to the manufacturer for specific cleaning instructions. For most materials, it's easy to get great results by hand-washing your banner in cold water, with a mild detergent. Make sure to lay the flag flat while it dries and avoid hanging or folding it while wet. This will help its recognizable colors stay in place without bleeding into one another.

Once you have completed the cleaning, inspect it to ensure the filth has been removed and there are not issues like holes or frays. Routine cleaning is important to maintain and examine the integrity of a flag as elements like dirt, salt and air pollutants can have a negative impact.

## Repair

If you notice small tears in the fabric of your banner, immediate repair it to limit the amount of damage. A small imperfection can be exposed during rippling winds or poor weather conditions. This correction is usually best left to the experts as frequent modifications can alter the appearance and size, leading it to a state where retirement is necessary.

Search for a flag-repair facility in your area or seek assistance from patriotic organizations to find a professional.

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## FLAG ETIQUETTE | HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

# How to celebrate Flag Day

The flag of the United States be 13 alternate stripes red and white, that the Union be 13 stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation.” This resolution by John Adams was adopted by the Continental Congress on June 14, 1777, placing our nation’s banner in the spotlight as a respected symbol.

**A**S new states gained independence and entered the United States, the number of stars and stripes increased. However, in 1818, Congress enacted a law to restore the original 13 stripes and only include additional stars to symbolize incoming states. A century after enacting the Flag Resolution, the first Flag Day was observed on June 14, 1877.

While Woodrow Wilson proclaimed a day of recognition for the banner in 1916, it wasn’t until 1949 when regulators officially designated June 14 as Flag Day, a national day of observance. Do you know how you are going to celebrate this year? Consider sharing the occasion with your peers and

loved ones.

June 14 is a day to celebrate the historic symbolism of our nation’s banner. You can do your part by donating your time or resources to benefit the occasion.

Reach out to local leaders to inquire about volunteering to help raise flags throughout your community. Many businesses and public parks in your area may need help acquiring and displaying the banner. You also can offer to donate flags to ensure there are enough throughout the area. Consider hosting a community event inviting peers and neighbors to celebrate the day. Make it an event where others reflect on what the flag means to them and praise the active or retired service people in

their lives.

If you are an educator, Flag Day is an awesome opportunity to teach your students about their responsibility to respect the symbol. Take the following ideas from the National Education Association when developing a positive lesson plan.

**History of Flag Day:** Discuss the origins and importance of the holiday.

**Changes to the flag:** The banner hasn’t always appeared the same, its history is an interesting and entertaining story to show students how the country has evolved.

**Overview of the War of 1812:** Explain how the significance of this conflict had in shaping the Star-Spangled Banner and its connection to the flag.



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FLAG ETIQUETTE | MORE THAN WORDS

# The Pledge of Allegiance

**T**HE Pledge of Allegiance gained its first major publicity through an official program called the National Public Schools Celebration of Columbus Day. It was Sept. 8, 1892 when the prose was printed in the Youth's Companion leaflet and distributed to schools throughout the country.

While it has seen a few revisions since its original form was penned by Francis Bellamy, it became a staple in classrooms while remaining unrecognized by Congress. According to the American Legion, it wasn't until 1942, when the Pledge was officially included in the United States Flag Code and 1945 when the official name of the Pledge of Allegiance was adopted.

When discussing the Pledge of Allegiance with younger children, explain that it is an opportunity to

display their loyalty as a citizen to our country. It should be considered an act of unity for students to stand together and pay their respect to America's banner. Children should be encouraged to learn more about the meaning of the Pledge, rather than only recite the words.

Much like the National Anthem, there is a proper way to show your respect to the flag during the Pledge. Here are the steps, from the U.S. Flag Code. The pledge is to be recited by standing at attention; Face the flag and place the right hand over the heart; People in uniform must face the flag, remain silent and take the military salute; and Those not in uniform must remove any non-religious headwear with their right hand, place it on their left shoulder, in such a way that their right hand is over the heart.



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## FLAG ETIQUETTE | INTERESTING FACTS

# Facts About the American Flag

Whether you're an educator yourself or a parent who loves their country (and its flag), impress the kiddos in your life with these fun facts about the history of Old Glory.

**T**HE colors of the United States flag are no accident. Red stands for bravery, valor and zeal; white symbolizes purity and innocence; blue for loyalty, devotion, vigilance, perseverance and justice of our ancestors. Here are some fun facts about the American flag.

Nicknames for the American flag include: the Stars and Stripes, Old Glory and the Star-Spangled Banner.

The blue union holds 50 stars to represent the states that make up the United States, the stripes symbolize the 13 original states.

The flag was created to celebrate the independence of the 13 American colonies from Britain.

On June 14, (now Flag Day) 1777, the Continental Congress passed the first Flag Act which ultimately established the new flag for America.

The first official flag featured its signature red and white stripes but had a bare blue union. Stars were added later to signify the different states as they entered the union.

The United States banner has similarities in color and design of other countries, such as Liberia, Malaysia, Puerto Rico and Chile.

