



Manuel Schneidmiller Post 154, Inc.

Rathdrum Idaho

Newsletter

Volume 5 Issue #6

June 2019

Email: rathdrum154@gmail.com

Website: Rathdrumpost154.org

Facebook: Manuel Schneidmiller Post 154

Mailing Address: PO Box 1116, Rathdrum ID

Meeting at: Lions Club 16114 N. Meyer Rd Rathdrum

Editor: Jean Bledsoe



Happy Flag Day

On June 14, 1889, George Balch, a kindergarten teacher in New York City, planned appropriate ceremonies for the children of his school, and his idea of observing Flag Day was later adopted by the State Board of Education of New York. On June 14, 1891, the Betsy Ross House in Philadelphia held a Flag Day celebration, and on June 14 of the following year, the New York Society of the Sons of the Revolution, celebrated Flag Day.

Commander:

Greetings Legion family, I hope all are doing well, seeing the sun rise on another day.

May is our busiest month of the year with our Legion Birthday, Stand Down, Poppy Distribution and Memorial Day. I know everyone has been working very hard to ensure every event that we are involved in is a big success. All these shindigs were a great accomplishment due to the efforts of the whole legion family. Thank you!

First, the two Legion Birthday Centennial Celebrations went exceptionally well due to the Legion Birthday Committee and all their efforts to make our Post members full of pride. You all did an excellent job!

We also participated in the annual Veterans Stand Down. All the volunteers that went to the Stand Down meetings and attended the event all get an "Atta Boy" for getting the word out about our Post and supporting our local veterans in need.

We had a grand Memorial Day turnout and the weather cooperated, something that does not always happen in North Idaho. Way to go!

In addition, I wanted to talk about our Poppy Distribution Program. Together, we ensured that our community knew what Memorial Day was all about. I have enclosed an article titled "Only 55% of Americans Know Why the Nation Marks Memorial Day." This is the reason that we give our time to our fallen brothers and sisters. We know about the costs of serving in the military and the sacrifice our families make. We need to make sure all Americans know about Memorial Day. Remember while May was poppy month, you can wear and display your poppy all year long. Again, I want to say "Bravo Zulu" to Mike Warren, his committee and all of the folks that volunteered to man the tables. Fantastic effort done by all!

As we get closer to summer remember American Legion Baseball will be starting soon and it is now parade season. That means our Honor Guard will be doing double duty. Not only funerals but local parades too. I sometimes think that I don't say thank you to them enough. They do an outstanding job all the yearlong. It's hard to find the words to express my gratitude so I guess I will just say *mahalo, gracias, danke, grazie, domo arigatō, spasiba, merci, salamat!* For God and Country, Dee Sasse, Commander

Only 55% of Americans Know Why the Nation Marks Memorial Day

21 May 2019

Military.com | By [Richard Sisk](#)

"Only 55% of Americans know what [Memorial Day](#) is about, and only about one in five plan to fly a flag at half-staff or attend a patriotic event on May 27, according to a Harris poll survey commissioned by the University of Phoenix.

The survey, conducted April 9-11 among 2,025 adults, showed that only 28% had attended a local ceremony or patriotic event on a previous Memorial Day. It also found that only 23% had flown a flag at half-staff, while 22% had left a flag or flowers at a gravesite or visited a military monument.

[Honor the fallen. More than 645,000 servicemembers have lost their lives since WWI defending our freedom. Offer a Memorial Day dedication to them at PoppyInMemory.com.](#)

Only 55% could correctly describe Memorial Day as a day to honor the fallen from all the nation's wars, the Harris survey states, and 45% said they either always or often attended a commemoration activity.

About 27% of those surveyed thought Memorial Day honored all military veterans, 5% thought it honored those currently serving, and 3% thought the day marked the official beginning of summer, the survey states.

Of those who said they had participated in some form of commemoration activity on Memorial Day, 52% said they had thanked a veteran, 14% said they had worn a Memorial Day button, and 14% said they had joined in a National Moment of Remembrance, according to the survey.

Older adults are more likely to observe Memorial Day and describe it correctly, the survey found. About 53% of those aged 55-64 commemorated Memorial Day, compared with 40% of those aged 18-34, according to the survey's findings.

