

# Flag Folding Ceremony of the United States of America

{The flag folding ceremony described by the *Uniform Services Code* is a dramatic and uplifting way to honor the United States Flag on special days, such as Memorial Day, or Veterans Day, and is sometimes used at retirement ceremonies and funerals.}

[The following is to be read as the Honor Guard or Flag Detail is coming Forward:]

"The flag folding ceremony represents the principles upon which our country was originally founded. The portion of the flag denoting HONOR is the canton of blue containing the stars representing the states which our veterans have served in uniform. The canton field of blue dresses from left to right and is inverted when draped as a pall on a casket of a veteran who has served our country in uniform.

In the Armed Forces of the United States of America, at the ceremony of retreat, the flag is lowered, folded in a triangle fold and kept under watch throughout the night as a tribute to our nation's honored dead. The next morning it is brought out and, at the ceremony of reveille, run aloft as a symbol of our belief in the resurrection body."

[Wait for the Honor Guard or Flag Detail to unravel and fold the flag into a quarter lengthwise fold and resume reading when the Honor Guard is standing ready.]

The **FIRST** fold of our flag is a symbol of LIFE.

The **SECOND** fold of our flag is a symbol of our belief in the ETERNAL LIFE.

The **THIRD** fold of our flag is made in honor and remembrance of the veteran departing and those who have departed our ranks, who gave a portion of his life for the defense of our country to attain a peace throughout the world.

The **FOURTH** fold of our flag represents our weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in times of war for His divine guidance.

The **FIFTH** fold of our flag is a tribute to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, Our Country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but right or wrong, she is still our country.

The **SIXTH** fold of our flag is where our hearts lie. It is with our heart that we 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.

The **SEVENTH** fold of our flag is a tribute to our Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that we protect our country and our flag against all her enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of our republic.

The **EIGHTH** fold of our flag is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death {the Death Shadowed Valley} that we might see the light of day, and to honor all mothers, for whom it flies on mothers day.

The **NINTH** fold of our flag is a tribute to womanhood; for it has been through their faith, love, loyalty and devotion that the character of men and women who have made this country great has been molded.

The **TENTH fold** is a tribute to father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of our country since they were first born.

The **ELEVENTH fold** in the eyes of a Hebrew citizen, represents the Lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon, and glorifies, in their eyes, THE God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The **TWELFTH fold** in the eyes of a Christian citizen, represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in their eyes, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

When the flag is completely folded, the Stars are uppermost, reminding us of our national motto,

**"IN GOD WE TRUST"**

[Wait for the Honor Guard or Flag Detail to inspect the flag, after the inspection, resume reading:]

After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington and the Sailors and Marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States of America, preserving for us the RIGHTS, PRIVILEGES AND FREEDOMS we enjoy today."