The current design of the flag has been the same since 1960, when Hawaii joined the union.

The United States flag should always be on top of a staff if multiple flags are flown.



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FLAG ETIQUETTE | SHOWING THE FLAG

# Where the Flag Is Always Displayed

While proper etiquette discourages flying the flag 24 hours a day, presidential proclamations and laws do authorize it in certain places. Consider taking a vacation to see the locations deemed historic enough to constantly showcase Old Glory.

**F**ORT McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine: Visit the historic location where Francis Scott Key penned the standing verse of "The Star-Spangled Banner" after witnessing the American flag raised in victory during the Battle of Baltimore in the War of 1812. The staff still stands in the exact spot it did in 1814.

States Marine Corps who have given their lives for their country since 1775. The memorial is a historic statue which captures the moment an American flag was raised after an intense battle for Mount Suribachi in Iwo Jima during World War II.

**On the Green of the Town of Lexington:** This site was host to the opening shots of the Battles of Lexington and Concord, on April 19, 1775 -- the beginning of the Revolutionary War. The former battle grounds are now a public park where several

memorials are featured. **The White House:** In some countries, a flag will only fly over a president or monarch's residence to signify they are inside. In America, the banner flies 24 hours a day.

**The Moon:** In 2012, NASA excitedly reported that all but one of the six American flags on the moon are still standing. Their stars and stripes have reportedly faded, but it marks the achievements of our country's astronauts who have ventured into space.



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## FLAG ETIQUETTE | NATIONAL AND FOREIGN TRADITIONS

# American and Canadian flag etiquette

**T**HE two largest nations in North America celebrate their countries' respective birthdays during the month of July. Canada Day (formerly Dominion Day) and American Independence Day occur on July 1 and July 4 each year, respectively. These national holidays are marked by fireworks, barbecues, parades, and other boisterous festivities. They're also notable times of the year to proudly display the national flag.

Whenever each country's flag is handled, it should be done with respect and reverence. Both Canada and the United States have strict etiquette and display guidelines for their flags.

The following are some rules for flying each country's national flag, courtesy of the Government of Canada and USA.gov.

The National Flag of the

United States is displayed in public only from sunrise to sunset. However, the flag may be displayed at all times if it's illuminated during darkness.

When the flag is displayed horizontally, the canton/union is in the upper left hand side of the flag. When the flag is hung vertically, again the canton should be on the observer's left.

While it's preferential that the flag be flown on its own pole, if it is on a staff with other flags, it should be at the peak above any other flag.

The United States flag flies at half-mast when the nation or a state is in mourning. The president, a state governor or the mayor of the District of Columbia can order flags to fly at half-staff.

The flag should never be worn as apparel or used as bedding or drapery. It also should not be used for



advertising purposes, or embroidered on cushions, handkerchiefs, napkins, or boxes.

The National Flag of the United States should never touch anything beneath it, which includes water, merchandise or the floor.

### Canada

The National Flag of Canada may be flown day

and night and does not need to be illuminated when it is flown after sundown.

When flown horizontally, the flag is flown with the maple leaf pointing upwards. When hung vertically, the flag should be placed so that the upper part of the leaf points to the left, from the point of view of the observer facing the flag.

The flag should always be flown on its own flagpole, with the sleeve nearest to the pole. It is improper to fly the national flag with another flag of any type on the same flagpole.

Half-masting is a symbol of loss that is shared by all citizens. The Government of Canada adopted the Rules for Half-masting

the National Flag of Canada to ensure a consistent approach for all federal buildings and installations.

The flag should never be used as a tablecloth or seat cover, nor should it be worn as apparel. The National Flag of Canada should never be dipped or lowered to the ground in salute or to compliment any person or thing.

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## FLAG ETIQUETTE | ALL ABOUT FLAG DAY

# The history of Flag Day in the United States

**T**HE American flag is a symbol of the country's history, pride and success in overcoming political oppression. Through its many incarnations and variations, the Stars and Stripes has waved over government buildings, schools and private residences.

According to History.com, in 1775, the Second Continental Army led to the creation of the first "American" flag. However, that flag was too similar to the British Union Jack flag, George Washington requested a revision. In 1777, the Second Continental Congress passed a resolution stating that the "flag of the United States be 13 stripes, alternate red and white." Furthermore, the "union" was represented by 13 stars of white in a blue field, "representing a new constellation."



More than a century later, a small-town Wisconsin teacher named Bernard Cigrand came up with the idea for an annual flag day in 1885. Even though the Fourth of July, a holiday in which the flag is prominently and

proudly displayed, had long been celebrated as the birthday of the United States, Cigrand wanted a holiday that would focus specifically on the flag in all its glory.

June 14 was selected because it marked the anniversary of the official adoption of the first flag. Cigrand led his school in the first formal observance of the holiday, and throughout his life continued to advocate for respect of the flag.

