

# FLAG

*of the*

# UNITED STATES

*The Living Symbol of Our Great Republic*

HOW TO DISPLAY IT  
HOW TO RESPECT IT



On Flag Day, June 14, 1923, representatives of over 68 organizations met in Washington for a conference, called by and conducted under the auspices of The National Americanism Commission of The American Legion, to draft an authentic code of flag etiquette. The code drafted by that conference is printed on this and the following pages, together with diagrams illustrating most of the rules. While the rules adopted by the conference have no official government sanction, nevertheless they represent the authoritative opinion of the principal patriotic bodies of the United States and of Army and Navy experts, and are being followed by all of the organizations which took part in the gathering, including 45 other organizations which have since adopted this code representing over 20,000,000 people. The conference constituted itself a permanent body, so that modifications in the rules can be made if this proves desirable. The rules as given are from the final corrected draft of the code as brought out of the conference. Legion posts will find the rules and diagrams worth calling to the notice of school pupils and citizens generally.



# The American's Creed

Wm. Tyler Page

I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a republic; a sovereign nation of many sovereign states; a perfect union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes.

I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it; to support its constitution; to obey its laws; to respect its flag; and to defend it against all enemies.

## Respect the Flag

WHEN you see the Stars and Stripes displayed, son, stand up and take off your hat. Somebody may titter. It is in the blood of some to deride all expression of noble sentiment. You may blaspheme in the street and stagger drunken in public places, and the bystanders will not pay much attention to you; but if you should get down on your knees and pray to Almighty God or if you should stand bareheaded while a company of old soldiers marches by with flags to the breeze, some people will think you are showing off.

But don't you mind! When Old Glory comes along, salute, and let them think what they please! When you hear the band play "The Star-Spangled Banner" while you are in a restaurant or hotel dining room, get up even if you rise alone; stand there and don't be ashamed of it, either!

For of all the signs and symbols since the world began there is none other so full of meaning as the flag of this country. That piece of red, white and blue bunting means five thousand years of struggle upward. It is the full-grown flower of ages of fighting for liberty. It is the century plant of human hope in bloom.

Your flag stands for humanity, for an equal opportunity to all the sons of men. Of course we haven't arrived yet at that goal; there are many injustices yet among us, many senseless and cruel customs of the past still clinging to us, but the only hope of righting the wrongs of men lies in the feeling produced in our bosoms by the sight of that flag.

Other flags mean a glorious past, this flag a glorious future. It is not so much the flag of our fathers as it is the flag of our children, and of all children's children yet unborn. It is the flag of tomorrow. It is the signal of the "Good Time Coming." It is not the flag of your king—it is the flag of yourself and of all your neighbors.

Don't be ashamed when your throat chokes and the tears come, as you see it flying from the masts of our ships on all the seas or floating from every flagstaff of the Republic. You will never have a worthier emotion. Reverence it as you would reverence the signature of the Deity.

Listen, son! The band is playing the national anthem—"The Star-Spangled Banner"! They have let loose Old Glory yonder. Stand up—and others will stand with you.

This tribute to the flag is offered to the country in appeal to all men and women of all races, colors and tongues, that they may come to understand that our flag is the symbol of liberty, and learn to love it.

ALVIN M. OWSLEY.

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# History of the Flag

The United States Flag is the third eldest of the National Standards of the world; older than the Union Jack of Britain or the Tricolor of France.

The flag was first authorized by Congress June 14, 1777. This date is now observed as Flag Day throughout America.

The flag was first flown from Fort Stanwix, on the site of the present city of Rome, New York, on August 3, 1777. It was first under fire three days later in the battle of Oriskany, August 6, 1777.

It was first decreed that there should be a star and a stripe for each state, making thirteen of both; for the states at that time had just been erected from the original thirteen colonies.

The colors of the Flag may be thus explained: The red is for valor, zeal and fervency; the white for hope, purity, cleanliness of life, and rectitude of conduct; the blue, the color of heaven, for reverence to God, loyalty, sincerity, justice and truth.