Former Army Sgt. Brian Ishmael, director of Military and Veterans Affairs at the University of Phoenix, said in a phone interview that it is "a little bit disappointing" to know that so many Americans are unaware of the true meaning of Memorial Day.

Ishmael, who served two tours in Iraq with the 101st Airborne Division, said that "being a combat veteran myself, that has to be a bit disappointing."

At the University of Phoenix, "we put a lot of emphasis" on explaining the real meaning of Memorial Day, he said. For this Memorial Day, the mostly online university will continue a 10-year tradition of planting flags on the Phoenix campus.

This year, the university plans to plant 15,000 flags with the theme "Their Legacy Lives On," Ishmael said..."

Go here for complete article: <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2019/05/21/only-55-americans-know-why-nation-marks-memorial-day-survey-finds.html#.XOQeVjVfoc.gmail>



1st Vice-Commander:

Introduction To **myLegion**

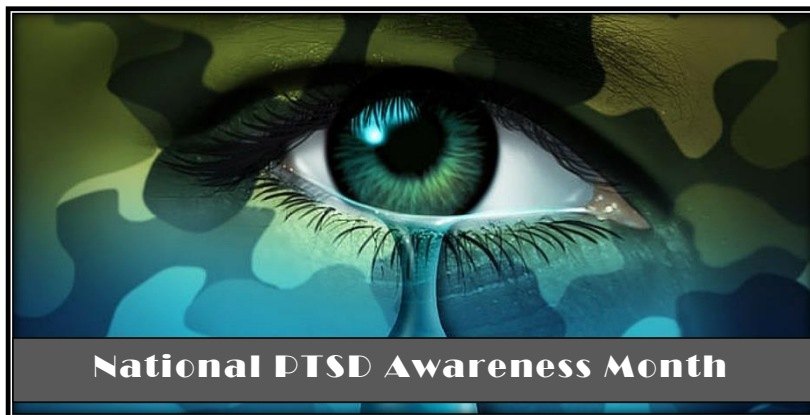
myLegion.org is a FREE website designed to connect members of the American Legion to their Post and Department leadership, **myLegion** includes a site at each level of the organization.

I am asking that each member of Post 154, who has E-mail, to go into www.legion.org and click on **MYLEGION.ORG**. Under "Pick your **myLegion**" site click Members and follow the instructions for signing on.

Members - allows you to view information on file at National Headquarters, view messages and events published through the department and post **myLegion** sites, and network with other **myLegion** members using networking tools.

Presently we have only 23 of our 118 active members signed up for My Legion. Please look at this so as to stay informed about the American Legion and our Post. Thank You. - Bill Kinder, 1st Vice-Commander

NATIONAL PTSD AWARENESS MONTH



National PTSD Awareness Month is observed annually in June. The month is dedicated to raising awareness about the condition and how to access treatment. June 27th is also **National PTSD Awareness Day**.

According to the **National Center for PTSD**, between 7 and 8 percent of the population will experience Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) during their lifetime.

Men, women, and children can experience PTSD as a result of trauma in their lives. Events due to combat, accidents, disasters, and abuse are just a few of the causes of PTSD. No matter the reason, PTSD is treatable, but not everyone seeks treatment. There are resources available to help diagnosis PTSD and get help. There is no shame in seeking assistance.

HOW TO OBSERVE

If you or someone you know might be experiencing PTSD, visit these resources below, or seek professional care from a therapist who has experience treating PTSD.

- [Veterans Crisis Info – National Center for PTSD](#)
- [Find Therapist – National Center for PTSD](#)
- [Help for Veterans – National Center for PTSD](#)
- [National Alliance on Mental Illness](#)

Use #PTSDAwarenessMonth to share support, resources, and follow on social media.

HISTORY

National PTSD Awareness Month is a campaign supported by the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs.

Finance Officer:

The Post ended the month of April with a positive net income with the proceeds of the very successful Gun Raffle. Additionally, we were able to transfer some additional money from our non-interest bearing checking account to our money market account, which does pay interest.

