

National Theme: From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans  
Department Theme: United in Service for Veterans



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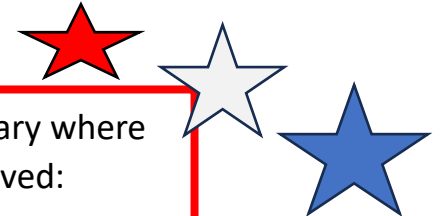
**Happy New Year!** Seasons change; years come and go, but the VFW auxiliary keeps growing stronger through your dedication and motivation to not only live a patriotic life; but to promote patriotism to others. Thank you for being a proud American!

Americanism is starting off '2025' with important events to share with members and a great time for reviewing what the US Flag represents. I suggest you and assistants demonstrate the correct folding and state the meanings of each fold at your next auxiliary meeting. Always great to do a refresher of this important symbol of our country and what is appropriate and inappropriate in regards to this prestigious symbol. Encourage members to notice this beautiful symbol of America and report at your next meeting the number they viewed flying or displayed in January.

*Toni*



**The American flag is a symbol of freedom, justice, and national unity that represents the values and ideals of the United States.**



Special Upcoming Dates in January where the US Flag will be proudly involved:

### Martin Luther King Day



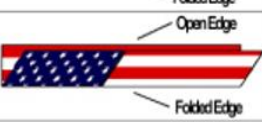
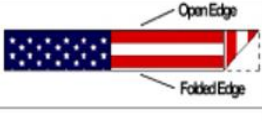


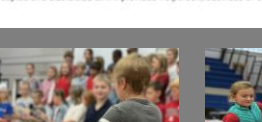
- On January 20, 2025, the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday will mark the 30th anniversary as a National Day of Service.
- Dr. King, Jr. was a leader in the movement to end racial segregation in the United States.
- His most famous address was the "I Have a Dream" speech.
- He was an advocate of non-violent protest and became the youngest man to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.
- He was assassinated in 1968.

### Presidential Inauguration

- The 60th Presidential Inauguration and Swearing-in ceremony is set to take place on Monday, January 20, 2025 in Washington, D.C. The ceremony will be held on the west front of the U.S. Capitol.
- At approximately noon, the president-elect Donald J. Trump will recite the following oath in accordance with Article II, Section I of the U.S. Constitution:
  - "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

## How to Fold the United States Flag

United States flags are manufactured with a proportion of 1.0 (the HOIST, or Width) to 1.9 (the FLY, or Length), therefore the folding instructions are the same regardless of the size of the flag.

Start		↑ HOIST ↓ ← FLY →
Step 1		Fold the lower striped section of the flag over the blue field.
Step 2		Folded edge is then folded over to meet the open edge.
Step 3		A triangular fold is then started by bringing the striped corner of the folded edge to the open edge.
Step 4		Outer point is then turned inward and parallel with the open edge to form a second triangle.
Step 5		Triangular folding is continued until the entire length of the flag is folded in the triangular shape with only the blue field visible.
Completed		The edge of the final triangular fold is tucked tightly inside the remaining open fold.

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The tri-folded flag looks like the hats worn during the Revolutionary War by George Washington.

1. The first fold of our flag is a symbol of life.
2. The second fold signifies our belief in eternal life.
3. The third fold is made in honor and tribute of the veteran departing our ranks, and who gave a portion of his or her life for the defense of our country to attain peace.
4. The fourth fold exemplifies our weaker nature as citizens trusting in God; it is to Him we turn for His divine guidance.
5. The fifth fold is an acknowledgement to our 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."
6. The sixth fold is for where our hearts lie. It is with our heart that we 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.
7. The seventh fold is a tribute to our armed forces, for it is through the armed forces that we protect our country and our flag against all enemies.
8. 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, and to honor our mother, for whom it flies on Mother's Day.
9. The ninth fold is an honor to womanhood, for it has been through their faith, love, loyalty, and devotion that the character of men and women who have made this country great have been molded.
10. The 10th fold is a tribute to father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of our country since he or she was first-born.
11. The 11th fold, in the eyes of Hebrew citizens, represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies, in their eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
12. The 12th fold, in the eyes of a Christian citizen, represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in their eyes, God the Father, the Son, and Holy Ghost.
13. The last fold, when the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost, reminding us of our national motto, "In God We Trust."

## Our United States Flag—What is Appropriate or Inappropriate? Do you know?

1. **Placing a commercial Flag; such as an 'Open' flag sign, on the same pole underneath US Flag**
  - a. Inappropriate: You cannot advertise from the same pole as the American flag.
2. **Placing the POW/MIA flag on the same pole underneath US Flag**
  - a. Appropriate: If displayed on the same flagstaff, place it below the U.S. flag. The POW/MIA flag is a symbol of concern for United States military personnel who are prisoners of war, missing in action, or unaccounted for.
3. **US Flag and other military flags flown at same height.**
  - a. Inappropriate: When displaying the U.S. flag with other flags, the U.S. flag comes first or is centered in the middle of a military flag display. In addition, the U.S. flag must be placed higher than the other flags,
4. **Draping a US Flag over a vehicle as decoration or a covering.**
  - a. Inappropriate: Draping a US flag over a vehicle, whether as decoration or a covering, is considered disrespectful and improper flag etiquette; according to the US Flag Code, the flag should never be draped over the hood, top, sides, or back of a vehicle
5. **Covering the caskets of American heroes; such as Presidents, our Armed Forces, first responders, etc. with a US Flag.**
  - a. Appropriate: It is a customary way to honor their service and sacrifice with a powerful symbol of patriotism and respect.
6. **The US Flag is flying in the darkness of night**
  - a. Inappropriate: The flag should be illuminated so that it's identifiable by a casual onlooker. The flag's dignity is preserved by lighting that prevents it from being enclosed in darkness.
7. **A weatherproof US Flag is flying in a rainstorm.**
  - a. Appropriate: These weatherproof Flags are made from durable, non-absorbent materials like nylon and are designed to withstand rain, snow, wind, and other inclement weather.
8. **The US Flag that is being held in a parade or special ceremony is given a dipped motion towards an individual.**
  - a. Inappropriate: **No dipping for people**--The US flag should never be dipped to any person or thing, regardless of their status.
9. **Placing the US Flag at a 45-degree angle or lower to the ground when carrying on a pole.**
  - a. Inappropriate: placing the US flag at a 45-degree angle or lower to the ground when carried on a pole is considered improper and disrespectful; the flag should always be held upright and never dipped below a 45-degree angle unless absolutely necessary to clear a low obstacle.
10. **Flying a US Flag that is disheveled, torn, or tattered.**
  - a. Inappropriate: Dirty, ripped, wrinkled or frayed flags should not be used. Also, when flags are damaged, they should be destroyed in a honorable manner.
11. **A US Flag lapel pin is worn on the left lapel of a jacket or coat, near the heart.**
  - a. Appropriate: This is because the flag is considered a living thing that represents a living country and should be near the wearer's heart.
12. **Allowing a US Flag to be displayed in a way that touches the ground or floor.**
  - a. Inappropriate: The rule of not letting the flag touch the ground, floor, or water is meant to show respect for the flag and prevent it from being soiled or damaged.
13. **During peacetime the Flags of all Nations, including the US Flag, should be flown at the same level**
  - a. Appropriate: International custom dictates that flags of different nations be displayed at the same height in peacetime and be approximately the same size.