



Flag Facts

The Flag of the United States of America has three colors: red is for courage, white is for purity and blue is for loyalty. There are 50 stars symbolizing the 50 states. There are 13 red and white stripes; one for each of the original 13 colonies. *Delaware (December 7, 1787), Pennsylvania (December 12, 1787), New Jersey (December 18, 1787), Georgia (January 2, 1788), Connecticut (January 9, 1788), Massachusetts (February 6, 1788), Maryland (April 28, 1788), South Carolina (May 23, 1788), New Hampshire (June 21, 1788), Virginia (June 25, 1788), New York (July 26, 1788), North Carolina (November 21, 1789), and Rhode Island (May 29, 1790).*

Many people think Betsy Ross made the first flag, but this has not been proven.

Flag Etiquette

- A flag should never be displayed in bad weather unless it is waterproof.**
- Fly the flag only from sunrise to sundown.**
- If flown at night, the flag should be properly illuminated.**
- The flag should be carried aloft, not flat.**

- The flag should not be worn as a part of clothing or table cover.
- The flag should not be used for advertising.

More Flag Facts

- Show respect for the flag. Never let it touch the ground or floor. -
- Keep the flag clean.
- When an important American dies, fly the flag at half-mast.
- Flying the flag upside down is a signal of danger or distress.
- Fold the flag carefully when putting it away.
- The flag should never have any words, marks, pictures, or figures placed on it.
- When raising or lowering the flag, stand at attention, facing the flag.
- During the National Anthem or playing of Taps, stand at attention, face the flag, and place your right hand over your heart.
- When the flag becomes too worn to be flown as a symbol of our country, it should be destroyed by a dignified ceremonial burning.
Some DAR chapters as well as American Legion posts provide this service.

When to Display the Flag

Fly the flag any day of the year, but especially:

- New Year's Day, January 1
- Martin Luther King's Birthday, January 15
- Presidential Inauguration Day
- Abraham Lincoln's Birthday, February 12
- President's Day, the 3rd Monday in February
- George Washington's Birthday, February 22
- Easter
- Mother's Day
- Armed Forces Day, 3rd Saturday in May
- Memorial Day (half-mast until noon)
- Flag Day, June 14

Independence Day, July 4

Labor Day

Constitution Day, September 17

Columbus Day, October 12

Veterans Day, November 11

Election Day

Thanksgiving Day

Christmas Day

Any other day the President of the United States may proclaim.

