

Respecting Our Flag

Nothing lasts forever. There comes a time when something is just too old, too worn out to be used effectively. This is true of flags, as well. But most people don't know what to do with flags when they become worn out, faded, or torn. They often end up in a closet somewhere, collecting dust.



*The flag is a symbol of our country.
All of us have a duty as citizens to treat it
with the respect it deserves.*



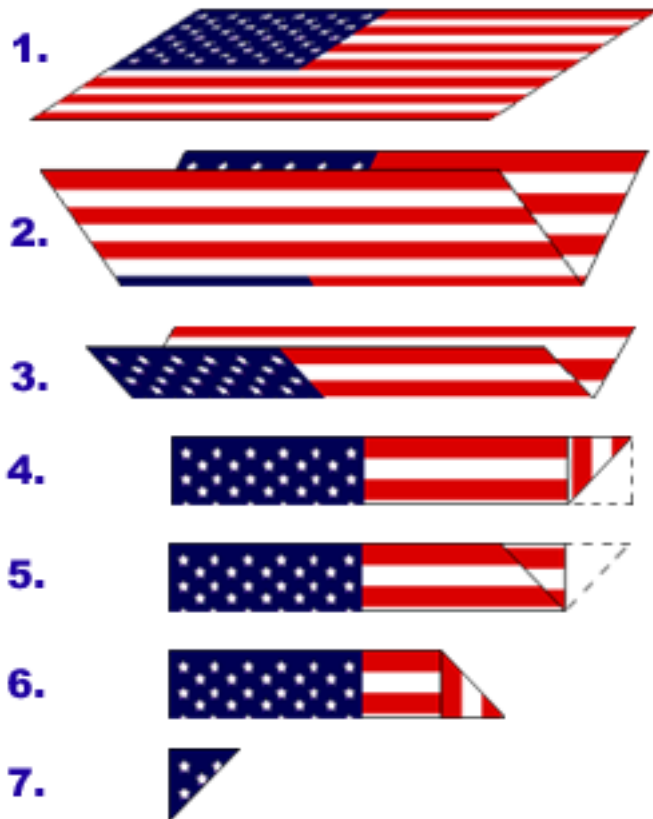
Our founding fathers realized that flags do not last forever, and devised a ceremony for the respectful retirement of these great symbols of America. The ceremony includes readings of the symbolism present in the flag and draping them across a cleansing fire.

You can maintain your flag in good condition by keeping it in a cool, dry place, away from insects and animals. Never let it touch the ground. Not only is this disrespectful, but dirt hurts the flag.

How to tell if it's time to retire your flag:

- Is it ripped or torn?
- Is it faded?
- Is it stained or dirty?
- Is it getting frayed?
- Does it have moth holes or insect damage?

Proper storage can greatly prolong the life of a flag. There is a traditional manner of folding flags, shown below.



Fellow citizens of Bedford,

I am a Life Scout of Troop 194, working towards my Eagle badge. One of the requirements is to lead a service project. I am collecting flags and retiring them.

In addition, I am working to raise awareness of how to treat our flag, display it properly, and when it's time to respectfully retire them.

If you have any flags that are worn, tattered, faded, or outdated, you can leave them at the American Legion building on The Great Road, across from the Shell station. These flags will be respectfully retired on Flag Day, Monday, June 14.

All flag donations are greatly appreciated.

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