

218-95

R E S O L U T I O N

Flag Etiquette Policy

WHEREAS, The Legislation and Administration Committee met in regular session on August 9, 1995 and reviewed flag guidelines to be followed by Grand Traverse County; and,

WHEREAS, Guidelines were set up by Veterans Affairs Office which are attached hereto and made a part hereof; and,

WHEREAS, The Legislation and Administration Committee recommends attached Flag Guidelines be adopted as policy to be followed by Grand Traverse County,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THIS BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, THAT the Attached Flag Guidelines are hereby adopted as County Policy.

Dated: August 30, 1995

THE BLUE FIELD

The proper way to display a flag against a wall is with the blue field at the observer's left; this is true whether the flag is being displayed horizontally or vertically. When a flag is displayed over the middle of a street, it should be suspended vertically. On a north-south street, the blue field should be to the east. On an east-west street, it should be to the north.

HALF STAFF

The flag should be flown at half staff only on Memorial Day, from sunrise until noon; from noon until dusk, the flag should be at full staff. On other occasions, the U.S. President, and the governor, can order the display of flags at half staff. Also, any head of department and agencies of the government may direct the flag to be half-staffed.

NIGHT FLYING

While the Flag Code states that is customary to display the flag only from sunrise to sunset, flags may be displayed 24 hours if they are properly lighted. Often nearby street lights will provide fitting illumination.

POSITIONING

When used as a backdrop to a speaker's platform, the flag displayed flat on a wall should be above and behind the speaker. In a church or public auditorium, the flag should be prominently displayed facing the audience. The flag on a staff should always be at the speaker's right.

WITH OTHER FLAGS

No flag should be displayed more prominently than the U.S. Flag. In a line of flags, the U.S. Flag should either be on the marching right, or from and center, of the others. When displayed on wall crossed against another flag, the U.S. Flag should be on the observer's left. The U.S. Flag's staff should be placed over the flag's staff.

DON'TS

The flag should never be:

- 1) Dipped to any person or thing.
- 2) Displayed with the blue field down, except as a signal of distress.
- 3) Carried flat or horizontally, but always free and aloft.
- 4) Used as wearing apparel, a ceiling covering, or to carry or hold anything.

5) Festooned, drawn back or in folds,

6) Represented on anything designed for temporary use that will be discarded, such as napkins or boxes.

7) The flag also should not touch anything beneath it, such as the ground, floor, water or merchandise.

8) It should not have any extraneous marking on it; and no part of the flag ever should be used as a costume or athletic uniform.

In conclusion, I believe these recommendations will cover all questions or concerns about flag etiquette. Should you or the Board of Commissioners have any questions about this policy recommendation, please let me know.