



VFW 1326 E-POST DIGEST

1235 South 12th Street, Bismarck, ND 58504 (701)

vfwi326postdigest@gmail.com



Post and Auxiliary Meetings

Post - 3rd Tuesday - 7:00 pm
 Auxiliary - 2nd Tuesday - 7:00 pm
 Post Trustees - 2nd Thursday - 5:30 pm
 Post Board of Mgrs - 2nd Thursday - 5:30 pm
 Charity Committee - 2nd Thursday - 5:30 pm
 Gaming Committee - 2nd Thursday - 5:30 pm

Post 1326 Officers - 2017-2018

Commander - Thomas "Tom" Turck
 Sr. Vice Commander - Freddie Rios
 Jr. Vice Commander - John Baker
 Quartermaster - Troy Fleck
 Adjutant - Bob Bird
 Judge Advocate - David Becker
 Surgeon - John Jacobsen
 Chaplain - Dale Nabben
 Trustee 3 yr - Chris Ebertz
 Trustee 2 yr - Ted Heggestad
 Trustee 1 yr - Wally Bolte
 Service Officer - Mark Landis

Auxiliary Officers - 2017-2018

President - Ruby Dannenfelzer
 Sr. Vice President - Joan Eckroth
 Jr. Vice President - Leah Berg
 Treasurer - Janice Becker
 Secretary - Nancy Christenson
 Conductress - Adie Thiede
 Guard - Alice Voegele
 Chaplain - MaryAnn Morford
 Trustee 3 yr - Mary Ann Morford
 Trustee 2 yr - Becky Volk
 Trustee 1 yr - Wendy Schumacher

April Special Events

District 4 Spring Meeting: 13 April 2019

VFW 1326 Stats (as of 30 Sep 17)

Life Members: 734
 New Members: 3
 Reinstates: 2
 Continuous: 162
 Total: 901 (94.4% of last year's total)
 73.74% Retention

VFW Auxiliary Stats

Life and Annual Membership: 405

Post Commanders Message

In 1775, Following the Battles of Lexington and Concord, the Second Continental Congress establishes the Continental Army. The force is disbanded after the American Revolution, but in 1792, President George Washington forms the Legion of the United States – the nation's first "professional" fighting force – renamed the United States Army in 1796.

Thomas "Tom" Turck, Commander

VFW Post 1326

cmdrvfwpost1326@outlook.com

Quartermaster's Comments

We now have Electronic Pull Tabs, as well as a Pull Tab machine in the La Tejana restaurant. It would be very beneficial to the VFW Honor Guard if everyone would stop in and patronize the restaurant and play the pull tabs.

I also encourage members to make the upcoming meetings, especially as Veterans Day is approaching. Encourage all brothers and sisters to bond together and remember the special bond we all share and honor those who have paid the Ultimate Sacrifice.

Troy Fleck

Post 1326 Quartermaster

Adjutant's Comments

I look forward to spending time with our retired Post Veterans now in assisted living quarters. I try to do so on a regular basis. My duties in support of the Post and Commander is rewarding and sometimes taxing for me. Currently a big challenge I am working is reconciling Post membership rosters with that of the National. I enjoy working with our VFW Youth Programs. The Scout Program, Patriot's Pen, and Voice of Democracy I find to be both rewarding to the Post and myself personally.

Over a hundred of our members addresses were showing up as undeliverable. If you go south for the winter, call the National VFW at 1 (800) 963-3180 and let them know your current address. They claim the local postmaster is declaring them undeliverable,

New/Transfer Members

Lee Lunde

Reinstates

New/Transfer Life Members

Matthew Jameson

Deceased Members

Robert Bain died 28Jan2019

Carroll H. Winkler died 7April2019

Frank Purinton died 12April2019

Albert C. Grenz died 18April2019

Edward Krieger died 12January2019

William Heier died 24April2019

Michael Schepper died 26April2019

Harry Renschler died 4May2019 (Past Post Commander)

Shannon Luthander died 9May2019

Curtis Walters died 11May2019

New Auxiliary Members

Deceased Auxiliary Members

VFW Honor Guard

The VFW Honor Guard is available to perform the Military Rites for any veteran who served our great country. Request their service through your local friendly funeral director or contact: Wally Bolte, Honor Guard Captain @ 258-5016.

but some members I've talked to have verified their address when they renewed their membership and the National has still shown it as undeliverable. So it is not just the local postmaster. If your magazine gets sent back because the Post Office won't forward it, they probably declare it undeliverable. Try to keep them informed about your current address.