The star (an ancient symbol of India, Persia and Egypt) symbolizes dominion and sovereignty, as well as lofty aspiration. The constellation of the stars within the union, one star for each state, is emblematic of our Federal Constitution which reserves to the States their individual sovereignty except as to rights delegated by them to the Federal Government.

The symbolism of the Flag was thus interpreted by Washington: "We take the stars from Heaven, the red from our mother country, separating it by white stripes, thus showing that we have separated from her, and the white stripes shall go down to posterity representing Liberty."

In 1794, Vermont and Kentucky were admitted to the Union and the number of stars and of stripes was raised to fifteen in correspondence. As other states came into the Union it became evident there would be too many stripes. So in 1818 Congress enacted that the number of stripes be reduced and restricted henceforth to thirteen, representing the thirteen original states; while a star should be added for each succeeding state. That law is the law of today.

The name "Old Glory" was given to our National Flag August 10, 1831, by Capt. William Driver of the Brig, Charles Doggett.

The flag was first carried in battle at the Brandywine, September 11, 1777. It first flew over foreign territory January 28, 1778, at Nassau, Bahama Islands; Fort Nassau having been captured by the Americans in the course of the war for independence. The first foreign salute to the flag was rendered by the French Admiral LaMotte Piquet, off Quiberon Bay, February 13, 1778.

The United States Flag is unique in the deep and noble significance of its message to the entire world, a message of national independence, of individual liberty, of idealism, of patriotism.

It symbolizes national independence and popular sovereignty. It is not the Flag of a reigning family or royal house, but of a hundred million free people welded into a Nation, one and inseparable, united not only by community of interest but by vital unity of sentiment and purpose; a Nation distinguished for the clear individual conception of its citizens alike of their duties and their privileges, their obligations and their rights.

It incarnates for all mankind the spirit of Liberty and the glorious ideal of human Freedom; not the freedom of unrestraint or the liberty of license, but an unique ideal of equal opportunity for life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, safeguarded by the stern and lofty principles of duty, of righteousness and of justice, and attainable by obedience to self-imposed laws.

Floating from the lofty pinnacle of American idealism, it is a beacon of enduring hope, like the famous Bartholdi Statue of Liberty enlightening the world to the oppressed of all lands. It floats over a wondrous assemblage of people from every racial stock of the earth whose united hearts constitute an indivisible and invincible force for the defense and succor of the downtrodden.

It embodies the essence of patriotism. Its spirit is the spirit of the American nation. Its history is the history of the American people. Emblazoned upon its folds in letters of living light are the names and fame of our heroic dead, the Fathers of the Republic who devoted upon its altars their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor. Twice told tales of National honor and glory cluster thickly about it. Ever victorious, it has emerged triumphant from eight great National conflicts. It flew at Saratoga, at Yorktown, at Palo Alto, at Gettysburg, at Manila Bay, at Chateau-Thierry. It bears witness to the immense expansion of our national boundaries, the development of our natural resources, and the splendid structure of our civilization. It prophesies the triumph of popular government, of civic and religious liberty and of national righteousness throughout the world.

The flag first rose over thirteen states along the Atlantic seaboard, with a population of some three million people. Today it flies over forty-eight states, extending across the continent, and over great islands of the two oceans; and one hundred thirty millions owe it allegiance. It has been brought to this proud position by love and sacrifice. Citizens have advanced it and heroes have died for it. It is the sign made visible of the strong spirit that has brought liberty and prosperity to the people of America. It is the flag of all of us alike. Let us accord it honor and loyalty.



## Star-Spangled Banner

O say can you see by the dawn's early light  
What so proudly we hail'd at the twilight's last gleaming,  
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight  
O'er the ramparts we watch'd, were so gallantly streaming?  
And the rocket's red glare, the bomb bursting in air,  
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there,  
O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

On the shore dimly seen through the mists of the deep,  
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,  
What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,  
As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?  
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam  
In full glory reflected now shines in the stream,  
'Tis the star-spangled banner—O long may it wave,  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

And where is that band who so vauntingly swore,  
That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion  
A home and a Country should leave us no more?  
Their blood has wash'd out their foul footsteps' pollution  
No refuge could save the hireling and slave  
From the terror of flight or the gloom of the grave,  
And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

O, thus be it ever when freemen shall stand  
Between their lov'd home and the war's desolation!  
Blest with vict'ry and peace may the heav'n rescued land  
Praise the power that hath made and preserved us a nation!  
Then conquer we must when our cause it is just,  
And this be our motto—"In God is our trust."  
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

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"I would like to go a step further and insist upon Americans being able to sing 'The Star-Spangled Banner'."

