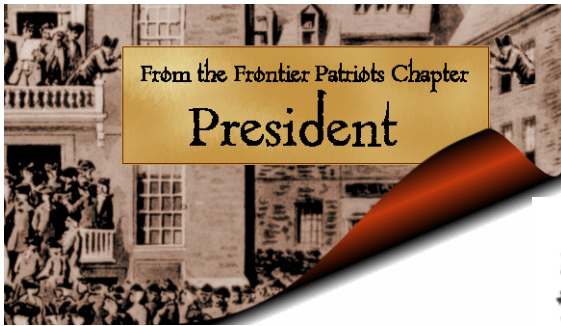



This is NewsLetter Issue No. Three ~ For the year 2015



Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

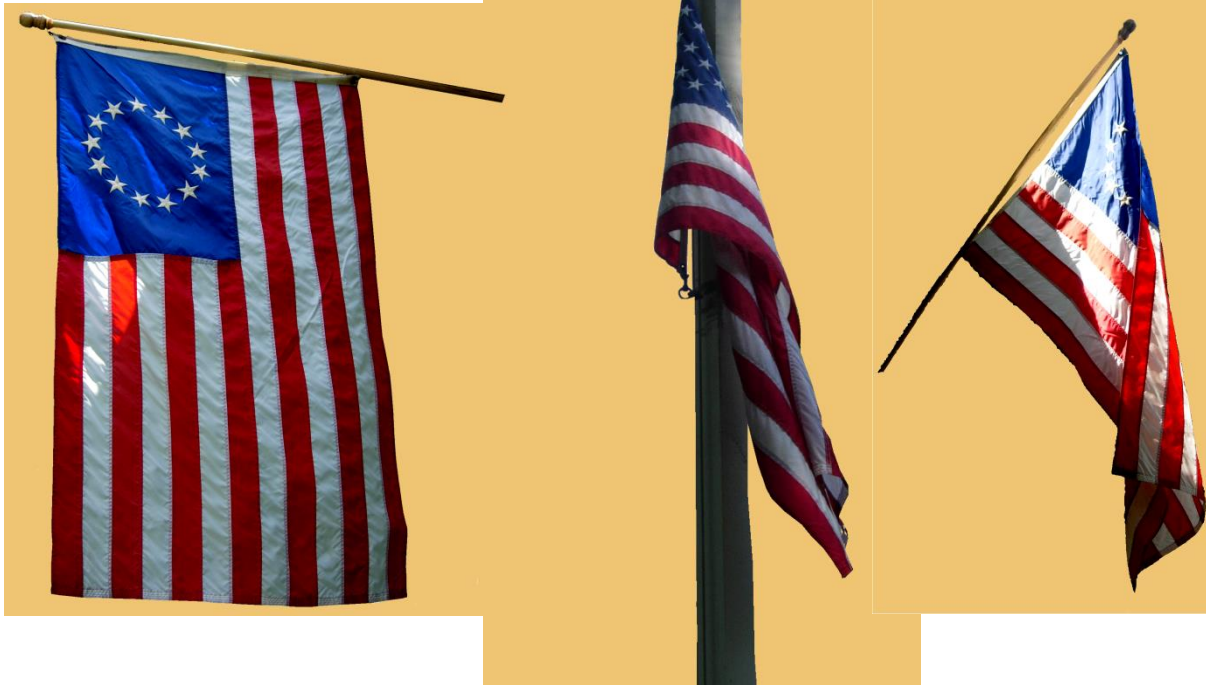


The next meeting
of the
Frontier Patriots Chapter
of the Sons of the American Revolution
will be held at King's Family Restaurant, 3001
W 6th Avenue Road, Altoona, PA
on Saturday, September 12, 2015
starting at 12 Noon.

I hope you will all try to attend our next meeting. We continue to need your input and help on attracting new members. We also have some very important issues to discuss regarding a bequest that was made to our chapter. Your thoughts and ideas would be most welcome. Hope to see many of you at the meeting.

Dave Hammaker
President

Flag Etiquette



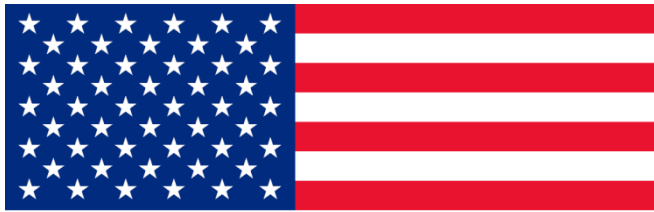
Any nation's flag is, in essence, an heraldic device similar to an individual's coat of arms. Its elements might symbolize historical achievements and/or they might stand for certain attributes to which the nation's citizens are encouraged to aspire. Like a coat of arms, a nation's flag might tell a story about the nation it signifies. It does this by representing historical achievements, an example of which would be the uniting of multiple separate entities into one. The union of England and Scotland in 1707 occasioned the combination of Scotland's Saltire, or St. Andrews Cross, and England's St. George's Cross into Great Britain's *Union Jack*. Attributes to which the nation's citizens are encouraged to aspire might include concepts such as honor, valor and strength.