We currently need 53 members to make our 100% goal. District 4 is at 95% members, and need 65 members to make 100%. State is at 98.6%, and needs 93 members to make 100%.

MEMBERSHIP: National VFW is at 100% in membership for the first time in many years, North Dakota is 93 members short and our Post has over 50 members that haven't renewed. If you can help to get these renewals, call Bob Bird at 250-9363.

Bob Bird Post 1326 Adjutant

The VFW Auxiliary June meeting is on Tuesday, June 11, 2019 at 7:00 PM. The elected officers were installed in May – most of them were re-elected to continue to serve organization. I would ask you to think about taking an office next year.

Some of us would like to take a break. If you were not at the meeting to get installed, you will be installed at our June meeting. After our Convention in West Fargo this week, the new year starts for the officers.

If you have not paid your dues, they will need to be paid by June 30, 2019 or you will have to re-apply for membership.

By the time you read this, our Department Convention in West Fargo will be over and we will again have a new slate of officers and chairmen. If you are going, I will see you there.

Remember to fly your flag (if you have one) on Flag Day and the 4th of July.

Reminder that the VFW National Convention will be held in Orlando Florida, July 20 – 24, 2019.

Enjoy your summer now that it is here.

Honor Guard

Our Post Honor Guard had another good year. We are looking forward to 2019. We have 15 members, 10 during winter months, and we need 7 to fall out for a funeral ceremony. Not only do we perform funeral military funeral services we perform presenting of the Colors at public events.

For those members thinking of becoming member of the Honor Guard please, know that we provide you uniforms and training. Four over four generations I have been involved with the Honor Guard. Every ceremony has left me with great pride and respect for my fellow Honor Guard members. Contact me or the Post Commander to begin your membership.

Wally Bolte
Post 1326 Honor Guard

Trustee's Comments

Comrades:

One year gone by and your Post Trustees are happy to say that your Post Finances are in good shape. Not forgetting it was but, a year ago today when our State Commander took control of our Post to stop out financial miss-managements. Make no mistake, our Post's turn around would not have been achieved without your support, the leadership of Post Commander Tom Turck, Quartermaster Troy Fleck, my fellow Trustees, together with the due diligence of ALL your Post Officers. Today, your Trustees work closely with your Post Leadership to focus on decisions to sustain our financial success. We continue to seek the support and help of you the membership. On behalf of the Trustees we thank you and look forward to see you at our annual meeting.

Trustee/Charity; Ted Heggstad, Ted Thiede, Chris Ebertz

Charity **Recap of our Post Charity for 2018.**

Comrades:

Listed are the contributions we made to community programs in Bismarck. The source of our Charity Funds come from our gaming. Please, remember your patronage of our renter and pull tabs keep our VFW Post Charity going. Stop in at La Tejana and bring friends. Enjoy authentic Mexican Food and drink. Their success is tied to our success.

We support Local Youth Programs, Local Community Programs, Local Scout Programs and VFW Veterans Programs. VFW Programs: Voice of Democracy, VFW Patriot's Pen, Teacher of the Year, Scout of the Year, ND Veterans Home, ND Veterans Cemetery, Veteran's Cancer Assistance, Veterans Financial Assistance Trust fund, VFW Veteran's Service Officers, Post VFW Honor Guard, Public Flag Purchases, VA local Open House events, Honor Flight, Anne Carlson School, State Historical Society, BHS Youth Golf, Mandan Youth Soccer, Special Olympics, Make a Wish, Toastmasters, Local Children's Choir, Bismarck Library, WWI State Capitol Ceremony, Ron Auto Fund Raiser, South Coast Disaster Relief, Senior Golden Age, Local VA Clinic events, Veterans Day Meals, Local Patriot Guard, Local Leathernecks, District Boy Scouts, Troop 1326 Scouts, and more.