"I have noted audiences singing—I should say trying to sing—the American national air, but outside of about 2 per cent they are only mumbling or pretending to sing. I would like to have the spirit of America show itself in song. I hope you will insist upon some suitable provision to that end in your code.—President Harding to National Flag Conference called by The American Legion.





# THE FLAG CODE



As Adopted by the National Flag Conference, Washington, D. C., June 14-15, 1923 and Revised and Endorsed by the Second National Flag Conference, Washington, May 15, 1924

NATIONAL AMERICANISM COMMISSION

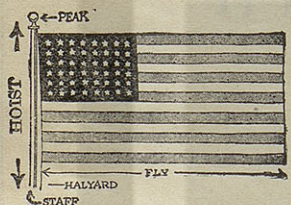
THE AMERICAN LEGION

GARLAND W. POWELL, Director, 1924

## How to Display the Flag of the United States of America

### DESCRIPTION OF THE FLAG

The Flag of the United States of America has 13 horizontal stripes—7 red and 6 white—the red and white stripes alternating, and a union which consists of white stars of five points on a blue field placed in the upper quarter next the staff and extending to the lower edge of the fourth red stripe from the top. The number of stars is the same as the number of States in the Union. The canton or union now



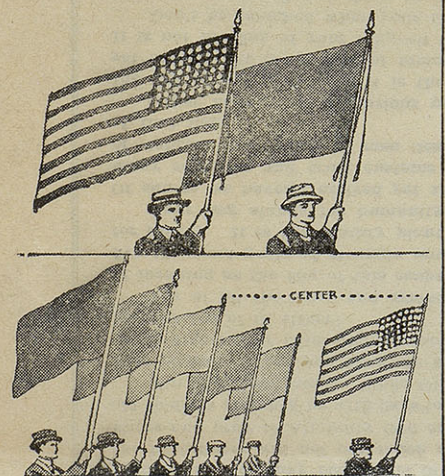
contains 48 stars arranged in six horizontal and eight vertical rows, each star with one point upward. On the admission of a State into the Union a star will be added to the union of the flag, and such addition will take effect on the 4th day of July next succeeding such admission. The proportions of the Flag as prescribed by Executive Order of President Taft, October 29, 1912, are as follows:

Hoist (width) of flag	1.
Fly (length) of flag	1.9
Hoist (width) of union	7/13
Fly (length) of union	0.76
Width of each stripe	1/13
Diameter of each star	.0616

### PROPER MANNER OF DISPLAYING THE FLAG

There are certain fundamental rules of heraldry which, if understood generally, would indicate the proper method of displaying the Flag of the United States of America. The matter becomes a very simple one if it is kept in mind that the Flag represents the living country and is itself considered as a living thing. The union of the Flag is the honor point; the right arm is the sword arm and therefore the point of danger and hence the place of honor.

1. The Flag should be displayed only from sunrise to sunset, or between such hours as may be designated by proper authority. It should be hoisted briskly but should be lowered slowly and ceremoniously. The Flag should be displayed on all National and State holidays and on historic and special occasions. (However, being the emblem of our country, it ought to fly from every flagpole every day throughout the year, weather permitting.)

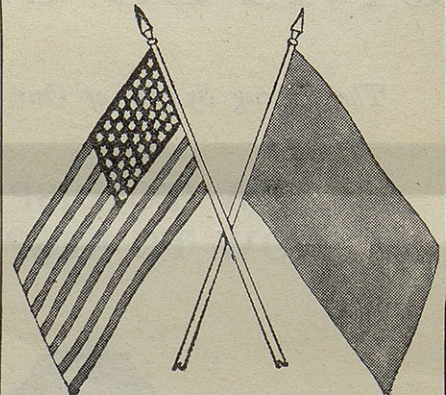


2. When carried in a procession with another flag or flags, the Flag of the United States of America should be either on the marching right, i. e., the Flag's own right, or when there is a line of other flags, the Flag of the United States of America may be in front of the center of that line.