Our net assets also increased slightly this month, which is a positive. As I write this near the end of May, our Memorial Day Poppy Distribution Program has been very successful, despite being rained out completely one weekend, and the cooler and windy weather we have experienced in mid-May. Our net Poppy proceeds, after only two weekends of distribution are \$3,500 and we have one weekend to go before Memorial Day.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help with this important fundraiser. You are all AMAZING AMBASSADORS for the American Legion and our Post. I know the Community appreciates our efforts to remind folks about the true meaning of Memorial Day, and we have made some great contacts with donors and potential new members.

Thank you to Mike Warren for setting up all our stores and making sure that they were all manned. That takes a considerable amount of time and effort before May and takes up all the Fridays and weekends during the month to set up, take down, coordinate with our members to ensure they have everything that they need for their Poppy distributions shift. Thank each of you who worked the stores. Thanks also to my wife Mary, who helped me unroll all those crumpled one-dollar bills and count the money.

- Len Crosby, Finance Officer

Legislative Chairman:

1. The House Committee on Veterans' Affairs unanimously passed H.R. 299, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019. The VFW-supported bill, which must still be approved by the full House and Senate before going to the president, would restore VA benefits to thousands of Vietnam veterans, expand inclusive dates to those who served along the Korean DMZ, and benefit children born with spina bifida due to a parent's exposure to Agent Orange in Thailand. Veteran Service Organizations are urging every veteran, family member and advocate to contact their respective members of Congress to get this bill passed and signed into law now.

2. On Wednesday, May 8, the House Committee on Appropriations conducted a markup of the fiscal year 2020 VA, military construction, and related agencies bill, which includes a 9 percent increase in resources for VA to increase access to care for veterans, improve oversight, and complete more construction projects. It also includes \$2 billion for urgently needed repairs to military installations that were impacted by recent natural disasters. An amendment by Congressman Jeff Fortenberry (R-Neb.) was adopted to add \$300 million in emergency funding to repair natural disaster damage at Offutt Air Force Base. The bill provides more resources than was requested in the president's budget but is still less than the amount recommended by the Independent budget Committee. The Senate, House, and White House are engaged in discussions on how to address the Budget Control Act (BCA) spending caps, which are set to revert back to sequestration-level limits that were established nearly a decade ago. Service members, veterans, and their families will suffer if BCA caps are not adjusted.

3. This month, Congresswoman Elaine Luria (D-Va.) and Senator Bill Cassidy (R-La.) introduced bills to address the tax burden on the children of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. While these bills would provide retroactive relief to military survivors with tens of thousands of tax debt, it would not solve the underlying issue. Known as the "Widow's Tax," military spouses who are eligible for VA benefits because of the death of their loved ones are required to forfeit their DOD Survivor Benefits Plan. More than 65,000 surviving military spouses and dependents are unjustly penalized because their loved ones made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

4. This month, Senators John Boozman (R-Ark.) and Jon Tester (D-Mont.) introduced an American Legion-supported bill to expand benefits for all veterans who were stationed in military bases in Thailand during the Vietnam War. Currently, presumptive disability compensation benefits for Agent Orange-related health conditions are only afforded to veterans who served in Thailand who had certain military occupations or were required to work along the perimeter of the bases.

5. The House of Representatives again unanimously passed a bill Tuesday that would extend Department of Veterans Affairs benefits to sailors assigned to U.S. Navy ships during the Vietnam War who have illnesses related to Agent Orange exposure. But while eight major veterans' organizations support the legislation, a few smaller groups that have fought for decades for these "Blue Water Navy" veterans to receive health care and disability compensation aren't excited about its scope.

The House voted 410-0 to advance the bill, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act, or H.R. 299. Last June, the vote was 382-0 to include sailors with diseases considered to be related to exposure to the herbicide among those Vietnam veterans already receiving disability compensation and health coverage. The measure died in the Senate in December, however, over questions about whether these veterans actually were exposed and about the cost of covering them. – Len Crosby, Legislative Chairman



FLAG RETIREMENT ON FLAG DAY JUNE 14, 2019

Flag Day is fast approaching. Do you have any flags that need to be retired? Our retirement ceremony is planned for Flag Day, Friday, June 14th, at 10:00 am in the parking lot at the Rathdrum Lions Club (corner of Meyer Rd and Hwy 53). Please bring any flags for proper disposal to the next meeting prior to June 14th or drop in the flag box in front of City Hall, on Main Street.