Post Digest Information

To ensure I can get the Post Digest out in a timely manner in the future, I am requesting anyone with information/news that is beneficial to the members to forward to this email NLT the 2nd of each month. The goal will to have the Post Digest out to the membership and auxiliary by the 5th of each month.

Please forward this on to other VFW members. Also send email address updates to the email listed below.

If you have any question in regards to this matter, please contact me at 678-994-3504 or email:
vfw1326postdigest@gmail.com

This is a great way of communicating to our membership.

Thank You for your continued support.

David A. Becker
Post Digest Editor

North Dakota Senators

John Hoeven

Washington D.C., 338 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510. (202) 224-2551.

Bismarck Office: 220 East Rosser Avenue Room 312, Bismarck, ND 58501. (701) 250-4618,

Kevin Cramer

Minot, 105 Federal Building, 100 First Street SW, Minot, ND 58701. (701) 837-6141

Fargo, 306 Federal Building, 657 Second Avenue North, Fargo, ND 58102. (701) 232-5094

Washington, D.C., B40C Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 224-2043

North Dakota Representative

Kelly Armstrong

Washington D.C. - 1004 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515. (202) 225-2611

Bismarck Office: U.S. Federal Building, 220 East Rosser Avenue, Room 228, Bismarck, ND 58501.
(701) 354-6700

Fargo Office: 3217 Fiechtner Drive, Suite D, Fargo, ND 58103. (701) 353-6665

Legislative Report – Post 1326 Legislative Officer John Jacobsen

As of 4 April, all proposed legislation pertaining to veterans has been heard in committee in both the House and the Senate. All we have to do is to wait until the final vote has been cast to find out the finish. To follow these issues, you can go the Department of Veterans Affairs web site and locate the Legislative issues section. Each bill is outlined and lists the actions of the assigned committees and the actions of the House or Senate. Go to <http://www.nd.gov/veterans/legislation>.

Governor Burgum signs bill exempting military retirement benefits from state income tax

BISMARCK, N.D. (April 8, 2019) – Gov. Doug Burgum today signed legislation that exempts military retirement benefits from state income tax, one of several proposals included in his executive budget recommendation <https://www.nd.gov/omb/sites/omb/files/documents/agency/financial/state-budgets/docs/budget/executivebudgetsummary2019-21.pdf> designed to address the state’s workforce shortage.

House Bill 1053 <https://www.legis.nd.gov/assembly/66-2019/documents/19-0357-02000.pdf> exempts military retirement benefits from state income tax for retired military personnel and surviving spouses of retired military personnel of the U.S. Armed Forces, National Guard and Reserve, effective with the 2019 tax year.

“This legislation promotes workforce participation by military personnel in North Dakota after retirement, improves our state’s competitiveness for federal military investments and, most importantly, honors the courageous service of our military servicemen and women,” Burgum said.

The bipartisan bill was introduced by Rep. Steve Vetter and co-sponsored by Reps. Jim Kasper, Craig Johnson, Mary Schneider, Matt Eidson, Thomas Beadle, Jake Blum, Dan Johnston and Austen Schauer and Sens. Scott Meyer, Ron Sorvaag and Randy Burckhard.

Veteran Service Officer Report

The Bismarck CBOC will offer two new support groups for veterans, beginning in February. Please see links below for more information.

[Coping Skills Group](#)

[Bismarck Women Veteran Support Group](#)

Mark Landis
Veterans Service Officer
Burleigh County
(701) 222-6698

**MESSAGE FROM THE
VFW AUXILIARY #1326 PRESIDENT**

The April VFW Auxiliary meeting is on Tuesday, April 9, 2019 at 7:00 PM. Please join us. We continue to meet on the Second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM at the VFW Club – that has not changed. This is the month we do election of officers. PLEASE consider taking an office or keep the one that you have. We will also be electing delegates for the Department Convention in June and for the National Convention in July. Installation is held in May.

