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Flying the United States Flag at Your Club or Course



This year, I've been at a couple of events that commemorated the lives of a different generation. At two of these services Honor Guards of our different military branches presented the United States Flag to the family members of the deceased. These ceremonies though solemn, honored individuals of a generation that didn't question their commitment or their call to defend the United States and its Constitution. At their passing, both were recognized for their sacrifices and the object used to symbolize this was the United States Flag. I've paid much more attention to the Flag since those ceremonies, and I think we too often forget what it symbolizes. I know most clubs and courses have a United States Flag, but how many follow our Federal Law in Title 4 of the United States Code when flying it?

The "Flag Code" includes instruction and rules on such topics as the pledge of allegiance, display and use of the flag by civilians, time and occasions for display, position and manner of display, and how to show respect for the flag. The "Code" also grants to the President the authority to modify the rules governing the flag. A few of the most unknown or ignored instructions are:

- It is the universal custom to display the flag only from sunrise to sunset on stationary flagstaves 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 flag should not be displayed on days when the weather is inclement, except when an all-weather flag is displayed.
- When flags of States, cities, or localities, or pennants of societies are flown on the same halyard with the flag of the United States, the latter should always be at the peak. When the flags are flown from adjacent staffs, the flag of the United States should be hoisted first and lowered last. No such flag or pennant may be placed above the flag of the United States or to the United States flag's right.
- On Memorial Day, the flag should be displayed at half-staff until noon only, then raised to the top of the staff.
- No part of the flag should ever be used as a costume or athletic uniform. However, a flag patch may be affixed to the uniform of military personnel, firemen, policemen, and members of patriotic organizations. The flag represents a living country and is itself considered a living

thing. Therefore, the lapel flag pin being a replica, should be worn on the left lapel near the heart.

- The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning. (Most VFW halls will take flags that are unfit to fly and destroy them for you.)

Next time you are up by the clubhouse, take a moment to check out the flag and hold it in the esteem it deserves, if not for yourself, for those to whom it meant more. @



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