Don't forget, if you need replacement flags, we do sell them at the legion. For more information email Bill Kinder wakinder@roadrunner.com. - Bill Kinder: 1st Vice- Commander



Chaplain's Pew:

FLAG DAY JUNE 14th


O God, we thank You for the flag of our country, and for all that our flag represents. We thank You for giving the victory to brave and valiant men and women who gave their last measure of strength that it might wave over the land of the free and the home of the brave. We thank You for giving us the ideals of faith and liberty, for preserving the sanctity of our homes, and for freedom of worship. Conscious of our limitations and our deep unworthiness, we pray that our flag may bind together the many elements in our own dear country, and foster in our ranks a one hundred percent Americanism. Make us who have served our country in time of war willing at all times to uphold and defend our Constitution and our government. Grant that our 50 sovereign states remain forever an indissoluble Union flying the same flag. Amen

Submitted by Helen Kinder, Chaplain



Service Officer:

Happy summer day to you, my fellow veterans. April showers brought May flowers? Maybe not so much. I would say April showers brought more April showers. And May showers. What will June bring? According to my "alphabet", we are up to "U". And if you ask my granddaughter, U is definitely for

unicorn.  In the world of filing for VA benefits, you might feel it's like looking for a unicorn with a needle in a haystack. Or Colonel Mustard with a candlestick in the library. So. Do you feel like a Unicorn? Do you feel that you are Underrated? If so, help is available:

Darryl Heisey

NORTH IDAHO STATE SERVICE OFFICER

Post Falls Office of Veterans Advocacy

120 East Railroad Avenue

Post Falls, Kootenai, ID 83854

Email: darryl.heisey@veterans.idaho.gov

Ph: (208) 446-1092

Increased Claim - File a claim for more compensation for a disability that we've already determined to be service connected and that's gotten worse.

- You can file a claim for increased disability compensation if you have a rated service-connected disability that's gotten worse. You'll need to submit up-to-date medical evidence that shows your disability has gotten worse.

You can file an increased claim to request:

- An increase in your disability rating
- More financial support

What evidence will I need to provide to support my claim?

You can help to support your claim by providing documents, such as:

- VA medical records and hospital records that relate to your claimed illnesses or injuries or that show your rated disability has gotten worse
- Private medical records and hospital reports that relate to your claimed illnesses or injuries or that show your disability has gotten worse
- Supporting statements you'd like to provide from family members, friends, clergy members, law enforcement personnel, or those you served with that can tell us more about your claimed condition and how and when it happened or how it got worse

Depending on the type of claim you file, you may gather supporting documents yourself, or you can ask for our help to gather evidence. - Ruth Aresvik, Service Officer

The Red Poppy: Since World War I, the red poppy has become an enduring symbol of remembrance for the men and women who gave their lives in defense of our Country and our Freedom. By wearing a red poppy, you are honoring someone's sacrifice. You are remembering someone's parent, honoring someone's husband or wife and paying tribute to someone's child. Submitted by Len Crosby

Editor's Note: The red poppy is not just for Memorial Day but can be worn throughout the year as a sign of remembrance.

Flag Etiquette

How much do you think you know about the etiquette regarding the flag of the United States of America? Test yourself with the following quiz. The answers are at the end of the newsletter.

1. Can a flag that has covered a casket be displayed after its original use?
2. Can the U.S. flag be displayed in inclement weather?
3. What is the significance of displaying the flag at half-staff?
4. When the flag is not flown from a staff, how should it be displayed?
5. How are unserviceable flags destroyed?
6. Can the flag be washed or dry-cleaned?
7. Are you required to destroy the flag if it touches the ground?
8. What is the proper method for folding the flag?
9. May a person, other than a veteran, have his or her casket draped with the flag of the United States?
10. What is the significance of the gold fringe seen on some U.S. flags?
11. What is meant by the flag's own right?
12. Is it proper to fly the U.S. flag at night?
13. What should be the position of the flag when displayed from a staff in a church, public auditorium or other public meeting place, whether indoors or outdoors, on platform, or on the floor at ground level?
14. What are the penalties for the physical desecration of the flag?



