

**Governor Isaac Shelby Chapter
Sons of the American Revolutionary**

HANDBOOK & INSTRUCTION GUIDE



Member:

GUIDELINES FOR COLOR GUARD-HONOR GUARD

The service of a guardsman - color guard and/or honor guard - is a special service of honor. A guardsman in this service represents himself as well as all the colors, standards and organizations he serves. As a representative of the above he should always present a positive image in his bearing, uniform, equipment, weapons, etc. Equally important is personal grooming. Do not let your Right Guard deteriorate to left tackle.

Most of the service of a Governor Isaac Shelby guardsman will be in this format: In accordance with military protocol at this time the National color-bearer will function as Commander and can make no mistakes (not out of step, not facing or turning incorrectly).

Posting the Colors/Standards –

If serving in a two-member unit, color-bearer will be the right guide, and when approaching to post colors will cross by the other standard to post on the right of the podium or speaker. When the colors cross the standard the standard-bearer will take two in-place steps, then post to the left of the speaker. If the colors and standard are to be posted in floor stands, both the colors and standard are placed in the stands; the guardsmen will take two paces back. At this time the color-bearer will remove his cover with his right hand to shoulder level one count, hold it at same for count 2 and 3, replace cover on count 4, recover to attention on count 5. Turn and retire together.

When four guardsmen are used with the colors and standards, two guardsmen will serve as musket men or flankers. They will march on either flank or trail in rank behind the colors and standards. They will halt at the crossing of the colors, turn and retire following the color-bearer and standard-bearer. When the colors/standard(s) are held rather than placed in holders the flankers/musket men will take their places outside the colors and standard(s). When using more than two flag-bearers the right file will cross over the left and will alternate, one to left, two to right, 3 to left, 4 to right, 5 Kentucky straight to center, or follow in file, in this order: (1) US 50-Star, (2) Bennington, (3) Kentucky, (4) Culpeper, (5) SAR. Then attending flankers or musket men equally to the outside of 1 and 5.

Proper Carrying of the Flag –

There are three ways to carry the flags: (1) Cased; (2) Vertical at side; (3) Marching or standing. There are no "right shoulder flags." The National colors should always be near vertical and higher than other standards. Standards should be carried at 15° more horizontal than the colors. "Keep in step with the National colors – they can make no mistake."

BASIC COLOR GUARD COMMANDS

The basic commands for Posting of the Colors at SAR events, War Veterans Grave Markings, Honor Flights, educational events or other public events such as parades and massing of colors should use the following commands as appropriate:

- **"Color Guard, Attention"**. With this command, the color guard should come to attention with flags and/or firearms on the floor to their right.
- **"Shoulder, Firelocks"** With this command, the flags and firearms are lifted into position so that they can be carried.
- **"Left / Right, Face"** With this command, the color guard turns to face in the appropriate direction.
- **"Forward, March"** With this command, the color guard moves forward starting on their left foot.
- **"Color Guard, Halt"** With this command, all marching should cease within two beats or steps.
- **"Left / Right, Face"** With this command, all members face the appropriate direction as ordered by the Commander.
- **"Present, Firelocks"** With this command, all flags except the National are dipped and firearms are brought to the Present Arms position for pledges and the National Anthem.
- **"Shoulder Firelocks"** With this command, all the flags are brought back to the carry position while the firearms are brought back to the shoulder position.
- **"Prepare to Post"** With this command the flags are brought and held directly over their respective flag stand, but not placed in the stand. Those bearing arms go to the "Present Arms" position.
- **"Post, Colors"** With this command, the color bearers place the flags in the flag stands and dress the flags appropriately. Color bearers are free to move forward and back one step as necessary. Those bearing firearms continue to maintain the "Present Arms" position. After the posting of the colors the bearer of the American flag steps in front of the flag, dresses and then salutes it. He then returns to his original position behind the flag.
- **"Left / Right, Face"** With this command, all members face the appropriate direction to move out of the area in a single column or in double column.
- **"Forward, March"** With this command, the color guard moves forward starting on their left foot.

- ***"Color Guard, Halt"*** With this command, all marching should cease within two beats or steps.
- ***"Color Guard Dismissed"*** With this command, all members move to a previously designated location, or post.

The same series of commands can be used for the Retiring of Colors at the end of the meeting except that there will be [no Present Colors command](#) and [the Post the Colors command](#) would be replaced by a **Retrieve the Colors** command.

UNITED STATES CODE TITLE 36

#301. National Anthem

a. **Designation.** - The composition consisting of the words and music known as the Star-Spangled Banner is the National Anthem.

b. **Conduct During Playing** – During the rendition of the National Anthem -

when the flag is displayed -

individuals in uniform *should* give the military salute, unless carrying/holding a flag, at the first note of the anthem and maintain that position until the last note;

members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform, and not carrying/holding a flag, *may* render military salute in the manner provided for in uniform; and

all other persons present should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand over the heart, and men not in uniform, if applicable, *should* remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the shoulder, the hand being over the heart, unless carrying/holding a flag; and

when the flag is not displayed, all present *should* face toward the music and act in the same manner they would if the flag were displayed.

#302 . National Motto. “**In God We Trust**”

#303. National Floral Emblem. – The flower commonly known as the **Rose** is the national floral emblem.

#304. National March. – The composition by John Philip Sousa entitled “**The Stars And Stripes Forever**” is the national march.

GISSAR PLEDGES

“PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE” - *The Official Pledge of Allegiance is as follows: “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.”*

Conduct During The “Pledge of Allegiance” *should* be the same as during the National Anthem.

