

U.S. FLAG ODE



No disrespect should be shown to the flag of the United States of America. The flag should not be dipped to any person or thing.

- Never display the flag with the union down, except as a signal of dire distress when there is extreme danger to life or property.
- Never let the flag touch anything beneath it, such as the ground, floor, water, or merchandise.
- Never carry the flag horizontally. Always allow the flag to be aloft and free.
- Never use the flag on apparel, bedding, or drapery. It should never be drawn back, up, or in folds as a decoration. Always allow the flag to fall free. Bunting of blue, white, and red should always hang with blue at the top, white in the middle, and red at the bottom. Bunting should be used for covering a speaker's desk, draping the front of a platform, and for decoration in general.
- Never fasten, display, use, or store the flag where it can be easily torn, soiled, or damaged.
- Never use the flag as a ceiling covering.

- Never place any mark, insignia, letter, word, figure, design, picture, or drawing of any nature on the flag.
- Never use the flag to receive, hold, carry, or deliver anything.
- Never use the flag for advertising purposes in any manner. Do not embroider the flag on cushions or handkerchiefs. Never print or impress the flag on paper napkins, boxes, or anything designed for temporary use which can be discarded. Advertising signs should not be fastened to a flag staff or halyard.
- Never use the flag as a costume or athletic uniform. A flag may be put on uniforms for members of the military, fire, police, and patriotic organizations. Since the flag represents a living country and is itself considered a living thing, the lapel flag should be worn on the left lapel near the heart.
- When the flag is in such a condition it is no longer fit for display, it should be destroyed in a dignified way, usually by burning.