Mark Your Calendar:

- June 6th - D Day (1944)
- June 13th - **Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting at Lions Club 6 pm**
- June 14th - Flag Day – Flag retirement ceremony at Lions Club 10 am
- June 14th - US Army Birthday (1775)
- June 16th - Father's Day
- June 18th – National Go Fishing Day!
- June 21st – Summer begins – Longest day of the year
- June 25th - Korean War begins (1950)
- June 27th - **Post 154 Potluck & Membership Meeting at Lions Club 5:30 pm**
- June 27th – National PTSD Awareness Day
- July 11-14 Convention for Department of Idaho in Worley

Bits & Pieces

The Driver's License Office is the mandated vendor for the Idaho Department of Transportation for processing all classes of Drivers Licenses and Identification Cards.

⇒ Effective October 1, 2020, you will be required to have a Star Card, U.S. Passport, or military ID when boarding a commercial flight.

QLESS is here! You can now schedule an appointment or "get in line" from your mobile device or your PC. To access QLESS click the link below for the location you would like to visit.

For more information on the Idaho Star Card click this link: [Idaho Star Card Information](#)

Instructions & Fees

If you are applying for a driver's license, identification (ID) card, instruction permit or drivers training permit, please follow these links for instructions and fees:

[Documents Required for New Applicants](#) [Driver's License or Identification Renewal](#)

⇒ Coeur d'Alene location: <https://kiosk.us1.qless.com/kiosk/app/home/6000000015>

⇒ Post Falls location: <https://kiosk.us1.qless.com/kiosk/app/home/6000000039>

Submitted by Ruth Aresvik



A Healthier You: from The People's Pharmacy



Special Health Alert

Sunscreen Gets Under Your Skin | Is It Safe?

A new study shows that a common sunscreen ingredient, oxybenzone, is readily absorbed through the skin into the body. Should you worry?

[**Read Article** →](#)

AMERICAN LEGION BEGINNINGS

It is good to look back at our roots of the American Legion and appreciate where we started. Below are but a few of the interesting beginnings of this national organization and some of the many 'firsts' for the newly formed American Legion in 1919.

The site of Ferdinand Branstetter Post No. 1 of The American Legion is a vacant lot in Van Tassell, Wyoming, where the first American Legion post in the United States was established in 1919. The post was named after Ferdinand Branstetter, a Van Tassell resident who died in World War I. This Post did not have a charter issued to it. The structure housing the post has since been demolished. The site was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1969. In 1969, it was hoped that an interpretative sign would be put up, and also possibly that a restored post building would be constructed.^[25]

The first post of The American Legion, General John Joseph Pershing Post Number 1 in Washington, D.C., was organized on March 7, 1919, and obtained the first charter issued to any post of the Legion on May 19, 1919. The St. Louis caucus that same year decided that Legion posts should not be named after living persons, and the first post changed its name to George Washington Post 1. The post completed the constitution and made plans for a permanent organization. It set up temporary headquarters in New York City and began its relief, employment, and [Americanism](#) programs.

On May 20, 1919, Colonel [Ernest Lester Jones](#) received a petition from twenty (20) of the enlisted women of the United States Naval Reserve Force, for a charter to organize a Post to be known as the "Betsy Ross Post No. 1", composed entirely of Yeomen (F) of the U.S. Navy. In October of that same year, the post changed its name to U.S.S. Jacob Jones, which commemorated the Navy heritage of the members.^[26]

American Legion China Post One, formed in 1919 one year after the "great war" and chartered by The American Legion on April 20, 1920, was originally named the General [Frederick Townsend Ward](#) Post No. 1, China.^[27] It is the only Post nominally headquartered in a Communist country, and has been operating in exile since 1948 – presently in [Fate, Texas](#).^[28]

Historical information submitted by Paula Atwood, Post 154

Veterans' Help Net is the website for the group that is seeking to inform veterans and their families about benefits and how to get them. They assemble the material for **The Veterans' Chronicle**, which is published in the Spokesman-Review on the 3rd Friday of each month. Here is the link: <http://veteranshelpnet.com/>

I had some requests for the peach cobbler I made for the last potluck. But hey, June 9th is National Strawberry Rhubarb Pie Day! I couldn't pass up the opportunity (the peach cobbler will be in next month).



