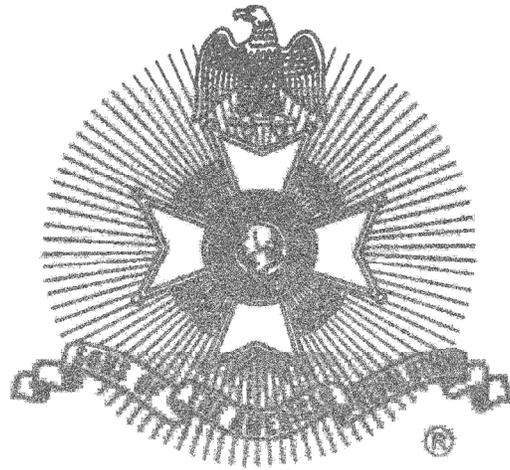


**Governor Isaac Shelby Chapter
Sons of the American Revolutionary**

HANDBOOK & INSTRUCTION GUIDE



Member:

RECOMMENDED ORDER OF EVENTS
FOR
FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONIES

CEREMONIAL ELEMENTS	ACTION
Ceremony Opening	Posting Of Colors
Invocation	Chaplain's Prayer
Pledge Of Allegiance	Color Guard Commander or designee
SAR Pledge	Assigned Member
Flag Salute	Reading of: "I Am Old Glory"
Assessment of Serviceability	Vice-President's statement
Preparation for Disposal	President's statement
Prayer before Disposal	Chaplain's Prayer
Disposal	Disposal Team
Salutes	Musket & Rifle Team then the Bugler
Conclusion	President's statement

GISSAR FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY

This ceremony is conducted to provide a dignified procedure for the disposal of US Flags which have been soiled, are faded, are tattered or torn and are no longer serviceable for further display or use.

The Flag Retirement Area should be set up prior to the ceremony. This Area should be configured as shown in Figure 1 attached.

Non participating Compatriots and guests should be directed to their designated area.

Compatriot Officers, Flag Retirement Team members [Flag Disposal Detail, Color Guard, Musket & Riflemen & Bugler] should take their designated positions prior to the beginning of the Ceremony.

The disposal fire should be lighted with sufficient burning time to ensure the adequate consumption of the flags to be burned.

The above should be accomplished prior to the commencement of the ceremony.

Ceremony Opening

The President signals the Color Guard Commander.

In due time the Color Guard Commander advises the President that the Colors & Standards are Present.

The President gives the command for the Posting of the Colors.

Invocation

The President has the Chaplain give the invocation.

Pledge Of Allegiance

SAR Pledge

Reading of "I Am Old Glory"

Assessment of the Serviceability of the Flags for Disposal

The President signals the Disposal Team to report the availability of the unserviceable Flags.

The Disposal Team reports they are present.

The President requests the Vice-President or designee to inspect the Flags and report their condition for disposal.

The Vice-President acknowledges their unserviceability for further display or use by stating:

"I find these flags have become unserviceable as a result of proud and worthy service. I recommend they be honorably retired from further service and appropriately destroyed."

Preparation for Disposal

The President: **“My fellow Compatriots and friends. We have had presented here these flags of our great nation. Flags which have previously provided proud and worthy service. Flags which have paid tribute to our honored dead. They have been inspected and found to be no longer serviceable. It has been recommended that they be appropriately destroyed with solemn dignity. This we shall do.”**

“As you all well know, the American Flag comes in all sizes, from extremely small to the magnificently large; and, is made from many types of fabric, from the cheapest of gauze to the finest of silk. Yet, despite its size, material or intrinsic value, the true, priceless worth of our great Flag is that it serves as the visible symbol of the ideal aspirations of the American People.... Freedom, Liberty, Justice within a Nation of the People, by the People and for the People.”

“In retiring these no longer serviceable Symbols of our wonderful Nation, let us replace them in their duties with new, fresh, bright Flags of equal size and kind. May the replacements amplify our pride in the showing and flying of our beautiful National Colors!”

“Disposal Team, proceed to the burn site and destroy these flags by burning.

“Compatriots and friends, stand at attention!”

Prayer before Disposal

President: The Chaplain will offer prayer.

The Chaplain: **“Our Dear Heavenly Father, Commander over all, we ask that you bless and consecrate this special occasion.”**

“We thank Thee for our Country and the many ideals for which it stands and for our Flag which visibly symbolizes these American aspirations.”

“To clean and purging flame we commit the Flags.... Flags no longer serviceable due to their previous, long, honorable and worthy service. As we give up their substance to the fire, may your spirit touch all of us, renewing and strengthening our dedication and devotion to our great United States of America.

