

# 13-Fold Ceremony of the United States Flag

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All Americans should be given this lesson. Those who think that America is an arrogant nation should really reconsider that thought. Our founding fathers used God's word and teachings to establish our Great Nation and it is high time Americans get re-educated about this Nation's history. Pass it along and be proud of the country we live in and even more proud of those who serve to protect our "GOD GIVEN" rights and freedoms.

The **first** fold of the flag is a symbol of life.

The **second** fold is a symbol of the belief in eternal life.

The **third** fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing the ranks who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of the country to attain peace throughout the world.

The **fourth** fold represents the weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in time of war for His divine guidance.

The **fifth** fold is a tribute to the country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our Country", in dealing with other countries, may she always be right, but it is still our country, right or wrong.

The **sixth** fold is for where people's hearts lie. It is with their heart that they pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.

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The **seventh** fold is a tribute to its Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that they protect their country and their flag against all enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of their republic.

The **eighth** fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day.

The **ninth** fold is a tribute to womanhood, and Mothers. For it has been through their faith, their love, loyalty, and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this Country great has been molded.

The **tenth** fold is a tribute to the father, for him, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of their country since they were first born.

The **eleventh** fold represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies in the Hebrews eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

The **twelfth** fold represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in the Christian eyes, God the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit.

The **thirteenth** fold or when the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost reminding them of their nation's motto, "In God We Trust."

After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington, and the Sailors and Marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones, who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for the rights, privileges, and freedoms they enjoy today.

There are some traditions and ways of doing things that have deep meaning. In the future, you'll see flags folded and now you will know why.

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Maybe the Supreme Court should read this explanation before they render their decision on the pledge of allegiance. In the meantime, may God protect us always. One Nation under God, with Liberty and Justice for all. In God we trust.

In the Armed Forces of the United States, at the Ceremony of Retreat, the flag is lowered, folded in a triangle fold, and kept under watch throughout the night as a tribute to our nation's honored dead. The next morning it is brought out, and at the Ceremony of Reveille, run aloft as a symbol of our belief in new life.

The American flag is older than the U.S. Constitution. The design of the American flag was standardized in 1912 by President William Howard Taft.

The red stripes on the flag symbolize England, and the white stripes represent America's separation from its mother country. The thirteen stripes also represent the original thirteen colonies.

The portion of the flag denoting honor is the canton field of blue containing the stars, representing the states who have provided the men and women who have served in uniform. The canton field of blue dresses from left to right and is inverted only when draped as a pall on a casket of a veteran who has served our country honorably in uniform.

Everyone knows each star on the American flag represents a state, but did you know the location of each state's star is based on the order in which it entered the United States of America?

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1. Delaware	2. Pennsylvania	3. New Jersey	4. Georgia
5. Connecticut	6. Massachusetts	7. Maryland	8. South Carolina
9. New Hampshire	10. Virginia	11. New York	12. North Carolina
13. Rhode Island	14. Vermont	15. Kentucky	16. Tennessee
17. Ohio	18. Louisiana	19. Indiana	20. Mississippi
21. Illinois	22. Alabama	23. Maine	24. Missouri
25. Arkansas	26. Michigan	27. Florida	28. Texas
29. Iowa	30. Wisconsin	31. California	32. Minnesota
33. Oregon	34. Kansas	35. West Virginia	36. Nevada
37. Nebraska	38. Colorado	39. North Dakota	40. South Dakota
41. Montana	42. Washington	43. Idaho	44. Wyoming
45. Utah	46. Oklahoma	47. New Mexico	48. Arizona
49. Alaska	50. Hawaii		

When new states join the union, stars are added to the flag on the following July 4.

## Particular Days of Display of the Flag

- January 1 – New Year's Day
- January 20 – Inauguration Day
- February 12 – Lincoln's Birthday
- Third Monday in February – President's Day, originally Washington's Birthday
- Third Saturday in May – Armed Forces Day
- Last Monday in May – Memorial Day (half-staff until noon)
- June 14 – Flag Day
- July 4 – Independence Day
- First Monday in September Labor Day
- September 11 – Patriot's Day
- September 17 – Constitution Day
- Second Monday in October – Columbus Day
- October 27 – Navy Day

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- November 11 – Veterans Day
- Fourth Thursday in November – Thanksgiving Day
- And such other days as may be proclaimed by the President of the United States; the birthdays of States (date of admission); and on State holidays.

## Displaying the flag at half-staff

The US Flag is displayed at half-staff as a sign of respect or mourning. Nationwide, this action is proclaimed by the president of the United States; state-wide or territory-wide the proclamation is made by the governor. In addition, there is no prohibition against municipal governments, private businesses or citizens flying the flag at half-staff as a local sign of respect and mourning. President Dwight D. Eisenhower issued the first proclamation on March 1, 1954 standardizing the dated and time periods for flying the flag at half-staff from all federal buildings, grounds, and naval vessels; other congressional resolutions and presidential proclamations ensued. However, they are only guidelines to all other entities: typically followed at state and local government facilities, and encouraged of private businesses and citizens.

- May 14 – Peace Officers Memorial Day
- Last Monday in May – Memorial Day (until noon)
- September 11 – Patriot's Day
- December 7 – Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- For 30 days – Death of a US President or former President

The United States Flag should never be dipped to any person or thing, unless it is the ensign responding to a salute from a ship of a foreign nation when passing.

The tradition of flying the flag at half-staff began centuries ago to allow the invisible flag of death to fly on top of the mast, thus signifying death's presence, power, and prominence.

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When hoisting a flag that is to be displayed at half-staff, it should be hoisted briskly (fast) to full-staff for an instant and then lowered ceremoniously (slowly) to half-staff.

Likewise when it is lowered at the end of the day, it is to be hoisted briskly to full-staff for an instant, and then lowered ceremoniously.

No other flag should be placed above it except the church pennant onboard a navy ship during church services at sea.

It is the first flag raised and the last to be lowered. It should not be used as "wearing apparel, bedding, or drapery or covering for a speaker's desk. "