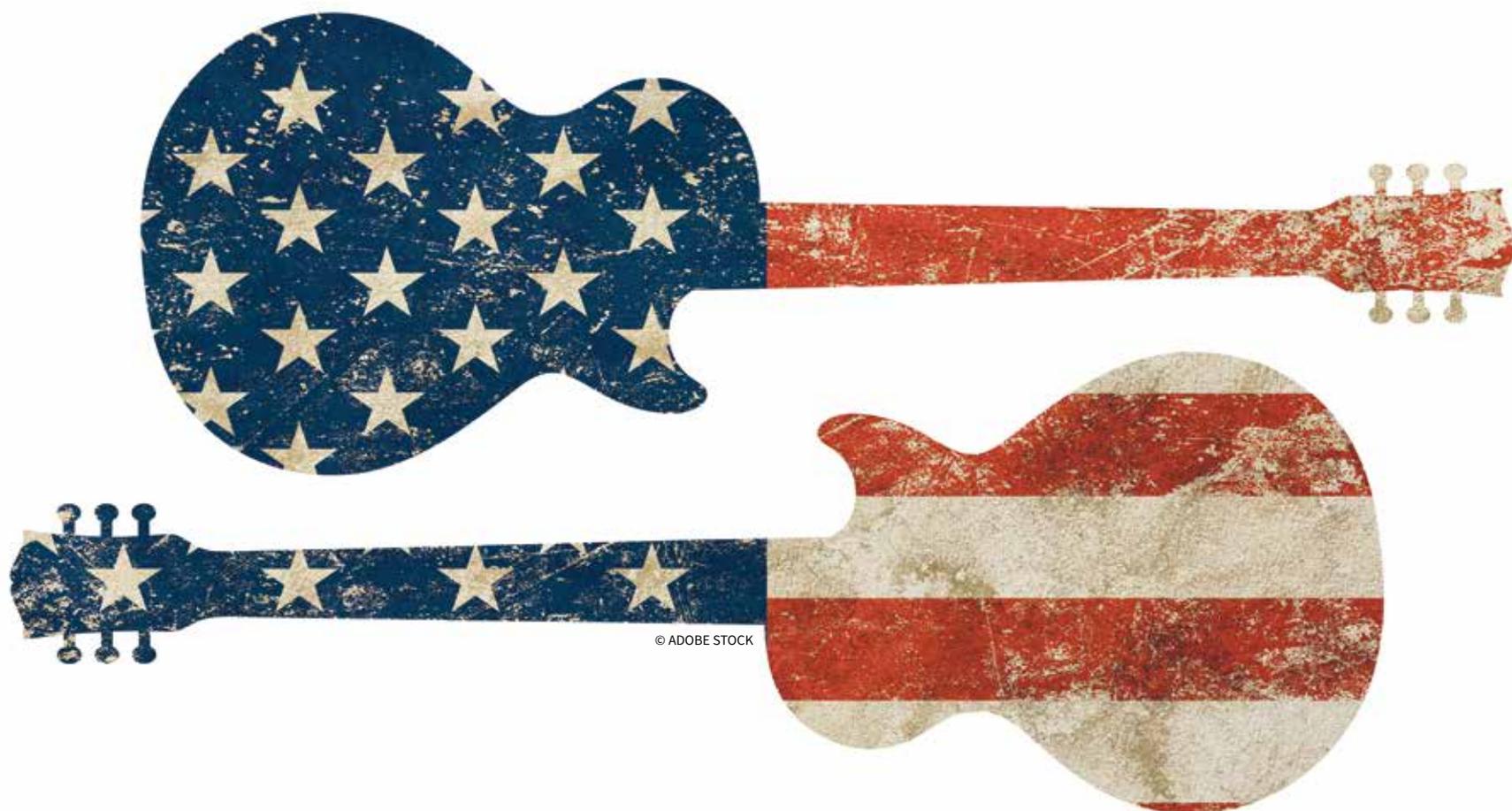


# Flag Etiquette





# Celebrating the Flag in Song

Throughout history, musicians have penned lyrics that commemorate the nation's flag.