Finally, spring has sprung. I don't remember the last time we had such a long cold spell or so much snow at the same time, but it is North Dakota. It is good to be able to get out more.

Our District # 4 Spring Meeting is set for Saturday, April 13 th at 10:00 AM at the VFW Club – please use the door on the east side of the building. We begin at 10 AM with a Joint Meeting and then to Breakout Sessions. We should be done about noon, but it is election time again and that sometimes takes more time. We are having a Chili Feed with condiments available. Also remember, we are doing a craft/bake goods auction during lunch so bring your wallet. This meeting is for ALL MEMBERS, not just the officers. I hope to see you there.

Poppy Promotions will be held on Saturday, May 4 th at some of the local grocery stores. Call Mary Ann Morford, Chairman if you can help - 701-223-2286. The profit from the promotion goes into our Relief Fund to help our veterans and families when we can. This is a joint project for the Post & Auxiliary.

The Department Convention is June 6 - 9, 2019 in West Fargo. Make your room and Meal reservation before the deadline. If you have never been to one, consider going this year. There is a lot of information available plus it is a fun time – seeing old friends and making new ones. The schedules and other forms are in the General Information booklet Sharol sends out.

The National Convention will be held in Orlando, Florida, July 20 – 24, 2019. If you are going, make your reservations early.

Ruby Dannenfelzer,
VFW Auxiliary #1326 President

Land line phone number, 701-255-2410, or Cell phone 701-226-2045

VFW News

NATIONAL VFW APPOINTMENT

Bob Bird has been appointed National VFW Deputy Chief of Staff for the 2018-2019 year upon the recommendation of State Commander Darcy Medicine Stone.

[February 2019 - VFW National Headquarters Bulletin](#)

[February 2019 - VFW General Order #8](#)

[February 2019 - VFW Planning Calendar](#)

[January 2019 - State VFW Monthly Bulletin](#)

[January 2019 - ND Veteran Service Officer Report](#)

MEMBERSHIP

According to the latest report from National on Membership, we need 110 membership renewals to reach 100 % of last year's total. We have an opportunity here to get this done. This would then be one of the qualifiers for All-State Post and All-American Post at the end of the year. We still need to participate in the programs. Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen are finishing up with the judging and submitting winners to the State contest. We have a possible Teacher candidate and a Law Enforcement Award candidate. If you can help with getting membership renewals, contact Adjutant Bob Bird at 701-250-9363 or Email: Rajmbird@aol.com

North Dakota Veterans News (Click on links to view)

[ND ROA News Fall 2018](#)

[Burgum forms Task Force for Veterans Affairs to ensure governance, services are best positioned to support veterans](#)

[Three WWI Veterans honored 100 years later in McKenzie County ND Internment Stats for 2018 - ND Veterans Cemetary](#)

Military Retiree Information

<https://www.militarytimes.com/pay-benefits/2018/09/26/here-are-the-new-rates-for-military-retiree-dental-coverage-under-new-fedvip-benefit/>

<http://www.nd.gov/veterans/files/resource/Korea-Reborn-Book.pdf>

ND Driver's License-Veteran Indicator

Veterans can request to have an indicator on their North Dakota driver license to show that they are a Veteran of the US military services. [NDCC 39-06-14 \(6\)](#)

Veterans need to bring a copy of their discharge papers (DD214) to a [Veteran Service Officer](#)

The Veteran Service officer will verify the individual qualifies as a Veteran in accordance with NDCC 37-01-40 (1) (see below), complete and sign the SFN 59980 "Verification of Veteran Status for Veteran Indicator on Drivers License" form.

The Veteran will bring this form to the [ND Drivers License Site Location](#) (pdf) when he/she renews the driver's license. If renewal is not due, the \$8.00 duplicate fee will be charged. The driver's license will have a "V" on the top left corner next to the ND state flag.



