

Media Release

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Content: Is It Time to Retire Your Unserviceable Old Glory?

Attachment: American Flag Etiquette

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Is it time to retire your unserviceable Old Glory?

Our Nation's Flag Code (US Code Title 4 Chapter 1-The Flag) describes in complete detail how and when to fly the American flag and when and how to properly dispose of an unserviceable flag. All American flags, respectfully known as Old Glory, should be retired in a dignified and respectful manner when they are no longer a fitting emblem for display and replaced with a new flag. It also states that the American Flag should be displayed from sunrise till sun set every day and especially on national and state holidays.

The colors in the American Flag signify hardiness and valor with the red, purity and innocence with the white and vigilance, justice, and perseverance in the blue. As spring and summer arrive, it is time to check your American Flag to be sure it is not faded, torn or tattered before you put it out for display at your home or business.

With Flag Day being celebrated on June 14th make sure your flag is fit for display. If you have an American flag that should be retired you may deposit the flag in the Retire Your Old Glory bin.

There are 13 convenient Retire Your Unserviceable Old Glory locations.

Pittsburgh, PA - Cranberry Township Municipal Building, Upper St. Clair Township Rec Center, Green Tree Borough Building, Crafton Borough Public Library, Churchill Borough Building & the Northland Public Library.

Erie, PA - Fairview Township Municipal Building, Erie Maritime Museum, Millcreek Township Municipal Building, Summit Township Municipal Building & the Harborcreek Township Municipal Building.

Fredericksburg, VA - Dorothy Hart Community Center & Fredericksburg City Hall.

Please visit the website: www.retireyouoldglory.com for location addresses and to learn more about the project.

Retire Your Unserviceable Old Glory is a unique project in our community that provides a patriotic collection bin for tattered, faded and torn American flags. The flags that are collected are retired in a dignified and respectful manner by members of the Boy Scouts of America, the American Legion, the Girls Scouts, the VFW and other select service groups. The Retire Your Old Glory flag collection program was started by Denise Etter, Cranberry Twp. PA who recognized the need for a convenient place for residents to properly dispose of old, tattered and faded flags.

Project wide more than 11,000 faded, torn and tattered unserviceable American flags have been collected since the start of the project in May of 2011. The flags range in size from small stick flags, outdoor house flags, large flags from local businesses and military burial.

The goal of Retire Your Unserviceable Old Glory Project is to collect all tattered, torn and faded flags and encourage Americans to fly the American Flag. Our national banner with 50 stars, one for each state, became the official flag of the United States of America in August of 1959; it is a symbol of liberty and carries the message of freedom that all citizens should embrace.

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American Flag Etiquette

The flag should be illuminated at all times, either by sunlight or by an appropriate light source.

The flag should be flown in fair weather, unless the flag is designed for inclement weather use.

The flag should never be dipped to any person or thing. It is flown upside down only as a distress signal.

When placed on a single staff or lanyard, place the U.S. Flag above all other flags.

When flags are displayed in a row, the U.S. flag goes to the observer's left. Flags of other nations are flown at same height. State and local flags are traditionally flown lower.

The flag should not be used for any decoration in general. Bunting of blue, white and red stripes is available for these purposes. The blue stripe of the bunting should be on the top.

The flag should never be used for any advertising purpose. It should not be embroidered, printed or otherwise impressed on such articles as cushions, handkerchiefs, napkins, boxes, or anything intended to be discarded after temporary use. Advertising signs should not be attached to the staff or halyard.

The flag should not be used as part of a costume or athletic uniform, except that a flag patch may be used on the uniform of military personnel, fireman, policeman and members of patriotic organizations.

The flag should never have any mark, insignia, letter, word, number, figure, or drawing of any kind placed on it, or attached to it.

The flag should never be used for receiving, holding, carrying, or delivering anything.

When the flag is lowered, no part of it should touch the ground or any other object; it should be received by waiting hands and arms. To store the flag it should be folded neatly and ceremoniously.

The flag should be cleaned and mended when necessary.

When a flag is so worn it is no longer fit to serve as a symbol of our country, it should be destroyed by burning in a dignified manner.

A quick list of Flag Etiquette Don'ts:

Don't dip the U.S. Flag for any person, flag, or vessel.

Don't let the flag touch the ground.

Don't fly flag upside down unless there is an emergency.

Don't carry the flag flat, or carry things in it.

Don't use the flag as clothing.

Don't store the flag where it can get dirty.

Don't use it as a cover.

Don't fasten it or tie it back. Always allow it to fall free.

Don't draw on, or otherwise mark the flag.

Don't use the flag for decoration, instead use bunting with the blue on top, then white, then red.