

Respecting the Flag

This text has been provided courtesy of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Public Affairs.

"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."

Important Things to Remember

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag should be rendered by standing at attention facing the flag with the right hand over the heart. If not in uniform, a person should remove his or her hat with the right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, with the hand over the heart. Persons in uniform should remain silent, face the flag, and render the military salute.

Display the U.S. flag every day, but especially on national and state holidays. On Memorial Day, the flag should be flown at half-staff in the forenoon (sunrise until noon), then raised to its normal position at the top of the staff. When raising the flag to half-staff, first raise it to the top of the staff, then lower it half-way. When lowering a flag that has been flying at half-staff, first raise it to the top of the staff, then lower it all the way. The U.S. flag should be displayed on or near the main building of every public institution, in or near every school on school days, and in or near every polling place on election days. Always hoist the U.S. flag briskly. Lower it slowly and ceremoniously.

Things Not to Do

Never show disrespect to the U.S. flag. Never dip (lower quickly and then raise) the U.S. flag to any person or thing. Regimental colors, state flags and organization or institutional flags are dipped as a mark of honor. Never display the U.S. flag with the field of stars at the bottom, except as a distress signal. Never let the U.S. flag touch anything beneath it — ground, floor, water or merchandise. Never carry the U.S. flag horizontally, but always aloft and free.

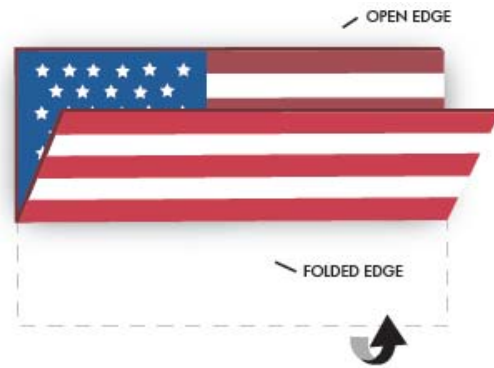
Always allow the U.S. flag to fall free — never use the U.S. flag as drapery, festooned, drawn back or up in folds. For draping platforms and decoration in general, use blue, white and red bunting. Always arrange the bunting with blue above, the white in the middle and the red below. Never fasten, display, use or store the U.S. flag in a manner that will permit it to be easily torn, soiled or damaged in any way. Never use the U.S. flag as a covering or drape for a ceiling. Never place anything on the U.S. flag and never have placed upon it, or on any part of it, or attached to it, any mark, insignia, letter, word, figure, design, picture or drawing of any nature.

The U.S. flag should not be embroidered on such articles as cushions, handkerchiefs, and the like; printed or otherwise impressed on paper napkins or boxes or anything that is designed for temporary use and discarded; or used as any portion of a costume or athletic uniform. However, a flag patch may be affixed to the uniform of military personnel, fire fighters, police officers and members of patriotic organizations. Advertising signs should not be fastened to a staff from which the flag is flown.

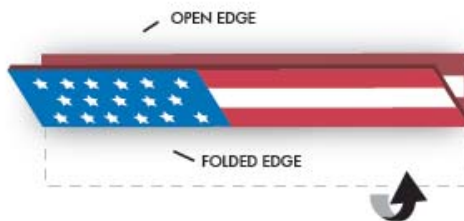


Many Marines gave their lives to raise the American flag on Mt. Suribachi on the island of Iwo Jima in 1945. Based on a photograph by Joseph Rosenthal, the Marine Corps War Memorial depicts this sacrifice. Located near Arlington National Cemetery, it is a tribute to all the Marines who have fallen in combat.

Folding the Flag



(a) Fold the lower striped section of the flag over the blue field.



(b) Folded edge is then folded over to meet the open edge.



(c) A triangular fold is then started by bringing the striped corner of the folded edge to the open edge.



(d) Outer point is then turned inward parallel with the open edge to form a second triangle.



(e) Triangular folding is continued until the entire length of the flag is folded in the triangular shape with only the blue field visible.



