

Americanism ~ Patriotic Instructor

Bulletin ~ October 2023

Having participated in a few parades this summer, I was saddened to see our Nations Flag and Killed in Action Banners not being respected. The mother of a crying child said, "They won't give us candy again this year." I wanted to leave formation to explain what our Flag and KIA banners meant and the respect they deserve. In fact, very few people stood in support of our national flag, nor did they removed their hats, or place their hands over their hearts. In this case, I am referring to adults, not children. If our leaders today are so disrespectful, then how our tomorrows leaders going to understand the Patriotism in our Country? Education is necessary for patriotism and flag education, and it is our responsibility to provide it. In this situation, our assistance can be of great value.



In your role as Patriotic Instructor you are the main source for educating members and community members on respect and appropriate flag salutes and Pledges of Allegiance. The Federal Flag Code and the VFW Auxiliary ritual must also be understood by us as members. Instill pride in our members by educating them about our organization's traditions and ceremonies. Try to memorize the Patriotism statement that is spoken during the opening ceremony of each meeting. Your message should be sincere, and you should let everyone know that you are passionate about it. *Alternatively, in Malta, you can obtain more information by watching a video and reading a help document.*

*On a windowsill or in front of a house, display the flag horizontally or at an angle.

*It is recommended to fly flags from sunrise to sunset; however, they may be flown during darkness if properly illuminated.

*There must be no restriction on flag hanging or flying. Nothing beneath the flag should be touched, including the ground, landscaping, vehicles, or outdoor furniture.

*Neither the flag nor any part of it should have been placed upon it. No marks, insignia, letters, words, designs, or images of any kind are attached to it. No recipient, holder, carrier, or deliverer should use the flag as a receptacle.

*On Memorial Day, the flag should be flown at half-staff until noon, then raised to its peak until sunset. For Peace Officers Memorial Day (May 15), Patriots Day (September 11), Firefighters Memorial Day (First Sunday in October), Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day (December 7) and when directed by the President of the United States or the State Governor, the same should apply.

*The Flag should not be displayed on days when the weather is inclement, except when an all weather flag is displayed.

*It is important to replace faded or damaged flags and destroy them (retire them) in a dignified manner, preferably by burning them. The item should never be disposed of in the trash. A flag can be disposed of properly by the VFW, the American Legion, Scout troops, and some city and county offices.

From kindergarten onwards, schedule a meeting with your local teachers so that we can participate in the classrooms. Educating these students about patriotism should start at an early age. Find ways to educate older children and promote patriotism by using the tools available to you.

DO IT FOR THOSE WHO CAN'T

Loyally,

Doreen Dale/Chairman