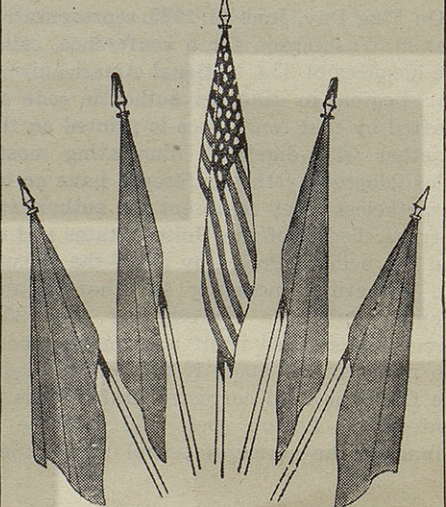
der the right hand salute. When not in uniform, men should remove the headress with the right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Women should salute by placing the right hand over the heart. The salute to the Flag in the moving column is rendered at the moment the Flag passes.

3. When displayed with another flag against a wall from crossed staffs, the Flag of the United States of America should be



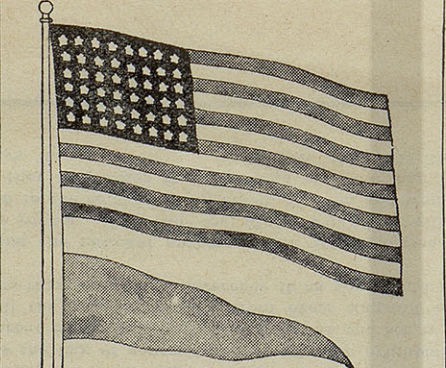
on the right, the Flag's own right, and its staff should be in front of the staff of the other flag.

4. When a number of flags of States or cities or pennants of societies are grouped and displayed from staffs with the Flag



of the United States of America, the latter should be at the center or at the highest point of the group.

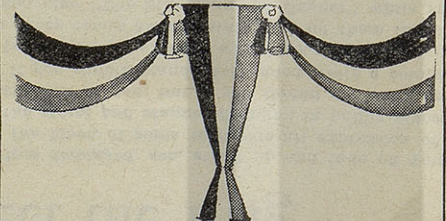
5. When flags of States or cities or pennants of societies are flown on the same halyard with the Flag of the United States of America, the latter should always be at the peak. When flown from adjacent staffs the Flag of the United States of America



should be hoisted first and lowered last. No such flag or pennant flown in the former position should be placed above, or in the latter position to the right of the Flag of the United States of America, i. e., to the observer's left.

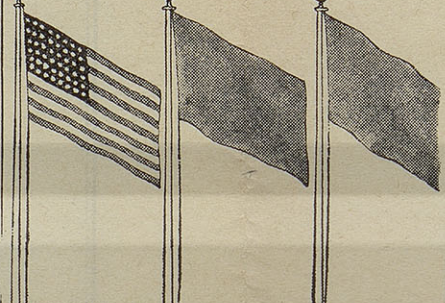
### PROPER USE OF BUNTING

Bunting of the National colors should be used for covering a speaker's desk, draping over the front of a platform and for deco-



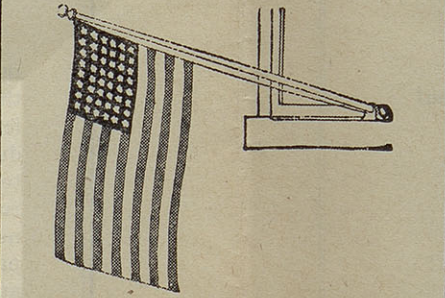
ration in general. Bunting should be arranged with the blue above, the white in the middle and the red below.