37-01-40(1) Veteran defined - Uniform service dates for wartime veterans.

1. A "veteran" is an individual who has served on continuous federalized active military duty for one hundred eighty days or the full period for which the individual was called or ordered to active military duty for reasons other than training, and who was discharged or released under other than dishonorable conditions. A discharge reflecting "expiration of term of service" or "completion of required service" or words to that effect qualifies the shorter term of service as making the individual a veteran.

Disabled American Veteran License Plates

To be eligible the US Department of Veteran Affairs office must sign a certification letter stating the applicant is 100 percent service related disabled or attesting eligibility under Public Law 663 of the 79th Congress.

The [SFN 2872 Application for Certificate of Title](#) form must be completed, signed, and returned with the certification letter. There is no annual license fee.



Qualified veterans are eligible for two (excise tax) exempt vehicles licensed with the DAV license plate at a time. Plates may not be displayed on a vehicle with a gross weight equal to or exceeding 26,000 lbs.

An un-remarried surviving spouse **CAN** retain one DAV plate for their own use.

Disabled American Veteran Mobility Impaired Plates: To be eligible an applicant must qualify under both the DAV and Mobility Impaired qualifications. DAV licensed vehicles can park in marked handicap spots in North Dakota.

[NDCC 39-04-18 \(2\) \(j\).](#)

Motor vehicles not exceeding twenty-six thousand pounds [11793.40 kilograms] registered gross weight owned and operated by a **disabled veteran** under the provisions of Public Law 79-663 [38 U.S.C. 3901], a disabled veteran who has a one hundred percent service-connected disability as determined by the department of veterans' affairs, or a disabled veteran who has an extra-schedular rating to include individual unemployability that brings the veteran's total disability rating to one hundred percent as determined by the department of veterans' affairs is entitled to display either a distinctive license plate or a standard plate that does not identify the veteran as a veteran or disabled veteran which is issued by the department. This exemption applies to no more than two such motor vehicles owned by a disabled veteran at any one time. A surviving spouse of a disabled veteran who has not remarried and who is receiving department of veterans' affairs dependency and indemnity compensation retains the exemption of the deceased veteran who qualified under this subdivision for one vehicle.

Personalized plates have additional fees. Check availability of [personalized plates](#).

Visit the [ND Department of Transportation FAQ](#) for more information on Disabled American Veteran (DAV) Plates

North Dakota State Park Passes

<https://www.nd.gov/veterans/benefits/nd-state-park-fees>

[Mil-Vet Discounts Bis-Man area](#)

Keep in mind list may not be accurate. For example, lists Applebees with Military discount, but the Bismarck locations only offer military discounts on Monday.

If someone provides me a similar list for anywhere else in North Dakota area, I'll send it out.

We should also always remember that there are other discounts to look out for. Never hurts to ask. A quick internet search yields the following:

Age Pays: 120 Senior Discounts (Some Starting at Age 50!) - not many offers in ND but may be useful to those who travel south for the winter.

Click on the title above to download a copy of the discounts.

News of Interest

[Tomb of the Unknowns Weapons](#)

Veterans Administration

VA Video Appointments: Veterans who use VA can now book appointments with their providers to be seen on the [VA Video Connect](#) app in lieu of face-to-face appointments. The app provides a secure video connection through a camera phone, computer or tablet and gives direct, real-time access to health care teams. VA Video Connect has successfully allowed thousands of veterans to receive services while reducing their travel and wait times. [Learn more.](#)

TRICARE Prime and Select Open Season: Beginning on Nov. 12, TRICARE will kick off its first open season where Prime and Select beneficiaries can enroll in or change their health care coverage plan for 2019. The open season period will last until Dec. 10 and any changes made during this period will become effective on Jan. 1, 2019. If you are satisfied with your current plan then your coverage will continue automatically for 2019, as long as you remain eligible for coverage. [Find out more](#) about the open season and how to modify your existing health plan.