Various other organizations liked the idea of a day to honor the flag, including the State Board of Education of New York, the Betsy Ross House and the New York Society of

the Sons of the Revolution. Yet, it wasn't until May 30, 1916, that Flag Day was officially established by presidential proclamation by President Woodrow Wilson. Still, it would take another 33 years for President Truman to sign an Act of Congress designating June 14 as the official National Flag Day, which he did on August 3, 1949.

Americans can honor the flag by displaying it on Flag Day. Here's how to display the flag properly, courtesy of Military.com.

The flag should be free of any obstructions, such as power lines or tree limbs.

If displayed with other


flags, Old Glory should be at the top-most point or in the center of a horizontal array of flags.

If the flag is displayed on its side, the blue field should be to the left.

The flag should be raised in the morning at a residence or business and taken down at night. The only exception to the flag being out at night is if it's illuminated.



Flags can be repaired. However, if a flag is tattered, it can be removed and brought to a local VFW hall to be properly disposed of.

Flag Day honors the Stars and Stripes, a symbol of the great American nation.



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## FLAG ETIQUETTE | CARING FOR THE FLAG

# United States flag facts and handling etiquette

**T**HE United States flag was first imagined after the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. The Continental Congress authorized creation of the first national flag on June 14, 1777. It was decided that the flag should have 13 stripes, alternating red and white, to represent the original 13 colonies, and that the new union be represented by 13 white stars in a blue field to signify a “new constellation.” Francis Hopkinson, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, is most often credited with the original design.

Today there are 50 stars on the flag to represent the 50 states, while the 13 stripes still represent the 13 British colonies that became the first states. While this may be common knowledge, Public Law 94-344, known as the Federal Flag Code, may

not be as widely known. The code dictates that the flag is to be treated with respect and proper etiquette. The code is extensive, but the following guidelines can help private individuals interested in displaying their flags do so in accordance with the law.

Flags should only be displayed in public from sunrise to sunset, unless the flag can be properly illuminated during darkness. In this instance, it may be displayed at all times.

When displayed with other flags, such as on a single staff or lanyard, the U.S. flag should be above all other flags. If flags are displayed in a row, the U.S. flag goes to the observer’s left.

State and local flags are traditionally flown lower than the American flag.

During marching ceremonies or parades with other flags, the U.S. flag

should be to the observer’s left.

The flag should be displayed at every public institution and at schools during school days.

When displayed vertically and not on a staff, the union should be on the left when observed. It should be suspended so its folds fall freely as though the flag were staffed.

The flag should be hoisted briskly and lowered ceremoniously.

The flag is often displayed at half-staff on days of mourning, including Memorial Day. The flag should first be hoisted to the peak for an instant, then lowered to half-staff position, which is half the distance between the top and bottom of the staff.

On a vehicle, the U.S. flag should be displayed from a staff firmly fixed to the chassis. It should not be draped over the hood, top, sides, or back of a vehicle.



The flag should never touch anything beneath it, such as the ground, the floor, water, or merchandise. It also should never have anything placed

on it.

A flag in poor condition should be destroyed with dignity, preferably by burning. Most American Legion posts and local

Boy Scouts troops will have the resources to retire flags accordingly. Many will host annual flag retirement ceremonies on Flag Day.



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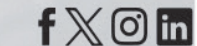
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## FLAG ETIQUETTE | A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE



# Honoring America on Patriot Day

**S**EPT. 11, 2001, was a tragic day in American history. On that day, nearly 3,000 innocent lives were lost due to the terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington, D.C. as well as in rural Pennsylvania, where another plane en route for more destruction crash-landed.

The indelible images of the World Trade Center collapsing in flames with

crowds running for safety, as well as the ensuing visions of heroes and citizens working together, have created a lasting impression.

While buildings have been repaired and new sites erected in the wake of the attacks, there are many ways to continue to honor the fallen. Patriot Day, which takes place each year on September 11 to honor those who

lost their lives in the 9-11 attacks, is one such example. The following are a handful of ways that people can honor 9-11 victims and their families.

Celebrate local heroes by visiting or making donations of food or supplies to local firehouses and police stations.

Commemorate the events of 9-11 by observing moments of silence at key times throughout

the day: 8:46 a.m., 9:03 a.m., 9:37 a.m., 9:59 a.m., 10:03 a.m., and 10:28 a.m.

Engage in service projects that can help your community, including its underserved individuals, like veterans. National Day of Service, which is the same day as Patriot Day, asks people to do at least one good deed in honor of those who died on 9-11.

Make a trip to New

York City and visit the National September 11 Memorial & Museum.

If you display a flag at your home or business, be sure to place it at half staff from sunrise to sunset to mourn the lives lost.

Share stories of the heroism and bravery of first responders with young children who may not have been alive in 2001.

Unite the country by

promoting acceptance of and kindness to all people, regardless of religious or political beliefs.

Attend a special service commemorating 9-11 at houses of worship.

Visit memorials honoring the fallen in various communities in and around your home.

This Patriot Day, there are many ways individuals can honor those who lost their lives on 9-11.