6. When flags of two or more nations are displayed they should be flown from separate staffs of the same height and the

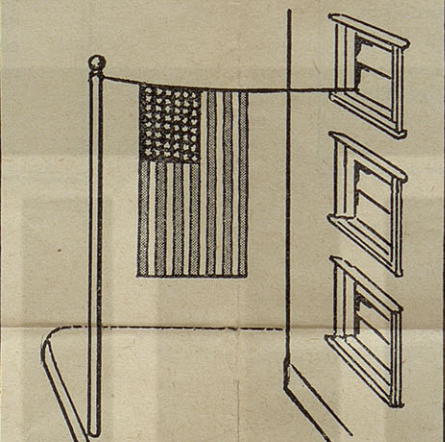


flags should be of approximately equal size. International usage forbids the display of the flag of one nation above that of another nation in time of peace.

7. When the Flag is displayed from a staff projecting horizontally or at an angle from the window sill, balcony or front of building, the union of the Flag should go

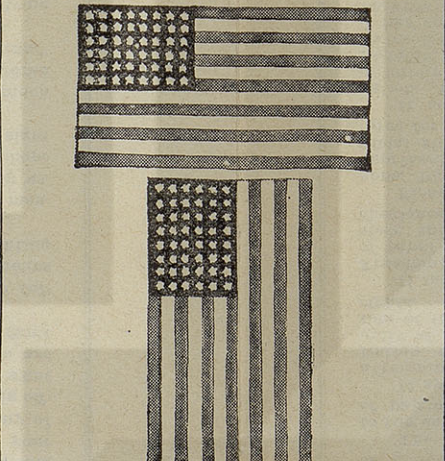


clear to the peak of the staff unless the Flag is at half-staff. (When the Flag is suspended over a sidewalk from a rope, extending from a house to a pole at the



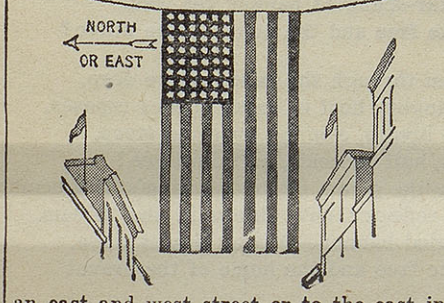
edge of the sidewalk, the Flag should be hoisted out from the building towards the pole, union first.)

8. When the Flag is displayed in a manner other than by being flown from a staff, it should be displayed flat, whether indoors or out. When displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall, the union should be uppermost and to the



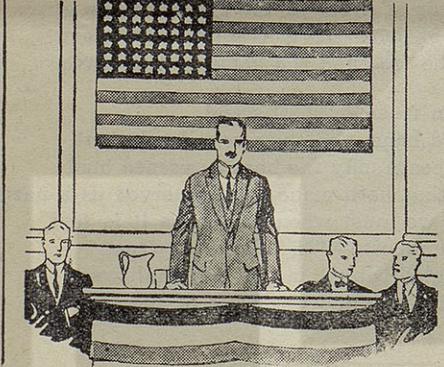
Flag's own right, i. e., to the observer's left. When displayed in a window it should be displayed the same way, that is, with the union or blue field to the left of the observer in the street. When festoons, rosettes, or drapings are desired, bunting of blue, white and red should be used, but never the Flag.

9. When displayed over the middle of the street, the Flag should be suspended vertically with the union to the north in



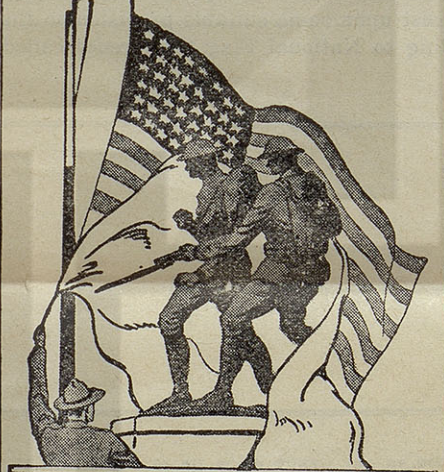
an east and west street or to the east in a north and south street.