When the U.S. flag is no longer in suitable condition for display, it should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning. Many Veterans groups perform this service with dignified, respectful flag retirement ceremonies.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. According to the article, what should be displayed on or near the main building of every public institution?

- A** blue, white, and red bunting
- B** regimental colors
- C** an institutional flag
- D** the U.S. flag

2. What does the author enumerate and describe in “Respecting the Flag”?

- A** things to do and not do to the U.S. flag
- B** occupations of people who work in public institutions
- C** the uniforms worn by officers of the U.S. military
- D** the wars in which American veterans have fought

3. Read these sentences from the text:

“Never show disrespect to the U.S. flag. Never dip (lower quickly and then raise) the U.S. flag to any person or thing. Regimental colors, state flags and organization or institutional flags are dipped as a mark of honor. Never display the U.S. flag with the field of stars at the bottom, except as a distress signal. Never let the U.S. flag touch anything beneath it — ground, floor, water or merchandise.”

Based on this information, what can you conclude about letting the U.S. flag touch the ground?

- A** Letting the flag touch the ground shows respect to the flag.
- B** Letting the flag touch the ground shows disrespect to the flag.
- C** Letting the flag touch the ground shows neither respect nor disrespect to the flag.
- D** Letting the flag touch the ground shows more respect to the flag than letting it touch water.

4. Review the “Folding the Flag” section of the article. What can you infer about the folding method described there?

- A** The folding method described there shows respect to the flag.
- B** The folding method described there shows disrespect to the flag.
- C** The folding method described there shows neither respect nor disrespect to the flag.
- D** The folding method described there shows less respect to the flag than drawing the flag up in folds.

5. What is the main idea of this text?

- A The U.S. flag should be displayed in or near every polling place on election days.
- B The U.S. flag should never have a picture or drawing attached to it.
- C The U.S. flag should always be treated in a manner that shows respect.
- D Many Marines gave their lives to raise the American flag on Iwo Jima in 1945.

6. Read these sentences from the text:

"When the U.S. flag is no longer in suitable condition for display, it should be destroyed in a **dignified** way, preferably by burning. Many Veterans groups perform this service with **dignified**, respectful flag retirement ceremonies."

Based on these sentences, what does the word "**dignified**" probably mean?

- A wild, noisy, and causing a disturbance
- B silly, fun, and likely to make people laugh
- C violent, scary, and likely to cause harm
- D calm, serious, and deserving respect

7. Read this sentence from the text:

"The U.S. flag should not be embroidered on such articles as cushions, handkerchiefs, and the like; printed or otherwise impressed on paper napkins or boxes or anything that is designed for temporary use and discarded; or used as any portion of a costume or athletic uniform."

How could this sentence best be broken in two?

- A The U.S. flag should not be embroidered. It should not be on such articles as cushions, handkerchiefs, and the like; printed or otherwise impressed on paper napkins or boxes or anything that is designed for temporary use and discarded; or used as any portion of a costume or athletic uniform.
- B The U.S. flag should not be embroidered on such articles as cushions, handkerchiefs, and the like. It should not be printed or otherwise impressed on paper napkins or boxes or anything that is designed for temporary use and discarded, or used as any portion of a costume or athletic uniform.
- C The U.S. flag should not be embroidered on such articles as cushions, handkerchiefs, and the like; printed. It should not be otherwise impressed on paper napkins or boxes or anything that is designed for temporary use and discarded; or used as any portion of a costume or athletic uniform.
- D The U.S. flag should not be embroidered on such articles as cushions, handkerchiefs, and the like; printed or otherwise impressed on paper napkins or boxes or anything that is designed for temporary use and discarded; or used as any portion of a costume. It should not be used as any portion of an athletic uniform.

8. What did many Marines give their lives to raise on Mt. Suribachi in 1945?

9. Explain whether the Marines on Mt. Suribachi in 1945 showed respect to the American flag. Support your answer with evidence from the text.

10. Explain why respecting the American flag is important. Support your answer with evidence from the text.
