

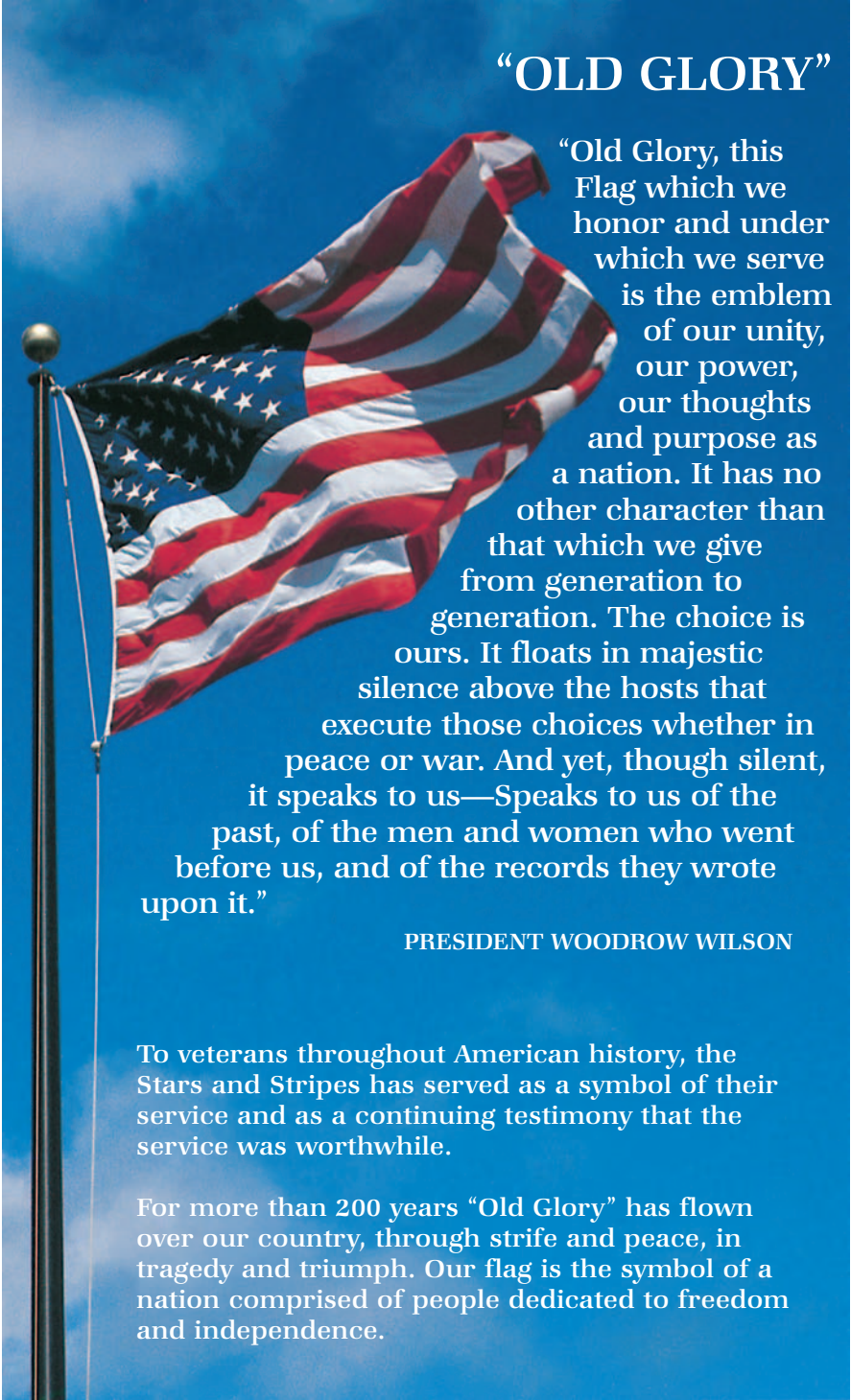


AMVETS



FLAG ETIQUETTE

“OLD GLORY”



“Old Glory, this Flag which we honor and under which we serve is the emblem of our unity, our power, our thoughts and purpose as a nation. It has no other character than that which we give from generation to generation. The choice is ours. It floats in majestic silence above the hosts that execute those choices whether in peace or war. And yet, though silent, it speaks to us—Speaks to us of the past, of the men and women who went before us, and of the records they wrote upon it.”