10. When used on a speaker's platform, the Flag, if displayed flat, should be displayed above and behind the speaker. If flown from a staff it should be in the posi-



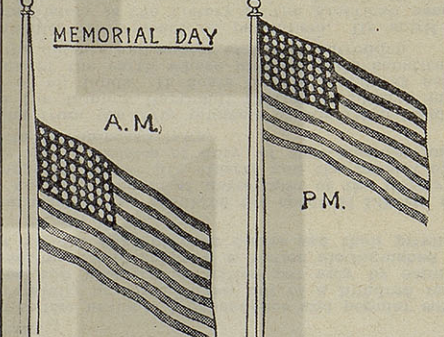
tion of honor, at the speaker's right. It should never be used to cover the speaker's desk nor to drape over the front of the platform.

11. When used in connection with the unveiling of a statue or monument, the Flag should form a distinctive feature dur-



ing the ceremony, but the Flag itself should never be used as the covering for the statue.

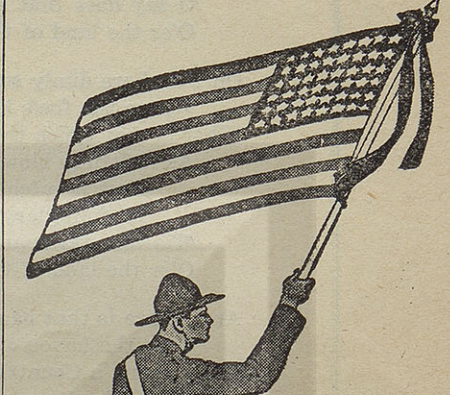
12. When flown at half-staff, the Flag should be hoisted to the peak for an instant and then lowered to the half-staff position; but before lowering the Flag for the day it should be raised again to the peak. By half-staff is meant hauling down the Flag to one-half the distance



between the top and the bottom of the staff. If local conditions require, divergence from this position is permissible. On Memorial Day, May 30th, the Flag is displayed at half-staff from sunrise until noon and at full staff from noon until sunset; for the Nation lives and the Flag is the symbol of the living Nation.

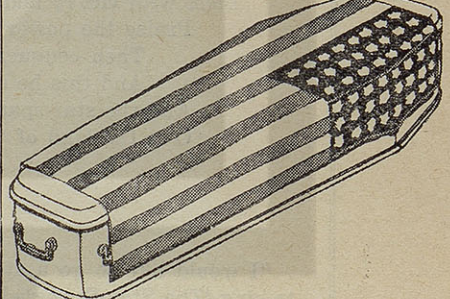
13. Flags flown from fixed staffs are placed at half-staff to indicate mourning.

When the Flag is displayed on a small staff, as when carried in a parade, mourning is indicated by attaching two stream-



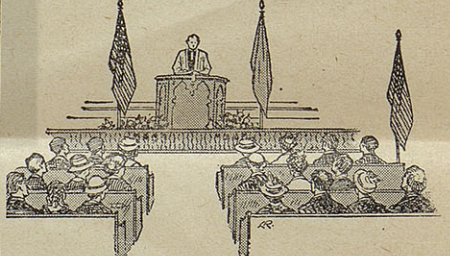
ers of black crepe to the spear head, allowing the streamers to fall naturally. Crepe is used on the flagstaff only by order of the President.

14. When used to cover a casket, the Flag should be placed so that the union is at the head and over the left shoulder.



The Flag should not be lowered into the grave nor allowed to touch the ground. The casket should be carried foot first.

15. When the Flag is displayed in the body of the church, it should be from a staff placed in the position of honor at the congregation's right as they face the clergyman. The service flag, the State flag or



other flag should be at the left of the congregation. If in the chancel or on the platform, the Flag of the United States of America should be placed at the clergyman's right as he faces the congregation and the other flags at his left.

16. When the Flag is in such a condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, it should not be cast aside or used in any way that might be viewed as disrespectful to the National colors, but should be destroyed as a whole privately, preferably by burning or by some other method in harmony with the reverence and respect we owe to the emblem representing our Country.

