

"THE AMERICAN FLAG"

By Hoyt W. Allen, Jr.

I. Displaying the Flag

- A. The national flag is usually displayed outdoors only in good weather, between sunrise and sunset.
 - 1. Flown at night on special occasions, such as parades. Light must be on flags after dark.
 - 2. Flown day & night in several places.
 - a. East & West entrance to U.S. Capitol.
 - b. In Frederick, MD over the grave of Francis Scott Key.
 - c. Over Fort McHenry in Baltimore, MD.
 - 1. This is where Key wrote the "Star-Spangled Banner".
 - d. It should be displayed daily in good weather, but especially on state & special holidays.

II. Hanging the Flag Indoors

- A. When a number of flags are grouped on staffs, the national flag should be in the center and at the highest point of the group.
- B. When a national flag hangs from a staff on a speaker's platform, it should be on the right of the speaker.
 - 1. If displayed anywhere else in the room, it should be to the right of the audience as they face the front.

III. Raising & Lowering the Flag

- A. A national flag should be hoisted (run-up) briskly.
 - 1. It is lowered slowly & is to be gathered & folded before it hits the ground.
- B. When the National flag is displayed with other flags from several staffs, the national flag should be raised first & lowered last.

IV. Flying at Half-Mast

- A. The flag is hoisted to the top & then lowered to half-mast.
 - 1. The flag flies at half-mast only when the entire nation mourns
 - a. It flies at half-mast for 30 days when a President dies, 10 days after a Vice-President.

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V. Flag at a Funeral

- A. It may be used to cover the casket of one who served in the armed forces.
 - 1. It is removed before the color guard begins firing.
 - a. It is not to be lowered into the grave.

VI. Prohibited Uses

- A. Never to be used to receive, carry, hold, or deliver anything.
- B. It should not be a part of a costume, or athletic uniform, or embroidered on such articles as cushions or handkerchiefs.
- C. It should not be printed on anything which will be discarded.
- D. It should never be marked or have anything attached to it.

VII. Caring for the Flag

- A. It is to be folded carefully when not in use and put away.
- B. It may be mended, dry-cleaned or washed.
- C. An old flag, or one with an out-of-date design, may be displayed as long as it is in a respectable condition.
 - 1. When it is no longer fit for display, it should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.

VIII. Manufacturing of Flags

- A. Annin and Company is the world's largest flag producer.
 - 1. They make over 25 million flags yearly.
 - 2. They made one of the world's largest flags
 - a. It is 60' x 90'.
 - b. It hangs over the George Washington Bridge on legal holidays.
- B. The J.L.Hudson Co., a department store in Detroit, MI, owns the world's largest American Flag.
 - 1. It is 104' x 235'.

IX. The Stars and Stripes

- A. The seven red and six white stripes stand for the 13 original colonies.
- B. The stars represent the present day states.

KYOWVA Evangelistic Association

1541 S. 7th Street * Ironton, OH 45638-2175

Web Page: www.kyowva.com; E-Mail: kyowva@zoomnet.net