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# Celebrate Flag Day, retire your Old Glory

By Elizabeth Milo

Flag Day is perhaps not the most famous of our national holidays, but is one that serves as an important reminder to us to retire faded flags.

Flag Day falls on June 14 every year, and marks the anniversary of the induction of the flag of the United States. Not much happens on Flag Day, but thanks to the efforts of a new organization growing in Western Pennsylvania, it will hopefully encourage people to respectfully retire their old flags.

A flag should be retired when it is faded, tattered, or torn, making it no longer fit for display. However, many people don't know what the correct protocol for disposing of a retired flag is.

The Retire Your Old Glory campaign was started by Denise Etter of Cranberry Township to provide that very service. Etter, the wife of an Army veteran, felt there was a need in the community for a place where people could take their old, faded flags to be retired properly. She worked with Cranberry Twp municipal workers to set up a bin system in the Community Center where people could simply drop off their flags. Then members of the American Legion, Boy Scouts of America, and Veterans of Foreign War would properly dispose of the flags at a later time.



Left to right: Jackie Tammaro, are coordinator, Pete Krause, Fairview Township Supervisor, and Nancy Crabtree, East Springfield resident

The system was so successful in Cranberry Township, that less than a month later drop-off bins were placed in Erie Maritime Museum and Fairview Township Municipal Building. The Fairview location has collected 292 flags since the fall of 2011, and 197 of those have been since January. The Cranberry bin has collected almost 1,500 flags.

Erie Area Coordinator Jackie

Tammaro feels that people will seek where they can retired their flags. "People simply don't know. I had a call from a girl who found one in a dumpster and brought it to Fairview to put in the bin," said Tammaro. "I think it will grow on it's own."

To learn more about the Retire Old Glory program, visit the web site at [www.retireyourold-glory.com](http://www.retireyourold-glory.com).

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