### CAUTIONS

1. Do not permit disrespect to be shown to the Flag of the United States of America.
2. Do not dip the Flag of the United States of America to any person or any thing. The regimental color, State flag, organization or institutional flag will render this honor.
3. Do not display the Flag with the union down except as a signal of distress.
4. Do not place any other flag or pennant above or, if on the same level, to the right of the Flag of the United States of America.
5. Do not let the Flag touch the ground or the floor, or trail in the water.
6. Do not place any object or emblem of any kind on or above the Flag of the United States of America.
7. Do not use the Flag as drapery in any form whatsoever. Use bunting of blue, white and red.
8. Do not fasten the Flag in such manner as will permit it to be easily torn.
9. Do not drape the Flag over the hood, top, sides or back of a vehicle, or of a railway train or boat. When the Flag is displayed on a motor car, the staff should be affixed firmly to the chassis, or clamped to the radiator cap.
10. Do not display the Flag on a float in a parade except from a staff.
11. Do not use the Flag as a covering for a ceiling.
12. Do not carry the Flag flat or horizontally, but always aloft and free.
13. Do not use the Flag as a portion of a costume or of an athletic uniform. Do not embroider it upon cushions or handkerchiefs nor print it on paper napkins or boxes.
14. Do not put lettering of any kind upon the Flag.
15. Do not use the Flag in any form of advertising nor fasten an advertising sign to a pole from which the Flag is flown.
16. Do not display, use or store the Flag in such a manner as will permit it to be easily soiled or damaged.

## Cautions and Suggestions: Additional Points to Bear in Mind in Paying Homage to the Flag

### SALUTE TO THE FLAG

During the ceremony of hoisting or lowering the Flag or when the Flag is passing in a parade or in a review, all persons present should face the Flag, stand at attention and salute. Those present in uniform should ren-

### SALUTE TO NATIONAL ANTHEM

When the National Anthem is played and the Flag is not displayed, all present should stand and face toward the music. Those in uniform should salute at the first note of the Anthem, retaining this position until the last note. All others should stand at attention, men removing the headress. When the Flag is displayed, the regular "Salute to the Flag" should be given.

The "Star-Spangled Banner" is recommended for universal recognition as the National Anthem.

### PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

In pledging allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, the approved practice in schools, which is suitable also for civilian adults, is as follows:

Standing with the right hand over the heart, all repeat together the following pledge: "I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

At the words "to the Flag," the right hand is extended, palm upward, toward the Flag and this position is held until the end, when the hand, after the words, "Justice for all," drops to the side.

However, civilian adults will always show

full respect to the Flag, when the pledge is being given, by merely standing at attention, men removing the headress. Persons in uniform should render the right hand salute.

### THE SHIELD

The shield of the United States of America has 13 vertical stripes, 7 white and 6 red with a blue chief without stars.

### FEDERAL FLAG LAWS

There is but one Federal statute which protects the Flag throughout the country from desecration. This law provides that a trademark cannot be registered which consists of or comprises, among other things, "the Flag, coat-of-arms, or other insignia of the United States or any simulation thereof." (33 Stat. L. p. 725, Feb. 20, 1905.)

Congress has also enacted legislation providing certain penalties for the desecration, mutilation or improper use of the Flag within the District of Columbia (39 Stat. L. p. 900, Feb. 8, 1917.)

