Flag Etiquette & Flag Day

Flag Day has been celebrated on June 14th since 1885, to stimulate patriotism among the nation's youth. Congress made Flag Day an official national observance in 1949.

The flag of the United States of America consists of thirteen equal horizontal stripes of red alternating with white; a blue rectangle in the canton (referred to specifically as the "union") bearing fifty white, five-pointed stars arranged in nine offset horizontal rows, where rows of six stars alternate with rows of five stars. The 50 stars on the flag represent the 50 states of the United States of America, and the 13 stripes represent the thirteen British colonies that declared independence from the Kingdom of Great Britain, and became the first states.

The current design of the U.S. flag is its 27th; the design of the flag has been modified officially 26 times since 1777. The man credited with designing the current 50 star American flag was Robert G. Heft. He was 17 years old at the time and created the flag design in 1958 as a high school class project.

The Federal Flag Code, Public Law 344 was passed by the 94th Congress. It provides the rules for displaying and use of the United States flag. The universal custom is to display the U.S. flag from sunrise to sunset on buildings and stationary flagstaffs in the open, but when a patriotic effect is desired the flag may be displayed 24-hours a day if properly illuminated during the hours of darkness. Also, the U.S. flag should not be displayed when the weather is inclement, except when an all-weather flag is displayed.

**DISPLAYING THE FLAG:**

**On Same Staff**  
U.S. flag at peak, above any other flag.   
  
**Grouped**  
U.S. flag goes to its own right. Flags of other nations are flown at same height.   
  
**Marching**  
U.S. flag to marchers right (observer's left).   
  
**On Speaker's Platform**  
When displayed with a speaker's platform, it must be above and behind the speaker. If mounted on a staff it is on the speaker's right.   
  
**Decoration**  
Never use the flag for decoration. Use bunting with the blue on top, then white, then red.   
  
**Salute**  
All persons present in uniform should render the military salute. Members of the armed forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute. All other persons present should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand over the heart, or if applicable, remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart.   
  
**Over a Street**Union (stars) face north or east depending on the direction of the street. 

**Half Staff**  
On special days, the flag may be flown at half-staff. On Memorial Day it is flown at half-staff until noon and then raised.   
Do not let the flag touch the ground.   
Do not fly flag upside down unless there is an emergency.   
Do not carry the flag flat, or carry things in it.   
Do not use the flag as clothing.   
Do not store the flag where it can get dirty.   
Do not use it as a cover.   
Do not fasten it or tie it back. Always allow it to fall free.   
Do not draw on, or otherwise mark the flag.

**FLAG DISPOSAL:**

1. The flag should be folded in its customary manner.   
2. It is important that the fire be fairly large and of sufficient intensity to ensure complete burning of the flag.  
3. Place the flag on the fire.  
4. The individual(s) can come to attention, salute the flag, recite the Pledge of Allegiance and have a brief period of silent reflection.  
5. After the flag is completely consumed, the fire should then be safely extinguished and the ashes buried.  
6. Please make sure you are conforming to local/state fire codes or ordinances.

*Note: Please contact your local VFW Post if you'd like assistance or more information on proper flag disposal*.

[https://www.vfw.org/Flag/]