

# FLAG ETIQUETTE

## **WHAT'S THE PROPER WAY TO PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG?**

Unless in uniform you should stand at attention facing the Flag with your right hand over your heart. Men wearing hats should remove the hat with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, so their hand is positioned over the heart.

**HOW SHOULD PROPER RESPECT BE PAID TO THE FLAG?** The Flag should not be dipped to any person or thing, and should never touch anything beneath it, such as the ground or floor. The flag itself should never be used as apparel, bedding, or drapery.

**SHOULD THE FLAG BE FLOWN AT NIGHT?** Customarily, the Flag is only displayed from sunrise to sunset on buildings and flagstaffs. The Flag may be displayed 24 hours a day if properly illuminated during the hours of darkness. "Proper illumination" means having sufficient light source so the Flag is recognizable to the casual observer.

**SHOULD THE FLAG BE FLOWN DURING RAIN OR INCLEMENT WEATHER?** The Flag should not be displayed during inclement weather except when an all-weather Flag made of nylon or other material is used.

**HOW ARE OTHER FLAGS TO BE DISPLAYED OR FLOWN WITH THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES?** Other flags should not be placed in a position above or in superior prominence to the U.S. Flag; flags of other nations may be displayed at the same height as the Flag in accordance with international rules.

**IF THE FLAG IS NOT FLOWN FROM A STAFF, HOW SHOULD IT BE DISPLAYED?** The Flag should be displayed vertically and suspended so that its folds will fall free. The stripes may be displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall or in a window. In such a case, the union (the stars on the blue field) should be uppermost and to the observer's left.

**HOW SHOULD THE FLAG BE POSITIONED ON A SPEAKER'S PLATFORM OR IN A PUBLIC MEETING PLACE?** On a speaker's platform, the Flag is displayed above and behind the speaker. In a public auditorium or meeting room, the Flag is placed prominently in front of the audience to the right of the speaker as he faces the audience; any other flag should be to the left of the speaker.

**WHY AND WHEN ARE FLAGS FLOWN AT HALF-STAFF?** The half-staffed flag is a sign that the nation mourns the death of a person or persons. Only the President or a state Governor may order the Flag to be half-staffed. On Memorial Day, the Flag is half-staffed from sunrise to noon, and raised to full staff from noon to sunset. All other flags are lowered or removed when the U.S. Flag is at half-staff.

**MAY A FLAG PATCH BE WORN ON A JACKET?** Only members of the military, firefighters, police officers, or patriotic organizations may wear a Flag patch on their

uniform. The U.S. Flag Code deems the use of a Flag patch on costumes, athletic clothing, or casual wear as inappropriate.

**IS IT PERMISSIBLE TO CLEAN A SOILED FLAG OR DISPOSE OF ONE THAT IS WORN OUT?** When a Flag has served its useful purpose it should be destroyed, preferably by burning. Patriotic organizations often hold Flag disposal ceremonies on Flag Day (June 14). A Flag may be washed or dry-cleaned, depending on the type of material.