November is National Veterans and Military Families Month: This week, President Trump declared November 2018 the second annual National Veterans and Military Families Month to “salute the brave and dedicated patriots who have worn the uniform of the United States, and ... celebrate the extraordinary military families whose selfless service and sacrifice make our military the finest in the world.” More than 300 national, regional, and local events are planned at VA hospitals, benefits offices, and cemeteries across the country. [See the full list](#) of VA’s national events for Veterans and Military Families Month.

VFW Continues to Assist with GI Bill Payment Problems: The VFW staff is still continuing to assist student veterans who are facing a financial hardship due to non-payments of their GI Bill benefits. The VFW is greatly concerned with the high number of students who have gone without payments for the entire semester and could potentially face disenrollment from classes, eviction, or loss of childcare services. If this situation applies to you, there are steps you can take to remedy the payment problem. First contact 1-888-GIBILL-1 (888-442-4551) and ask VA to process your education benefit claim immediately due to a financial hardship. If VA does not resolve this issue quickly, then we encourage veterans to contact the VFW at 1studentveteran@vfw.org, at which point the VFW’s casework team has the authority to intervene on their behalf with VA Education Service. We have called on Congress to hold oversight hearings in order to rectify the current problems so students in the future don’t face these same unnecessary hurdles while pursuing their educational goals.

Veterans Complaint Line:

On June 1, 2017 the White House unveiled its Veterans Complaint Line, delivering on a campaign promise to give veterans direct access to the Trump administration.

Veterans can voice their concerns or individual complaints by calling (855) 948-2311.

For more information in regards to this line, click on the link or copy and past in your browser: http://www.moaa.org/Content/Take-Action/Top-Issues/Former-Officers/Veterans-Complaint-Line-Live.aspx?utm_source=legis&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=VetsComplaintLine

Displaying the Flag of the United States of America: Flag Etiquette Standards of Respect

The Flag Code, which formalizes and unifies the traditional ways in which we give respect to the flag, also contains specific instructions on how the flag is not to be used. They are:

- The flag should never be dipped to any person or thing. It is flown upside down only as a distress signal. The flag should not be used as a drapery, or for covering a speakers desk, draping a platform, or for any decoration in general. 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 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 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, fireman, policeman and members of patriotic organizations. 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.

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.

When a flag is so worn it is no longer fit to serve as a symbol of our country, it should be destroyed by burning in a dignified manner.

Displaying the Flag Outdoors

When the flag is displayed from a staff projecting from a window, balcony, or a building, the union should be at the peak of the staff unless the flag is at half staff.

When it is displayed from the same flagpole with another flag - of a state, community, society or Scout unit - the flag of the United States must always be at the top except that the church pennant may be flown above the flag during church services for Navy personnel when conducted by a Naval chaplain on a ship at sea.

When the flag is displayed over a street, it should be hung vertically, with the union to the north or east. If the flag is suspended over a sidewalk, the flag's union should be farthest from the building.

When flown with flags of states, communities, or societies on separate flag poles which are of the same height and in a straight line, the flag of the United States is always placed in the position of honor - to its own right.

..The other flags may be smaller but none may be larger.

..No other flag ever should be placed above it.

..The flag of the United States is always the first flag raised and the last to be lowered.

When flown with the national banner of other countries, each flag must be displayed from a separate pole of the same height. Each flag should be the same size. They should be raised and lowered simultaneously. The flag of one nation may not be displayed above that of another nation.

Raising and Lowering the Flag

The flag should be raised briskly and lowered slowly and ceremoniously. Ordinarily it should be displayed only between sunrise and sunset. It should be illuminated if displayed at night.

The flag of the United States of America is saluted as it is hoisted and lowered. The salute is held until the flag is unsnapped from the halyard or through the last note of music, whichever is the longest.

Displaying the Flag Indoors

When on display, the flag is accorded the place of honor, always positioned to its own right. Place it to the right of the speaker or staging area or sanctuary. Other flags should be to the left.