PRESIDENT WOODROW WILSON

To veterans throughout American history, the Stars and Stripes has served as a symbol of their service and as a continuing testimony that the service was worthwhile.

For more than 200 years “Old Glory” has flown over our country, through strife and peace, in tragedy and triumph. Our flag is the symbol of a nation comprised of people dedicated to freedom and independence.

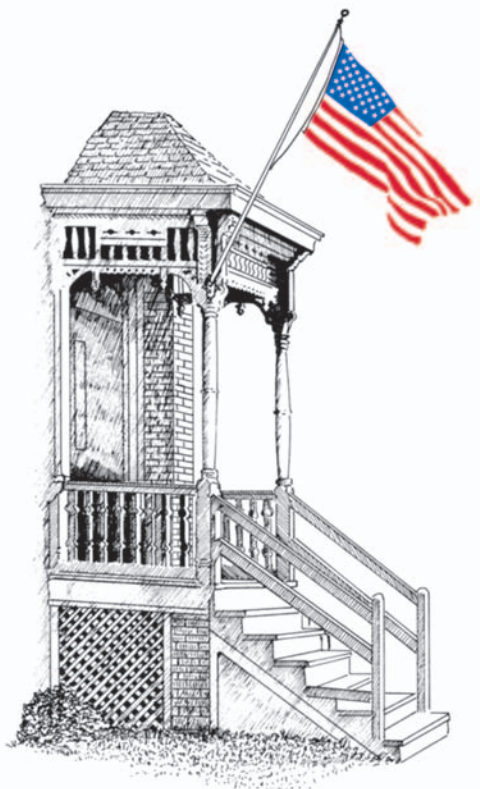
Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

*"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."*

This wording of the pledge varies slightly from the original, which was drawn up in 1892 in the office of The Youth's Companion Magazine in Boston. It was first used in the public schools in celebration of Columbus Day, 12 October 1892.

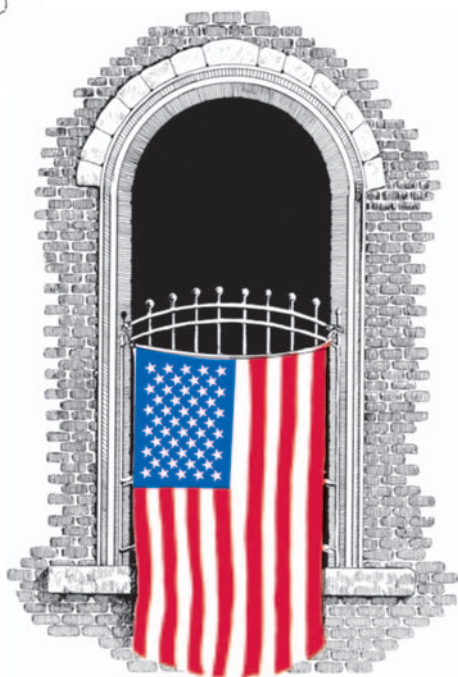
The pledge received official recognition by Congress in an Act approved 22 June 1942. The phrase "under God" was added to the pledge by a Congressional Act of 14 June 1954.