Of course, the “Star-Spangled Banner” is a well-known tune about The Stars and Stripes, but even modern artists are explaining its importance through song. If you’re planning an event to celebrate Flag Day, consider adding these patriotic pieces of art to your playlist.

**“GOD BLESS THE USA”  
BY LEE GREENWOOD**

Released in 1984, “God Bless the

USA” hit number seven on the Billboard Hot Country Singles chart. The tune quickly became legendary during the Gulf War in the early 1990s. Troops and citizens alike considered the song to be morale-boosting.

After the attacks on the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001, Lee Greenwood re-released the single. He would later perform the song to open Game Four of the Major League Baseball World Series in 2001. It would be re-released again in 2003 when America invaded Iraq.

**“RAGGED OLD FLAG”  
BY JOHNNY CASH**

Johnny Cash penned the classic tune during the political uproar involving

Richard Nixon and the Watergate scandal. Through a musical spoken-word performance, Cash tells a story about what it means to be an American and provides a brief history of the nation. While it may not be the most upbeat song to celebrate Flag Day, it can make an impact when opening an event.

**“WHERE THE STARS  
AND STRIPES AND  
THE EAGLES FLY”  
BY AARON TIPPIN**

This song initially didn’t make the cut for Tippin’s 2000 album, “People Like Us.” However, two days after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, the artist booked a Nashville recording studio to record the song.

Not only did the anthem provide hope and uplift the spirits of the American people, but it was also used to build significant donations for the American Red Cross. According to Billboard, his label estimated that the single raised about \$250,000 for the organization.

**“ONLY IN AMERICA”  
BY BROOKS & DUNN**

Another country tune that discusses what it’s like to live in America was released by Brooks & Dunn in 2001. It tells a story about various members in the working class throughout the country. Since its release, it has been featured in presidential campaigns and political rallies.

# Tips to Display the Flag

While every American is encouraged to fly the nation's flag proudly, there are official rules to understand.

Displaying the banner is an excellent way to show your patriotism and respect. Check out a brief history of the United States Flag Code, as reported by the United States Chamber of Commerce.

Before Flag Day, June 14, 1923, the country was without federal or state regulations to govern the displaying of the United States banner. That changed as the National Flag Conference adopted the Flag Code to state the rules for proper use clearly.

While the guidance was initially intended for Army and Navy procedures, it was quickly adopted as the standard guidelines.

To show your pride, educate yourself on these essential tips from the Official Guide to Government Information and Services.

## WHEN TO DISPLAY

The flag should be displayed outside from sunrise to sunset. If you choose to wave the banner at night, it must be well lit. You can use a powerful solar spotlight or illuminate it with a permanently installed light. Keep in mind, unless you use an all-weather flag, it should be lowered during inclement



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weather.

While the flag should be displayed every day, there are many dates where its appearance is especially important:

- New Year's Day.
- Flag Day.
- Father's Day and Mother's Day.

- Labor Day.
- Memorial Day.
- President's birthdays.
- Inauguration Day.

For a full list of the essential dates, you can receive a copy of the United States Flag Code from the U.S. Government Printing Office.

## DISPLAYING ON A WALL

To correctly display the flag inside, it must be suspended vertically with the union to an observer's left upon entering. If the room has more than one entrance, the banner should be displayed near the center of the corridor or lobby.

## HALF-STAFF GUIDELINES

The president has the power to proclaim days where hanging the flag at half-staff is appropriate. At a local level, governors hold the same authority. Typically, it is only done during periods of mourning.

# Avoid Disrespecting the Flag

The United States Flag Code lists the expectations of how the banner is used and what it represents.

There also is a section that explains specific instances that are considered disrespectful. Unfortunately, some of the guidelines are commonly broken inadvertently.

In the sporting world, it's essential that the flag never be used as a part of costume or athletic uniform.