Strawberry Rhubarb Pie

Prep: 30 mins.

Cook: 50-60 mins.

Servings: 8

Ingredients:

Pie Crust – Homemade or bought.

3-4 cups rhubarb, chopped

3 cups strawberries, sliced

1 1/3 cups granulated sugar

1/4 cup cornstarch

1 Egg White

Course sugar crystals

Instructions:

Fit pie crust dough into 9" pie pan.

Using a large mixing bowl, add chopped rhubarb, sliced strawberries, sugar, and cornstarch. Mix well.

Spoon mixture into pie crust. Place top crust over mixture and pinch outer edges to seal. Cut vent slices into top crust, brush egg white over top, and sprinkle with sugar crystals if you wish, and place in oven. Bake in 400-degree pre-heated oven 50 – 60 minutes, or until crust is golden brown and filling is bubbling at the vents.

Remove from oven and cool 15 to 20 minutes. Serve each slice with a scoop of vanilla ice cream, or whipped topping. Enjoy!

Rich Hannah brought some incredible BBQ ribs to the potluck last month. He's famous for them! Well, not surprisingly, there were many requests for the recipe. Rich was generous enough to share it. Here it is:

Rich Hannah's BBQ Ribs

Ingredients:

1 rack of pork baby back ribs.
Aluminum foil
Salt
Weber dry rub, "Smoky Brown Sugar"
Regular size bottle of Sweet Baby Rays BBQ original sauce.
Regular size bottle of Bullseye BBQ sauce

Directions:

Preheat oven to 275 degrees. Unwrap your ribs and rinse; pat dry.
Season both sides with Weber dry rub and salt.
Wrap up in aluminum foil and place on a cookie sheet. Slow cook (225-300 degrees) in oven for 2.5 hours.
Remove from oven and unwrap foil. Let rest for about 15 minutes. Cut into serving sizes.
Meanwhile:
Mix 1 Cup Sweet Baby Ray's BBQ sauce to 1/4 cup of Bullseye BBQ Sauce for coating. Turn grill on to Med Heat.
Place serving sizes on the grill and cook closed cover for 4 minutes. Turn over and cook closed cover for 4 minutes. (Watch flame charring if grill is too high, turn down if flames are charring).
Turn ribs over and coat with BBQ sauce. Turn over immediately and coat other side with more BBQ sauce.
Repeat last two steps for 2 coats of BBQ Sauce. Remove from grill and enjoy!



Last Monday Legion Post 154, Northwest Guardian Riders, and the City of Rathdrum hosted a Memorial



Day Remembrance at the Pine Grove Cemetery in Rathdrum. It was attended by several hundred people, and the weather was perfect. Our Commander Dee Sasse was the keynote speaker, and Rathdrum Mayor Vic Holmes gave a

welcome address. The NW Guardian Riders placed a wreath decorated with red, white, and blue carnations. Visitors had been invited to add the carnations to the wreath in memory of their veterans. The bell was then tolled for the two Rathdrum veterans, Robert Bassett, USAF, Vietnam, and Kenneth Dorris, US Army, who have passed since last Memorial Day. The entire ceremony was beautifully impressive, with the Rathdrum police Color Guard presenting the colors, and our Post 154 Honor Guard providing the rifle



salute, Post officers Bill and Helen Kinder participating, and patriotic music provided by a very talented local family, the Sescilla's; father, mother, son, and daughter. Here are a few pictures.

Home Town Hero's Appreciation Day

Nitro Spring Nationals

presented by

**SPOKANE COUNTY
RACEWAY**

Invitational

All First Responders
Active Duty & Veterans

FREE ENTRY WITH VALID ID



June 22 2019

**Food and Clothing
Drive for Veterans**

Please Bring a donation to help our Veterans

Vendors

Live Music

9am till closing



5K Fun Run

to Benefit
Homeless
Veterans

\$25 entry fee

Includes
Tee Shirt, Bottle of water, FREE
entry to the race event on day of
Fun Run **Starts at 8 am**

Static Displays

9am till closing



**Police, Fire,
Medical, Military,
Veteran Mobile Center
and Many More!!**

JUNE 21-23 NITRO SPRING NATIONALS

Supercharged showdown / Honoring our home town Heroes / Nitro Funny Cars / Alcohol Funny Cars & Dragsters

LUCAS OIL PRODUCTS SUMMIT #5 & #6 Land Of The Leaders Double Points

Thursday Parking 6:00pm - 9:00pm

Friday Gate 8:00am Qualifying For All Classes Including Summit 4:00pm

Saturday Gate 8:00am Qualifying 2:00pm Eliminations 6:00pm

Sunday Gate 8:00am Qualifying 10:00am



Northwest Nostalgia Tour



Come Spend the day with First Responders and Veterans

American Flag Display Answers. How did you do?