“PLEDGE TO THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION”

“We descendents of the heroes of the American Revolution who, by their sacrifices established the United States of America, reaffirm our faith in the principles of Liberty and our Constitutional Republic, and solemnly pledge ourselves to defend them against every foe”

“RECESSIONAL”

“Until we meet again, let us remember our obligations to our forefathers, who gave us our Constitution, the Bill of Rights, an independent Supreme Court, and a Nation of Free Men.”

United States Flag Code

Chapter 1 of [Title 4 of the United States Code](#)

- The flag should never be [dipped](#) to any person or thing, unless it is the [ensign](#) responding to a salute from a ship of a foreign nation. This tradition comes from the [1908 Summer Olympics](#) in London, where countries were asked to dip their flag to [King Edward VII](#): the American team flag bearer, [Ralph Rose](#), refused in support of an [Irish boycott](#) over [Great Britain's](#) refusal to grant Irish independence, and teammate [Martin Sheridan](#) is often stated as famously proclaiming that "this flag dips before no earthly king." This tradition was codified as early as the 1911 U.S. Army drill regulations.
- The flag should never be displayed with the union (the starred blue [union](#)) down, except as a signal of dire distress in instances of extreme danger to life or property.
- The flag should not be used as "wearing apparel, bedding, or drapery", or for covering a speaker's desk, draping a platform, or for any decoration in general (exception for coffins). [Bunting](#) of blue, white and red stripes is available for these purposes. The blue stripe of the bunting should be on the top.
- The flag should never be drawn back or bunched up in any way.
- The flag should never be used as a covering for a ceiling.
- The flag should never be used for any [advertising](#) purpose. It should not be embroidered, printed, or otherwise impressed on such articles as cushions, [handkerchiefs](#), napkins, boxes, or anything intended to be discarded after temporary use. Advertising signs should not be attached to the staff or [halyard](#).
- The flag should never be fastened, displayed, used, or stored in such a manner as to permit it to be easily torn, soiled, or damaged in any way.
- The flag should not be used as part of a costume or athletic uniform, except that a flag patch may be used on the uniform of military personnel, firefighters, police officers, and members of patriotic organizations.
- Flag lapel pins may also be worn (they are considered replicas) and are worn near the heart.
- The flag should never have placed on it, or attached to it, any mark, insignia, letter, word, number, figure, or drawing of any kind.
- The flag should never be used as a receptacle for receiving, holding, carrying, or delivering anything.
- The flag should never be stepped on.
- In a parade, the flag should not be draped over the hood, top, sides, or back of a vehicle, railroad train, or boat. When the flag is displayed on a motorcar, the staff shall be fixed firmly to the chassis or clamped to the right fender.
- When the flag is lowered, no part of it should touch the ground or any other object; it should be received by waiting hands and arms. To store the flag it should be folded neatly and ceremoniously.

- The flag should be cleaned and mended when necessary.
- If the flag is being used at a public or private estate, it should not be hung (unless at half staff or when an all weather flag is displayed) during rain or violent weather.
- When a flag is so tattered that it can no longer serve as a symbol of the United States, it should be destroyed in a dignified manner, preferably by burning. The [American Legion](#), [Boy Scouts of America](#), [Girl Scouts of the USA](#) and other organizations regularly conduct dignified flag-burning ceremonies, often on [Flag Day](#), June 14.
- The flag should never touch anything beneath it. Contrary to an [urban legend](#), the flag code does not state that a flag that touches the ground should be burned. Instead, it is considered disrespectful to the flag and the flag in question should be moved in such a manner so it is not touching the ground.

The flag should always be permitted to fall freely. (An understandable exception was made during the [Apollo moon landings](#) when the flag hung from an extensible horizontal bar, allowing full display even in the absence of an atmosphere.)

NATIONAL & STATE FLAG DISPLAY DAYS

The USA Flag should be displayed all days especially on:

New Year's Day, January 1

Inauguration Day, January 20

Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, 3rd Monday in January

Lincoln's Birthday, February 12

Washington's Birthday, 3rd Monday in February

Easter Sunday (variable)

Mother's Day, 2nd Sunday in May

Armed Forces Day, 3rd Saturday in May

Memorial Day (half staff until noon), the last Monday in May

Flag Day, June 14

Father's Day, 3rd Sunday in June

Independence Day, July 4

Labor Day, 1st Monday in September

Constitution Day, September 17

Columbus Day, 2nd Monday in October

Navy Day, October 27

Veteran's Day, November 11

Thanksgiving Day, 4th Thursday in November

Christmas Day, December 25

Birthday of state of Kentucky

State Holidays



A TOAST TO THE FLAG

by John J. Daly

Here's to the red of it -
There's not a thread of it,
No, nor a shred of it
In all the spread of it
From foot to head,
But heroes bled for it,
Faced steel and lead for it,
Precious blood shed for it,
Bathing it Red!



Here's to the white of it -
Thrilled by the sight of it,
Who knows the right of it
But feels the might of it
Through day and night?
Womanhood's care for it
Made manhood dare for it,
Purity's prayer for it
Keeps it so white!



Here's to the blue of it -
Beauteous view of it,
Heavenly hue of it,
Star-spangled dew of it
Constant and true;
Diadems gleam for it,
States stand supreme for it,
Liberty's beam for it
Brightens the blue!



Here's to the whole of it -
Stars, stripes and pole of it,
Body and soul of it,
O, and the roll of it,
Sun shining through;
Hearts in accord for it,
Swear by the sword for it,
Thanking the Lord for it,
Red White and Blue!

