

The flag may be flown at half-staff to honor a newly deceased federal or state government official by order of the president or the governor, respectively. On Memorial Day, the flag should be displayed at half-staff until noon.

Other Things Not to Do with the Flag

Out of respect for the U.S. flag, **never**:

- dip it for any person or thing, even though state flags, regimental colors and other flags may be dipped as a mark of honor.
- display it with the union down, except as a signal of distress.
- let the flag touch anything beneath it: ground, floor, water, merchandise.
- carry it horizontally, but always aloft.
- fasten or display it in a way that will permit it to be damaged or soiled.
- place anything on the flag, including letters, insignia, or designs of any kind.
- use it for holding anything.
- use it as wearing apparel, bedding or drapery. It should not be used on a costume or athletic uniform. However, a flag patch may be attached to the uniform of patriotic organizations, military personnel, police officers and firefighters.
- use the flag for advertising or promotion purposes or print it on paper napkins, boxes or anything else intended for temporary use and discard.

During the hoisting or lowering of the flag or when it passes in parade or review, Americans should stand at attention facing the flag and place their right hand over the heart. Uniformed military members render the military salute. Men not in uniform should remove any headdress and hold it with their right hand at their left shoulder, the hand resting over the heart. Those who are not U.S. citizens should stand at attention.

When the flag is worn out or otherwise no longer a fitting emblem for display, it should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.

(Source: U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs)



Flag Day (June 14th) Facts

The colors of the flag have important meanings. Red symbolizes hardiness and valor, white symbolizes purity and innocence and blue represents vigilance, perseverance and justice.

- The first Flag Day observance was on June 14, 1885, when 19-year-old school teacher Bernard J. Cigrand placed a 38-inch star flag in a bottle on his desk. He assigned essays about the flag and its significance.
- In 1894, the governor of New York directed that the flag be displayed on all public buildings on June 14.
- On May 30, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a presidential proclamation establishing Flag Day as the anniversary of the Flag Resolution.
- On August 3, 1949, President Truman signed an Act of Congress that would designate June 14th of each year as National Flag Day.