However, it is acceptable for a patch of the banner to be stitched onto the attire. Military personnel, firefighters, police officers and members of patriotic organizations are also allowed to use a patch. Educate yourself on other ways the Flag Code restricts us from using the flag, to avoid being disrespectful.

## AVOID MARKETING

If you are in the marketing industry, it's essential to avoid using the flag as a tool for advertising. Section Eight, Title Four, also states, "It should not be embroidered on such articles as cushions or handkerchiefs and the like, printed or otherwise impressed on paper napkins or boxes or anything that is designed for temporary use and discard."

You have likely seen flags being used for advertising sales during the Fourth of July, or Memorial Day. While the per-



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son in charge probably sees it as a way to show their patriotism, under the Flag Code, it's actually considered disrespectful.

## NOT TO BE A DECORATION

The flag is only intended to

be displayed as per the United States Code. Unfortunately, many use it to decorate their homes as wall art or furniture coverings.

The code states that it should never be used as bedding or drapery and always fall

free rather than be festooned, drawn back or in folds. The only permissible way to use it as a decoration is draping it on a public speaker's desk.

In that case, the colors must always be arranged with blue above, white in the middle and

red below.

While there are no legal implications of failing to follow the Flag Code, it is a comprehensive set of guidelines to show your respect to our nation's most historical symbol.

# The Preservation Project

The original Star-Spangled Banner that inspired Francis Scott Key to pen what would become our country's national anthem is on display at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C.

The facility incorporated long-term preservation projects to maintain its condition. With the help of conservators and curators, the Smithsonian developed a state-of-the-art chamber to house it. The facility features climate control and low light levels, and displays the banner at a shallow angle. This project will ensure that the original flag is preserved for future generations.

## FAST FACTS: THE ORIGINAL STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

Before finding its way to the museum, the Star-Spangled Banner had a significant impact on the country's history. Check out some fast facts about the original flag, as reported by the Smithsonian Institute.

- It was made in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1813 by Mary Pickersgill.
- Originally the banner was 30x42, but after renovations, it's 30x34.
- The flag features 15 stars and 15 stripes.
- It was first loaned to the Smithsonian in 1907 before becoming a permanent gift in 1912.
- It has been on exhibit since 1964.
- The long-term preservation project launched in 1998.

## CONSERVATION EFFORTS

In 1981, the first conservation efforts took place, when museum staff noticed inconsistent temperatures and humidity were adversely affecting the flag.

The preservation measures included vacuuming the accumulated dust, installing new lights and air-handling systems and mounting a screen in front of the banner for extra protection.

Efforts kicked up again in 1996, when experts began developing a plan to preserve the flag with more modern, scientific techniques.

A new Millennium preservation project was initiated by Hillary Clinton, which led to removing the flag from the same wall it hung on since 1964. It was 1999 when a climate and light-controlled conservation lab opened as the new home for the Star-Spangled Banner.

While transporting the flag to its new home, experts could better observe it for signs of stress and damage. They measured holes and mends and removed the distressed components.

While the museum has been efficient in restoring cosmetic damages, the conservation goal is not to fix the flag, rather to prevent further deterioration.



# Pledge of Allegiance History

Francis Bellamy is known as the author of the Pledge of Allegiance. It was written in August 1892, and he hoped the pledge would be used by citizens across the world to show respect for their country.

Initially, rather than place a hand over our heart, the Bellamy Salute was performed during the pledge.

During the Bellamy Salute, speakers would recite the words while performing a military salute. Once the pledge concluded, one would extend their arm toward the flag. According to the Independence Hall Association, the next inception of the stance did include placing a hand over the heart during the pledge but still featured an extended arm pointed in the direction of the banner.

During World War II, the Bellamy Salute gained criticism for resembling the Nazi Salute. It was officially changed to keep the right hand over the heart throughout.

## INCEPTIONS OF THE PLEDGE

The original Pledge of Allegiance, penned in 1892 was as follows:



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“I pledge allegiance to my Flag and the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

It was updated in 1923 to include, the “United States of America” and read:

“I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liber-

ty and justice for all.”