Many, if not all, national flags consist of elements intended to communicate some sort of symbolic meaning in and of themselves. Flag historians (*i.e.* vexillologists) often claim that there are no inherent meanings, no heraldic symbolism per se, in the choice of colors for the flag of the United States of America. The flag of the United States of America essentially derived

its colors from its predecessor, the British Union Jack: red, white and blue. And so, even if the colors of the U.S. flag were chosen simply because they were popular with people who already identified with the British flag's colors, the colors of that British flag emerged from a strong heraldic tradition. In terms of symbolic meaning, the color white stands for traits such as purity, reverence, peace and humility. The color red stands for energy, strength and power. The color blue stands for harmony, unity and security. Over the years, romantics have assigned additional meanings to the colors of the U.S. flag. The thirteen alternating red and white stripes of the *field* symbolize the thirteen original colonies with alternating colors of red to represent courage and white to represent liberty. The blue of the *canton* filled with stars represents the concept of a new constellation, a new nation, produced through a combination of bloodshed and diplomacy.

A nation's flag is the symbol, the representative, the soul of the nation, and because of that, patriotic citizens respect and honor their flag. And in some instances, they will even die for

their nation's flag. To desecrate that flag would be unthinkable.



Proper way to display flag horizontally ~ from audience point of view, the blue union of stars is to be in left, top corner

But what explains why there seldom are any consequences for acts of desecration of the flag? A person who places our national symbol on the ground and tramples on it might be arrested for some other statutory infraction, such as failure to obtain a permit to demonstrate, but might not be arrested for the specific action of the desecration of the flag. The reason is because the penalties and punishments for infractions are left to each state's interpretation. And in some cases, law enforcement officials might be hesitant to arrest offenders if they are not sure of the laws governing the handling and display of the flag.

There do exist a set of guidelines, or rules, which have been codified as part of the *United States Code*, and which have been made law by the United States Congress.

Prior to the 1920s there were no laws to encourage or ensure respect of the flag. The United States Army and the United States Navy both had their own guidelines which their members followed in regard to the handling and display of the flag, but there were no guidelines for non-military citizens.

On 14 and 15 June 1923, [the 14th being celebrated as *Flag Day*], representatives of sixty-eight groups, including the Army and Navy met at Washington, D.C., in what was called the National Flag Conference. Prior to that meeting both the Army and the Navy had developed and followed their own guidelines on the display of the flag of the United States of America. In the following year, during the Flag Day Conference, a few changes were made to the guidelines. But the

guidelines adopted in 1923 and modified in 1924 were simply that: guidelines. As part of the United States Code, the guidelines regarding the handling and display of the flag provided those who wanted to show the flag its proper respect how to do so.

It should be noted that the President of the United States of America has the power to modify or alter the existing United States Code in regard to the flag and/or to repeal any part of the current Code or add to it.

According to the Office of the Law Revision Counsel, of the U.S. House of Representatives, the United States Code is defined as: "*The United States Code is a consolidation and codification by subject matter of the general and permanent laws of the United States. It is prepared by the Office of the Law Revision Counsel of the United States House of Representatives.*"



Proper way to display flag vertically ~ from audience point of view, the blue union of stars is to be in left, top corner

Eighteen years passed, and finally in 1942 the guidelines became law. On 22 June 1942 the United States Congress passed a joint resolution (*i.e.* a legislative measure that requires approval by both, the Senate and the house of Representatives) regarding the display of the flag. That joint resolution became Public Law 77~623;

Chapter 435, 77th Congress, 2nd session. The wording of the law was lifted from the United States Code, Title 36, Chapters 174 through 177 with Chapters 171 and 172 paraphrased. On 22 December 1942, the law was amended and enacted as Public Law 77~829; Chapter 806. On 14 June 1954 the law was further amended by the passage of Public Law 83~396, Chapter 297, 83rd Congress, 2nd Session. That amendment changed the wording in Section 7 of *one Nation* to *one Nation under God*. The most recent and last amendment was passed on 07 July 1976 as Public Law 94~344, and consisted of twenty (20) changes to the wording of Sections 1, 2a, 2d, 2e, 3b, 3f, 3i, 3k, 3m, 4a, 4d, 4e, 4i, 5, 6, 7 and 8 along with the additions of Section 3, subsection o and Section 4, subsection j (with the renumbering of Section 4j to 4k). No subsequent changes have been made.