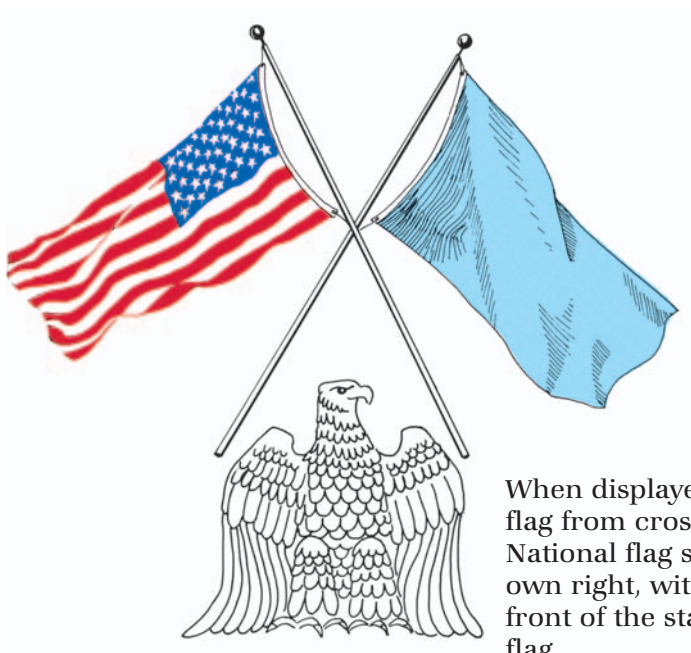
HOW TO DISPLAY YOUR FLAG



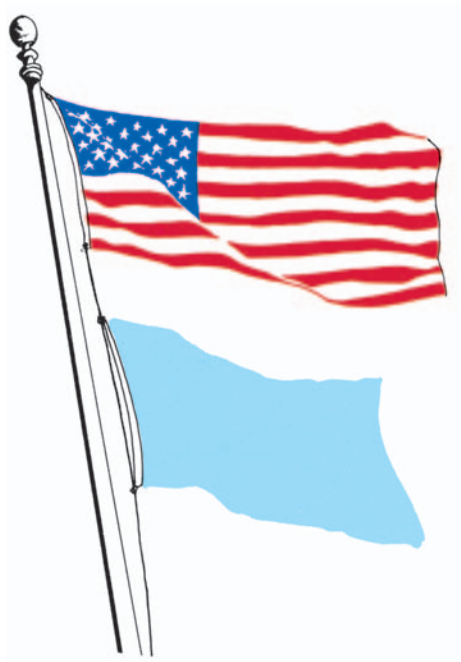
When the flag is displayed from a staff projecting from a window sill, balcony, or front of a building, the union should be at the staff's peak. (unless that flag is to be displayed at half-staff).

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 with another flag from crossed staffs, the National flag should be on its own right, with its staff in front of the staff of the other flag.



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 TO DISPI

New Year's Day
(January 1)

Inauguration Day
(January 20)

**Martin Luther King, Jr.'s
Birthday**
(Third Monday in January)

★ **Lincoln's Birthday**
(February 12)

★ **Washington's Birthday**
(Third Monday in February)

Mother's Day
(Second Sunday in May)

★ **Armed Forces Day**
(Third Saturday in May)

★ **Memorial Day**
(Last Monday in May)

★ **Flag Day**
(June 14)



PLAY YOUR FLAG

Father's Day
(Third Sunday in June)

★ **Independence Day**
(July 4)

★ **Labor Day**
(First Monday in September)

Citizenship Day
formerly constitution Day
(September 17)

Columbus Day
(Second Monday in October)

Election Day
(Second Tuesday in November)

★ **Veteran's Day**
(November 11)

★ **Pearl Harbor Day**
(December 7)