In 1954, President Eisenhower encouraged Congress to add the words “under God” into the pledge. In response to Communist threats, they responded and altered the Pledge of Allegiance. Today, it reads:

“I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one

nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

## DECLARED IN THE FLAG CODE

The United States Flag Code includes a list of guidelines to help people perform the Pledge of Allegiance properly. Here is how Section Four of the code explains the process.

“The Pledge of Allegiance to

the Flag should be rendered by standing at attention facing the flag with the right hand over the heart. When not in uniform, men should remove any non-religious headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Persons in uniform should remain silent, face the flag and render the military salute.

# Planning a Flag Day Lesson

Teachers have a unique opportunity to educate children about the significance of the American flag and the nation's history.

Consider celebrating early, before school dismisses for summer, by creating lessons that show the flag's origins, what it means and monumental flags in history.

It's also good practice to encourage other teachers and school officials to create a dedicated Flag Day gathering. For instance, consider holding an event in the central gymnasium where local leaders discuss the importance of respecting the banner.

Or, you can encourage students to recite a speech they prepare about what the flag means to themselves and their families.

Here are more tips for celebrating the holiday from the National Education Association.

## A TIMELINE OF THE FLAG

The American flag didn't always contain 50 stars and 13 stripes. Throughout history, there have been various inceptions of the banner that added features as more states entered the union. Look for software that shows a visual progression of the flag so students can analyze the differences.



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Be sure to mention the flag of 1889 that never was. Manufacturers created a banner with 39 stars as they believed that the two Dakotas would be admitted as one state, according to the Independence Hall Association.

While the flag was never officially in use, there were

several manufactured before the mistake was caught. Some are still in existence.

### “THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER”

Discuss the origins of our nation's national anthem. On Sept. 14, 1814, soldiers at Baltimore's Fort McHenry raised a significant American

flag to celebrate a vital victory over British forces.

Francis Scott Key awoke the morning after the battle to witness the banner still waving. You can also view images of the original flag, which is on display at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History, in Washington D.C.

## FLAG DAY HISTORY

Explain to your class how Congress approved the design of a national flag on June 14, 1777. Then, in 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a presidential proclamation establishing a national Flag Day on June 14, commemorating the day the design was first approved.

# Significant American Flags

The American flag has accompanied men and women to battlefields, locations of mass destruction and even outer space.

The symbol, in trying times and momentous achievements, is an inspiring view for citizens seeking comfort. Fortunately, many of these banners still exist and are on display for Americans to view a significant piece of history.

Whether you're a history buff or just appreciate the patriotism affiliated with the famous emblems, consider visiting these iconic American flags in person.

## THE 9/11 FLAG

You are probably familiar with the picture of three firefighters hoisting an American flag near the rubble of the Sept. 11, 2001, attack site. While the banner went missing for nearly 15 years, it was relocated in 2014.

Flag collector Brian Browne wound up receiving the flag by accident and only realized what he had after hearing specific details about the symbol via a documentary. He quickly released the iconic emblem back to the city of New York.

Today, it can be found at the 9/11 Memorial and Museum, which is built on the same site where it was originally displayed, Ground Zero.

## THE LINCOLN FLAG

On April 14, 1865,

then-President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated while attending an event at the Ford Theater in Washington D.C. While a doctor tended to the dying president, someone grabbed a flag that was on display, to keep his head from laying on the floor.

The 36-star American flag is considered a priceless artifact of the assassination. It's on display at the Pike County Historical Society at the Columns in Milford, Pennsylvania.

## THE IWO JIMA FLAG

According to the History Channel, in 1945, 30,000 Marines were commanded to invade a small island in the Pacific called Iwo Jima. Japan's military had a stronghold on the island and created a deadly and intricate system of underground tunnels in anticipation of an Allied invasion.

The Marines fought their way through nearly 22,000 Japanese military members to ultimately take control and hoist a flag at the highest peak and most strategic position.

A historical image was captured in history and earned the photographer a Pulitzer Prize. You can view this significant flag today at the Marine Corps Memorial in Arlington Virginia.

