

# **DISPLAYING THE U.S. FLAG**

## **Appendix C**

Title 36, United States Code, Chapter 10,  
Laws and Regulations pertaining to our National flag

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### **Title 36, United States Code, Chapter 10, Laws and regulations pertain to our National flag:**

1. Hoist the flag briskly and lower it ceremoniously.
2. It is universal custom to display the flag only from sunrise to sunset on buildings and on stationary flagstaffs in the open. However, when a patriotic effect is desired, the flag may be displayed twenty-four hours a day if properly illuminated during the hours of darkness.
3. The flag should be displayed on all days, especially on: New Year's Day, January 1; Inauguration Day, January 20; Lincoln's Birthday, February 12; Washington's Birthday, third Monday in February; Easter Sunday (variable); Mother's Day, second Sunday in May; Armed Forces Day, third Saturday in May; Memorial Day (half-staff until noon), the last Monday in May; Flag Day, June 14; Independence Day, July 4; Labor Day, first Monday in September; Constitution Day, September 17; Columbus Day, second Monday in October; Veterans Day, November 11; Thanksgiving Day, fourth Thursday in November; Christmas Day, December 25; and such other days as may be proclaimed by the President of the United States and on State holidays.
4. The flag of the United States of America, when it is displayed with another flag against a wall from crossed staffs, should be on the right (the flag's own right) and its staff should be in front of the staff of the other flag.
5. 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 U.S. flag should always be at the peak. When the flags are flown from adjacent staffs, the flag of the United States should be hoisted first and lowered last. No flag or pennant may be placed above the flag of the United States or to the United States flag's right.
6. When displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall, the union should be uppermost and to the flag's own right (the observer's left). When displayed in a window, the flag should be displayed in the same way, with the union or blue field to the left of the observer in the street. Here's a simple rule of thumb for keeping it straight: We always speak of the flag as the Stars and Stripes, never the stripes and stars. Therefore, when we look at the flag it should read, "Stars and Stripes", that is, the stars (in the blue field) should come first.
7. When the flag is displayed over the middle of the street, it should be suspended vertically with the union to the north in an east and west street or to the east in a north and south street.

8. When used on a speaker's platform, the flag, if displayed flat, should be displayed above and behind the speaker. When displayed from a staff in a church or public auditorium, the flag of the United States of America should hold the position of superior prominence, in advance of the audience, and in the position of honor at the clergyman's speaker's right as he faces the audience. Any other flag so displayed should be placed on the left of the clergyman or speaker or to the right of the audience.
9. When the flag is suspended across a corridor or lobby in a building with only one main entrance, it should be suspended vertically with the union of the flag to the observer's left upon entering. If the building has more than one main entrance, the flag should be suspended vertically near the center of the corridor or lobby with the union to the north, when entrances are to the east and west, or to the east when entrances are to the north and south. If there are entrances in more than two directions, the union should be to the east.
10. By convention, the United States flag (and all other flags) are draped on the staff from upper left to lower right (from the observer's point of view).
11. 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.
12. During the ceremony of hoisting or lowering the flag or when the flag is passing in a parade or in review, all people present except those in uniform should face the flag and stand at attention with the right hand over the heart. Those present in uniform should render the military salute. When not in uniform, men should remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Aliens should stand at attention.
13. When the national anthem is played and the flag is displayed outdoors, all present except those in uniform should stand at attention facing the flag with the right hand over the heart. Men not in uniform should remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Personnel in uniform should render the military salute at the first note of the anthem and retain this position until the last note. When the flag is not displayed, those present should face toward the music and act in the same manner they would if the flag were displayed there. The same respect is shown to the national anthem of any friendly country when played upon official occasions.
14. When the flag is suspended over a sidewalk from a rope extending from a house to a pole at the edge of the sidewalk, the flag should be hoisted out, union first, from the building.

15. When the flag of the United States is displayed from a staff projecting horizontally or at an angle from the windowsill, balcony, or front of a building, the union of the flag should be placed at the peak of the staff unless the flag is t half-staff. When the flag is suspended over a sidewalk from a rope extending from a house to a pole at the edge of the sidewalk, the flag should be hoisted out, union first, from the building.
16. When the flag is displayed in a manner other than by being flown from a staff, it should be displayed flat, whether indoors or out. 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 in a window it should be displayed in the same way, that is, with the union or blue field to the left of the observer in the street. When festoons, rosettes or draping are desired, bunting of blue, white and red should be used, but never the flag.
17. When carried in a procession with another flag or flags, the U.S. 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. Crepe streamers may be affixed to spear heads of the flagstaff in a parade only by order of the President of the United States.
18. When painted or displayed on an aircraft or vehicle, the union is toward the front and the stripes trail.
19. The flag should not be displayed on days when the weather is inclement, except when an all-weather flag is displayed.
20. The flag should not be displayed on a float in a parade except from a staff.
21. The flag should not be draped over the hood, top, sides, or back of a vehicle or of a railroad train or a boat.
22. The flag should never be displayed with the union down, except as a single of dire distress in instances of extreme danger to life or property.
23. The flag should never touch anything beneath it, such as the ground, floor, water, or merchandise.
24. The flag should never be used as wearing apparel, bedding, or drapery. It should never be festooned, drawn back, nor up, in folds, but always allowed to fall free. Bunting of blue, white and red, always arranged with the blue above the white in

the middle, and the red below, should be used for covering a speaker's desk, draping the front of the platform, and for decoration in general.

25. The flag should never be carried flat or horizontally, but always aloft and free.
26. 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.
27. The flag should never be used as a covering for a ceiling.
28. The flag should never have placed upon it, nor on any part of it, nor attached to it any mark, insignia, letter, word, figure, design, picture, or drawing of any nature.
29. The flag should never be used as a receptacle for receiving, holding, carrying, or delivering anything.
30. 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, printed or otherwise impressed on paper napkins or boxes or anything that is designed for temporary use and discard. Advertising signs should not be fastened to a staff or halyard from which the flag is flown.
31. No part of the flag should ever be used as a custom or athletic uniform. However, a flag patch may be affixed to the uniform of military personnel, firemen, policeman, and members of patriotic organizations. The flag represents a living country and is itself considered a living thing. Therefore, the lapel flag pin, being a replica, should be worn on the left lapel near the heart.
32. The flag should form a distinctive feature of the ceremony of unveiling a statue or monument, but it should never be used as the covering for the statue or monument.

### **Flying the U.S. Flag at Half-Staff**

When flown at half-staff, the flag should be first hoisted to the peak for an instant and then lowered to the half-staff position. The term "half-staff" means the position of the flag when it is one-half the distance between the top and bottom of the staff. The flag should be again raised to the peak before it is lowered for the day. On Memorial Day the flag should be displayed at half-staff until noon only, then raised to the top of the staff.