

How to store a flag of honor

After an American flag has been used for a Military or Veterans funeral, it should never be flown again or displayed in any other way than in the tri-fold shape in which it was presented to the next of kin. In other words, the folded flag should never be "opened" again. There are many appropriate display cases available for purchase to display the burial flag and to protect it from wear and fading.

Display cases

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HOW TO

fold the flag of the



United States of

AMERICA



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THE PROPER WAY TO FOLD THE U.S. FLAG



- 1.** To properly fold the Flag, begin by holding it waist-high with another person so that its surface is parallel to the ground.

Note: If the flag is very large a few more people may be needed on each side or end.



- 2.** Fold the lower half of the stripe section lengthwise over the field of stars, holding the bottom and top edges securely.



- 3.** Fold the flag again lengthwise with the blue field on the outside.



- 4.** Make a triangular fold by bringing the striped corner of the folded edge to meet the open (top) edge of the flag.



- 5.** Turn the outer (end) point inward, parallel to the open edge, to form a second triangle.



- 6.** The triangular folding is continued until the entire length of the flag is folded in this manner.



- 7.** When the flag is completely folded, only a triangular blue field of stars should be visible.

A few words about our flag

For more than 200 years, the American flag has been the symbol of our nation's unity, as well as a source of pride and inspiration for millions of citizens.

Our flag has been a symbol of liberty to the oppressed, it has been a symbol of hope in times of sorrow and strife, it has been a symbol of freedom to every nation in the world.

In September of 1814, Francis Scott Key was so moved by seeing the Stars and Stripes waving after the British shelling of Baltimore's Fort McHenry that he wrote the words to our national anthem *The Star Spangled Banner*.

It is worth noting that the flag Key saw was the 15 star and 15 stripe U.S. flag. In 1818 a new law specified the flag should return to 13 stripes, with a new star to be added with each new state admission.

In 1892 the flag inspired Francis Bellamy to write the "*Pledge of Allegiance*," our most famous flag salute and patriotic oath.