State and Local Holidays

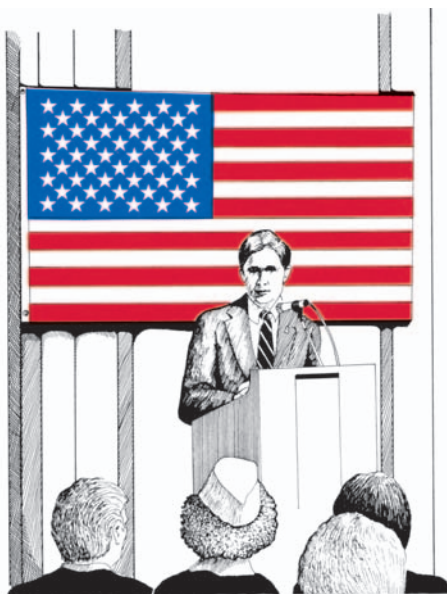


DISPLAY YOUR FLAG PROUDLY



When displayed from a staff in a church, public auditorium or convention hall, the U.S. flag should hold the position of superior prominence; in advance of the audience and in the position of honor at the speaker's or clergyman's right as he faces the audience. Any other flag displayed should be placed on the left. *The U.S. flag is always on the speaker's right whether it is placed on a platform or whether it is placed at floor level.*

If displayed flat against the wall on a speaker's platform, the U.S. flag should be placed above and behind the speaker with the union of the flag in the upper left-hand corner as the audience faces the flag.





When displayed at half-staff, the flag is first raised to the peak and then lowered to the half-staff position. When being lowered for the day it should first be raised to the peak.



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.

SOME HELPFUL HINTS

Important Things To Do

- ★ It is the universal custom to display the national flag only from sunrise to sunset on buildings and on stationary flagstaves in the open. It should not be displayed on days when the weather is inclement unless constructed of all weather materials. The U.S. flag may be displayed at night when it is desired to produce a patriotic effect, and when proper illumination is provided.
- ★ Display the U.S. flag on all days that the weather permits but especially on national and state holidays and other days that may be proclaimed by the President of the United States. On Memorial Day, the U.S. flag should be half-staffed until noon.
- ★ The U.S. flag should be displayed on or near the main building of every public institution, during school days in or near every schoolhouse, and in or near every polling place on election days.
- ★ Always hoist the U.S. flag briskly. Lower it ceremoniously.
- ★ When it is to be flown at half-staff, the flag is first raised to the peak and then lowered to the half-staff position. When being lowered for the day it should first be raised to the peak.



Things Not To Do

- ★ Never in any way should any disrespect be shown the U.S. flag.
- ★ The U.S. flag should never be dipped to any person or thing. Regimental colors, State flags, and organization or institutional flags are dipped as a mark of honor.
- ★ The U.S. flag should never be displayed with the union down except as a signal of dire distress.
- ★ The U.S. flag should never touch anything beneath it—ground, floor, water, or merchandise.
- ★ The U.S. flag should never be carried horizontally, but always aloft and free.
- ★ Always allow the U.S. flag to fall free—never use the U.S. flag as drapery, festooned, drawn back or up in folds. For draping platforms and decoration in general, use blue, white and red bunting. Always arrange the bunting with blue above, the white in the middle and the red below.
- ★ The U.S. flag should never be fastened, displayed, used or stored in a manner which will permit it to be easily torn, soiled or damaged in any way.
- ★ Never use the U.S. flag as a covering or drape for a ceiling.
- ★ Never place anything on the U.S. flag. The U.S. flag should never have placed upon it or any part of it, or attached to it, any mark, insignia, letter, word, figure, design, picture or drawing of any nature.
- ★ Never use the U.S. flag for receiving, holding, carrying or delivering anything.
- ★ The U.S. flag should not be embroidered on such articles as cushions, handkerchiefs, and the like, printed or otherwise impressed on paper napkins or boxes or anything that is designed for temporary use and discard; or used as any portion of 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. Advertising signs should not be fastened to a staff or halyard from which the flag is flown.
- ★ When the U.S. flag is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, it should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning, privately.



Produced by
AMVETS NATIONAL SERVICE FOUNDATION
4647 Forbes Boulevard • Lanham, Maryland 20706

Printed in USA
www.amvetsnsf.org