

The Flag Code

The Flag Code is a small part of a much larger document called the United States Code. The U.S. Code has 53 Titles and is an important work that assists in guiding the operation of The United States, included in these Titles is The Flag Code. This establishes and mandates how we should display, respect and pay homage to our veterans and public servants service to their country.

I have written several articles on this subject and thought possibly that I might be running out of subject matter on this topic. Fortunately, after some thought I felt that I can use current events and The Flag Code as an education tool or even as a reminder to people on how our National standard should be represented.

Recently there was a public outcry of how the flag was supposed to be displayed during the passing of the Honorable Senator John McCain. It seems that past precedent was set beyond the parameters of what the Flag Code had established.

In fact, The United States Code Title 4-chapter 1 section 8 m. states” that during the time of a member of Congress’ death the flag should be lowered the day of his / her death and the following day.” This created a lot of controversy when it was pointed out that other congressional leaders were afforded longer time of respect. I don’t think there was any disrespect meant but there were people that thought there was.

Another excerpt from The Flag Code reveals that in The United States Code Title 36 Chapter 10 section 178 states “The Flag Code empowers The President of The United States to alter, modify, repeal or prescribe any additional rules.” This gives The President of The United States free reign at any time to change the code. Possibly the president that changed that policy should have re-written that portion of the Flag Code to reflect that change.

While we are on that subject, in case you didn’t know or have forgotten there are only a few people that have the power to order the National Flag to be lowered to half-staff, The President of The United States, the Governor of your state , Territory and the governor of any possessions or holdings of The United states.

Don Allisot

Americanism Commission

The Sons of The American Legion