Despite the passage of Public Law 77~623 (and its various amendments), the United States Code does not provide the guidelines to impose penalty for infractions of the law. On the national level, the Flag Protection Act of 1989 was passed on 28 October 1989 and imposed a fine and/or up to one year in prison for knowingly desecrating the United States Flag, but on 11 June 1990 that Act was reversed by the Supreme Court. Thusly, at the present time, the only penalties for the desecration of the flag are those defined and imposed by each state, in each state's flag laws.

Following is the text of Public Law 94~344 (the most recent version of the flag law). It is the text of Public Law 77~623, the first version enacted in 1942, with the amendments passed in 1976 by the 94th Congress of the United States of America. The amendments passed in 1976 are shown in *italics*.

The Primary Points Included In Public Law 94~344

[Note that only certain Sections and Articles are included in his list. The entire transcription of Law 94-344 can be found online at: <http://www.motherbedford.com/FlagEtiquette01.htm> .]

Section 2, Article a. It is the 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.*

Section 2, Article b. The flag should be hoisted briskly and lowered ceremoniously.

Section 2, Article c. The flag should not be displayed on days when the weather is inclement, *except when an all weather flag is displayed.*

Section 2, Article e. The flag should be displayed daily, on or near the main administration building of every public institution.

Section 2, Article g. The flag should be displayed during school days in or near every schoolhouse.

Section 3, Article b. The flag should not be draped over the hood, top, sides, or back of a

vehicle or of a railroad train or a boat. When the flag is displayed on a motorcar, the staff shall be fixed firmly to the chassis or clamped to the *right fender*.

Section 3, Article d. 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.

Section 3, Article e. The flag of the United States of America should be at the center and at the highest point of the group when a number of flags of States or localities or pennants of societies are grouped and displayed from staffs.

Section 3, Article f. 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 latter 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 such flag or pennant may be placed above the flag of the United States or to the United States flag's right.

Section 3, Article h. When the flag of the United States is displayed from a staff projecting horizontally or at an angle from the window sill, balcony, or front of a building, the union of the flag should be placed at the peak of the staff unless the flag is at 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.

Section 3, Article i. 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, the flag should be displayed in the same way, with the union or blue field to the left of the observer in the street.

Section 3, Article j. 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.

Section 3, Article k. *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 or 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.*

Section 4, Article a. *The flag should never be displayed with the union down, except as a signal of dire distress in instances of extreme danger to life or property.*

Section 4, Article b. The flag should never touch anything beneath it, such as the ground, the floor, water, or merchandise.

Section 4, Article c. The flag should never be carried flat or horizontally, but always aloft and free.

Section 4, Article d. *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.*

Section 4, Article f. The flag should never be used as a covering for a ceiling.

Section 4, Article h. The flag should never be used as a receptacle for receiving, holding, carrying, or delivering anything.

Section 4, Article i. *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.*

Section 4, Article j. *No part of the flag should ever be used as a costume or athletic uniform. However, a flag patch may be affixed to the uniform of military personnel, firemen, policemen, 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.*

Section 4, Article k. 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.

Section 5. *During the ceremony of hoisting or lowering the flag or when the flag is passing in a parade or in review, all persons 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. The salute to the flag in a moving column should be rendered at the moment the flag passes.

Section 6. During rendition of the national anthem when the flag is displayed, 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. Persons 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.

Section 7. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, 'I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.', should be rendered by standing at attention facing the flag with the right hand over the heart. 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. Persons in uniform should remain silent, face the flag, and render the military salute.

Section 8. Any rule or custom pertaining to the display of the flag of the United States of America, set forth herein, may be altered, modified, or repealed, or additional rules with respect thereto may be prescribed, by the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the United States, whenever he deems it to be appropriate or desirable; and any such alteration or additional rule shall be set forth in a proclamation.



A PORTION OF A LETTER TO THE HONOURABLE THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY AT PHILADELPHIA:

20 February 1779

"The Memorial of the Inhabitants Living on the Head Waters of the Juniata, part of the Frontiers of Bedford county, State of Pennsylvania, Humbly Sheweth:

"That We, your Honours' Memorialists, taking under considerations the present defenceless situation of these parts, Rendered valuable on many considerations, that in case of a sudden Penetration into this Contery, we ourselves and Families, must fail a Marcyless Pray to the Savages, whose rule of War is to punish with the Greatest Tortures those that is so unhappy as to fall in their Hands. The situation of this contery is very allarming, Rendered so by the Savages and Toryes Last Summer, who prevented the Inhabitants from raising what grain would be necessary to suport themselves and families until next harvest. Numbers is already suffering for want of Bread, standing in Defence of their Contery on this Fronteer, who, without speedy assistance, will be under the necessaty of moaving their familYES to the interior parts of this or some other State, as Grain is not to be had hear. If your Honours mean to assist us, now is the time to send up a store of Flour, as the Juniata in common is not navegable for Boats and cannoes above two Month in the Spring..."