1. There are no provisions in the Flag Code to suggest otherwise. It would be a fitting tribute to the memory of the deceased veteran and his or her service to a grateful nation if the casket flag is displayed.
2. The flag should not be displayed on days when the weather is inclement, with the exception of an all-weather (nylon or other non-absorbent material) flag. However, today most flags are made of all-weather materials.
3. This gesture is a sign to indicate the nation mourns the death of an individual(s), such as death of the president or former president, vice president, Supreme Court justice, member of Congress, secretary of an executive or military department, etc. Only the president or a state governor may order the flag to be displayed at half-staff. The honor and reverence accorded this solemn act is quickly becoming eroded by those individuals and agencies that display the flag at half-staff on inappropriate occasions without proper authority to do so.
4. It should be displayed vertically, whether indoors or out, and suspended so that its folds fall free as though the flag were staffed. The stripes may be displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall, and the union should be uppermost and to the flag's own right (that is, to the observer's left). When displayed in a window of a home or a place of business, the flag should be displayed in the same way (that is, with the union or blue field to the left of the observer in the street).
5. The Flag Code suggests that when a flag has served its useful purpose, "it should be destroyed, preferably by burning." For individual citizens, this should be done discreetly so the act of destruction is not perceived as a protest or desecration. Many American Legion posts conduct disposal of unserviceable flag ceremonies on June 14, Flag Day. Such ceremonies are particularly dignified and solemn occasions for the retirement of unserviceable flags.
6. Yes. No provisions of the Flag Code prohibit such care. The decision to wash or dry-clean would depend on the material.
7. The Flag Code states that the flag should not touch anything beneath it, including the ground. This is stated to indicate that care should be exercised in the handling of the flag, to protect it from becoming soiled or damaged. You are not required to destroy the flag when this happens. As long as the flag remains suitable for display, even if washing or dry-cleaning is required, you may continue to display the flag as a symbol of our great country.
8. The Flag Code does not require any specific method. However, a tradition of folding has developed over time that produces a triangular-shaped form, like that of a three-corner hat with only the blue union showing.
9. Yes. Although this honor is usually reserved for veterans or highly regarded state and national figures, the Flag Code does not prohibit this use.
10. Records indicate that fringe was first used on the flag as early as 1835. It was not until 1895 it was officially added to the national flag for all Army regiments. For civilian use, fringe is not required as an integral part of the flag, nor can its use be said to constitute an unauthorized addition to the design prescribed by statute. Fringe is used as an honorable enrichment only.
11. The "right" as the position of honor developed from the time when the right hand was the "weapon hand" or "point of danger." The right hand, raised without a weapon, was a sign of peace. The right hand, to any observer, is the observer's left. Therefore, as used in the Flag Code, the flag and/or blue field is displayed to the observer's left, which is the flag's "own right."
12. The Flag Code states it is the universal custom to display the flag only from sunrise to sunset on buildings and on stationary flag staffs in the open. However, when a patriotic effect is desired, the flag may be displayed 24 hours a day if properly illuminated during the hours of darkness. The American Legion interprets "proper illumination" as a light specifically placed to illuminate the flag (preferred) or having a light source sufficient to illuminate the flag so it is recognizable as such by the casual observer.
13. 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, public auditorium or meeting place, the flag 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. Prior to the Flag Code changes in 1976, the display procedure was somewhat different. Now, the staffed flag should always be placed to the right of the speaker (observer's left) without regard to a platform or floor level.
14. There are currently no penalties for the physical desecration of the flag. The American Legion and other members of the Citizens Flag Alliance continue working toward securing a constitutional amendment to protect the flag from physical desecration.