

The United States Federal Flag Code

Original Code: June 1942 – Franklin D. Roosevelt

Updated Code: April 2008 - U.S. Senate

Important Note: The Federal Flag Code is only a guideline and not a law.

Highlights of the Flag Code:

1. **Pledge of Allegiance to The Flag:** Recited facing the flag, hand over heart
2. **Displaying the Flag:** It is a universal custom, when a patriotic effect is desired, the flag may be displayed 24 hours a day. If it is hoisted, do so briskly and lower flag ceremoniously. The flag should be displayed daily in every public institution, and during school days near every schoolhouse.
 - a. ***It is acceptable to display the flag in a window with the union/blue stars area in the upper left corner.*** I do make flags displayed in a wooden window, representing people who were actively deployed to defend our country during WWII.
3. **Position and Manner of Display:** The flag should not be displayed on a float in a parade, draped over a hood of a vehicle, railroad or boat. The flag should always be placed above or the same level of other flags. When the flag is displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall, the union/stars area should be uppermost and to the flag's own right, that is, to the observer's left. When the flag is used to cover a casket, it should be so placed that the union/stars is at the head and over the left shoulder.
4. **Respect for the Flag:** The flag should never be displayed with the union/stars facing down. The flag should never touch anything beneath it. The flag should never be used as wearing apparel, bedding, or drapery. The flag should never be used as a covering for a ceiling or ever used as a costume or athletic uniform.
 - a. ***The flag should never have placed upon it, nor on any part of it, nor attached to it any mark, insignia, letter, word, figure, design, picture, or drawing of any nature.*** (This is why you will never see my signature on the front of the flag).
 - b. ***When the condition of the flag (union/stars area) is completely damaged or can no longer be viewed as an emblem of the United States, it should be destroyed (preferably by burning).*** All of my flag creations have the union/stars area and can be viewed as an emblem of the United States.
 - c. ***There is no guideline or code that prohibits a flag from being stretched, painted, hardened, formed or mounted on wood, canvas, or other materials.*** Most of my flags have been preserved with hardeners and museum quality pigments/paints and preservatives.

5. **Conduct during Hoisting, Lowering or Passing of the Flag:** Persons in uniform should render the military salute and all others are to remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder with their hand over their heart.
6. **Modifications to Rules and Customs of the US Flag Code:** Any rule, guideline 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/she deems it to be appropriate or desirable; and any such alteration or additional rule shall be set forth in a proclamation.
7. **Flag Burning:** The Supreme Court has upheld a law that allows people to burn the United States Flag in public area as a protection of their First Amendment Rights.
8. **Destruction of Worn Flags:** The Flag Code guidelines state that when the flag is in such a condition that the union/stars area can no longer be viewed as an emblem for display, the flag should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning. **All of my flags will display the union/stars area as an emblem of the United States.** The code does not address the strips of the flag because the emblem of the United States is the union/stars area. This is why so many flags in museums have extremely worn or completely damaged stripes, but the union/stars area is fully visible. **Some of my flag creations have been rescued and preserved while others have been retired due to the union/stars area being completely destroyed.**
9. **Flag Colors:** No federal law, resolution or executive order exists providing an official reason for the flag's colors — or their meaning. The closest thing to an explanation are the words of Charles Thomson, the secretary of the Continental Congress, who was instrumental in the design of the Great Seal of the United States. Thomson's report to Congress on June 20, 1782, the day the seal was approved, contained a description of the colors, the same as those in the flag: "White signifies purity and innocence. Red hardiness and valour and Blue signifies vigilance, perseverance and justice." Historians believe that the use of red, white and blue in the Stars and Stripes has to do with the simple fact that they were the colors of the first flag of the American colonies, the Continental Colors. And there is little doubt where the red, white and blue of the Continental Colors came from: the Union Jack of the United Kingdom.