Amen”

CEREMONY LAYOUT

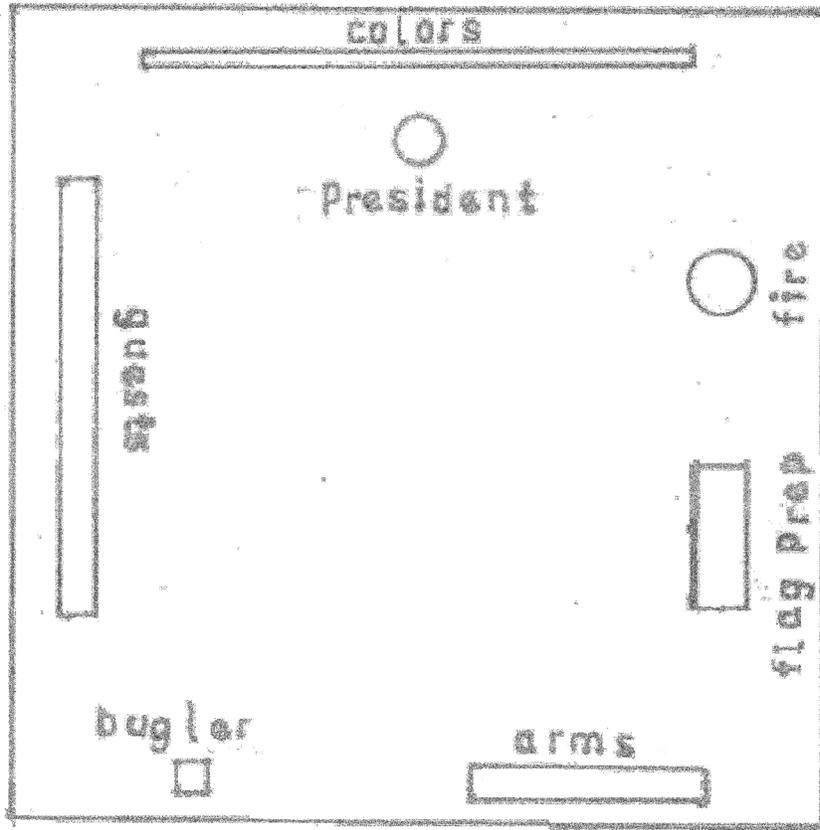


fig. 1

I AM OLD GLORY

I am the Flag of the United States of America.

**I was conceived in the dreams of liberty and the hopes of freedom.
Though I was never an orphan, My current form of Red, White & Blue was adopted
by the Continental Congress in 1777 and proclaimed the National Emblem
of a nation newly born on this continent, fighting valiantly
for survival and destined to bring to all mankind a new concept of
life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.**

**I have been many places and
witnessed many events in our American History. I was born shortly after the
midnight ride of Paul Revere that lead to
the Shot that was heard 'Round the World' at the Battles of Lexington & Concord,
and when General George Washington became our first Commander-In-Chief.
I felt the biting cold at Valley Forge and
gave comfort to the tired and hungry Continental Army. I saw Molly Pitcher take
the cannon swab from the hands of her
wounded husband and helped carry on the fight for freedom.**

**I was flown above the decks of "Old Ironside" and John Paul Jones' warship the
"Ranger" during the Revolutionary War.**

**I was still flying after the bombardment by the British in the late twilight at Fort
McHenry during the War of 1812
inspiring Francis Scott Key to write "The Star Spangled Banner".**

**I blazed the trail west with Daniel Boone and Davey Crockett .
I stood beside Davey Crockett & Jim Bowie at the Alamo.**

**I was carried by troops during the Civil War. I fell to the ground at Custer's Last
Stand at Little Big Horn and
there were no friendly hands left to pick me up.**

I was carried by Black Jack Pershing's army during WW I.

**During WW II, I was carried by the Marines through the Halls of Montezuma
and to the Shores of Tripoli in North Africa. I was there during the Invasion at
Normandy, France. I was raised by six brave soldiers during the "Hell" of Iwo
Jima in the South Pacific. I stayed with our troops of WWII until it was over.**

**I proudly wave over our troops keeping the peace in Korea.
I proudly flew during the conflicts in the jungles of Vietnam, the sands of Desert Storm and battles in Iraq and Afghanistan. I'll continue to fly whenever our troops are in harms way.**

I have been carried to the South Pole, the North Pole and on every space mission. I was planted in permanent flying position by astronauts on the Moon.

**I have seen many of the men of our nation
fall and lie still in death.**

**I have kept my vigil
over graves, amid the crosses,
row on row, around the world.**

**The Purity of our veterans is remembered in my White Stripes;
Their Blood has given me Stripes of Red.
Their Souls are cradled in my Stars
and their Courage Embedded in my Blue**

**I am many things to many people.
I am an inseparable link in the chain
that binds men to God and Country.
I am the "Red, White and Blue",
"The Star-Spangled Banner", "The Stars and Stripes",
But I am most commonly known by a nickname
"OLD GLORY".**