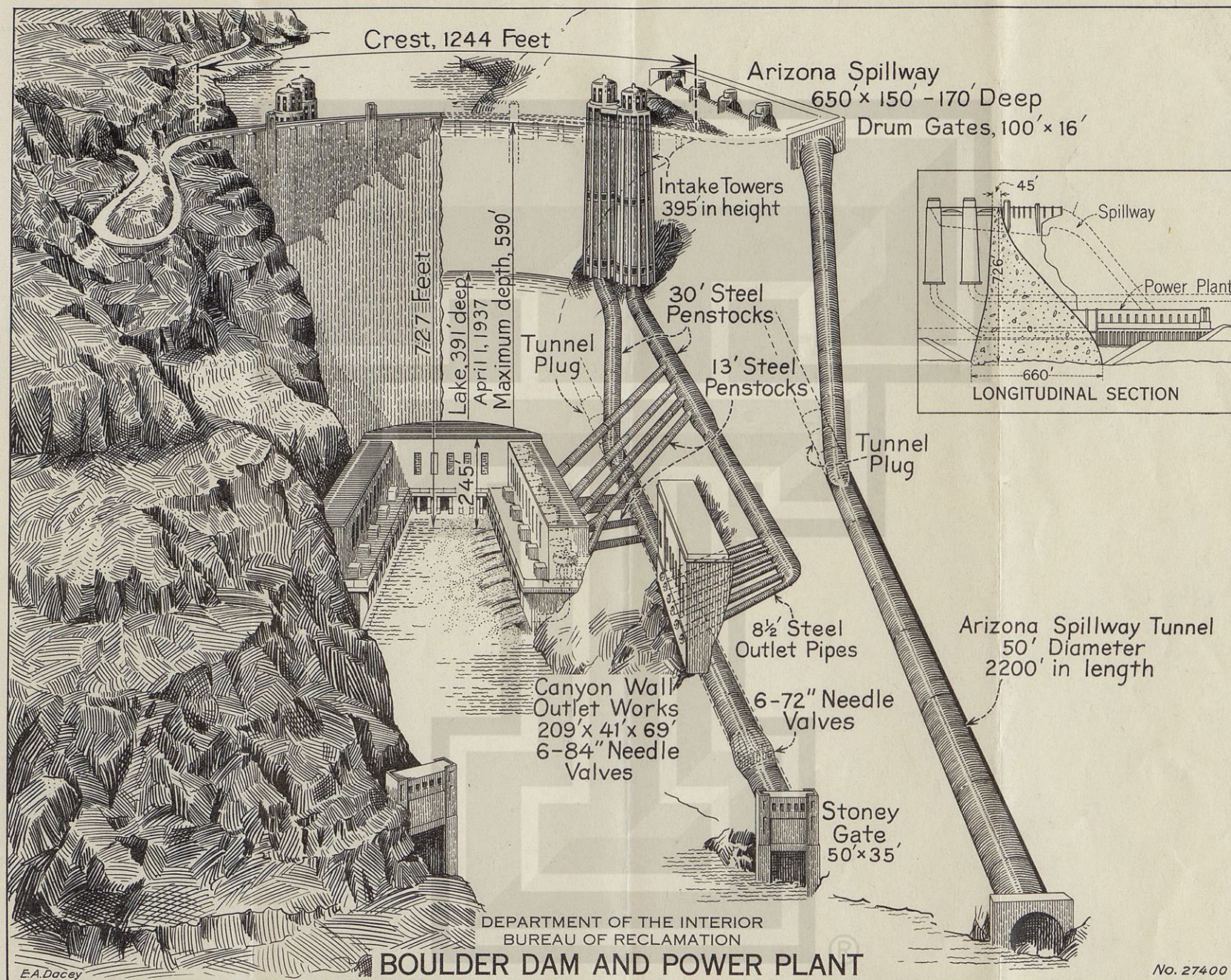
**SUGGESTED STATE LEGISLATION**  
Based upon the opinion of the Supreme Court of the United States of America rendered by Justice John Marshall Harlan, every State should enact adequate laws for the protection of the Flag. (205 U. S. 34, March 4,

1907.) State Flag laws should provide as follows:

1. That June 14th, Flag Day, be set apart by proclamation of the Governor recommending that Flag Day be observed by people generally by the display of the Flag of the United States of America and in such other ways as will be in harmony with the general character of the day.
2. That the Flag of the United States of America be displayed on the main administration building of every public institution.
3. That the Flag of the United States of America with staff or flagpole be provided for every schoolhouse, and that the Flag be displayed during school days either from a flagstaff or, in inclement weather, within the school building.
4. That the Flag be displayed in every polling place.
5. That printing or lettering of any kind on the Flag be prohibited.
6. That the use of the Flag for advertising purposes in any manner be prohibited.
7. That the use of the Flag as a receptacle for receiving, holding, carrying or delivering anything be prohibited.
8. That fitting penalty (fine and imprisonment) be provided for public mutilation, abuse or desecration of the Flag.

"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all."





*This drawing illustrates the manner in which Boulder Dam works. The Nevada wall of Black Canyon is shown as solid, whereas the Arizona wall is cut away to reveal the intake towers, the spillway, the penstock pipes, and outlet works. Inside the Nevada wall of the canyon a similar set of diversion works has been placed. Principal dimensions are shown.*