The flag of the United States of America should be at the center and at the highest point of the group when a number of flags of states, localities, or societies are grouped for display.

When one flag is used with the flag of the United States of America and the staffs are crossed, the flag of the United States is placed on its own right with its staff in front of the other flag.

When displaying the flag against a wall, vertically or horizontally, the flag's union (stars) should be at the top, to the flag's own right, and to the observer's left.

Parading and Saluting the Flag

When carried in a procession, the flag should be to the right of the marchers. When other flags are carried, the flag of the United States may be centered in front of the others or carried to their right. When the flag passes in a procession, or when it is hoisted or lowered, all should face the flag and salute.

The Salute

To salute, all persons come to attention. Those in uniform give the appropriate formal salute. Citizens not in uniform salute by placing their right hand over the heart and men with head cover should remove it and hold it to left shoulder, hand over the heart. Members of organizations in formation salute upon command of the person in charge.

The Pledge of Allegiance and National Anthem

The pledge of allegiance should be rendered by standing at attention, facing the flag, and saluting.

When the national anthem is played or sung, citizens should stand at attention and salute at the first note and hold the salute through the last note. The salute is directed to the flag, if displayed, otherwise to the music.

The Flag in Mourning

To place the flag at half staff, hoist it to the peak for an instant and lower it to a position half way between the top and bottom of the staff. The flag is to be raised again to the peak for a moment before it is lowered. On Memorial Day the flag is displayed at half staff until noon and at full staff from noon to sunset.

The flag is to be flown at half staff in mourning for designated, principal government leaders and upon presidential or gubernatorial order.

When used to cover a casket, the flag should be placed with the union at the head and over the left shoulder. It should not be lowered into the grave.

Order of Precedence for Flag Display

The order of precedence for flags is 1) National, 2) State, 3) Military (in order of creation date), and 4) Other.

The United Nations uses alphabetical order in its presentation of national flags so that no one country has precedence over another.

According to the Military District of Washington, Ceremonies and Special Events Office, Army Regulation 840-10 mandates that state flags should be displayed according to the date that each state was admitted to the union.

According to the Department of Defense Directive 1005.8, the prescribed precedence of military flags is determined by service birthdays. The appropriate order is given below:

Army Birthday – 14 June 1775

Marine Corps Birthday – 10 November 1775

Navy Birthday – 13 Oct 1775 (Abolished Feb 1781 - Reinstated 7 Sep 1781)

Air Force Birthday – 18 September 1947*

Coast Guard Birthday – 4 August 1790

*According to the Institute of Heraldry, and in keeping with the order in which troops are listed in Department of Defense Directive 1005.8, during peacetime the Coast Guard falls under the Department of Homeland Security. If, during wartime, the Coast Guard is called into service under the control of the Department of Defense, then the Coast Guard flag would come before the Air Force flag in order of precedence.

The Blue Star Banner

The Blue Star Service Banner was designed and patented in 1917 by World War I Army Capt. Robert L. Queissner of the 5th Ohio Infantry who had two sons serving on the front line. It quickly became the unofficial symbol of a child in the service.

On Sept. 24, 1917, an Ohio congressman read the following into the Congressional Record: "...The mayor of Cleveland, the Chamber of Commerce and the governor of Ohio have adopted this service flag. The world should know of those who give so much for liberty. The dearest thing in all the world to a father and mother - their children."

During World War II, the Department of War issued specifications on the manufacture of the flag as well as guidelines indicating when and by whom the Service flag could be flown or the Service Lapel button could be worn. The Department of Defense updated the guidelines on December 1, 1967 with DoD Directive 1348.1, which implemented an Act of Congress authorizing a service flag and a service lapel button (U.S.C. 179-182).

The Blue Star Service Banner typically displayed in windows is an 8.5 by 14-inch white field with a blue star(s) sewn onto a red banner. The size may vary but should be in proportion to the size of the U.S. Flag.

Today Blue Star Service Banners are displayed by families who have a loved one serving in the armed forces including the National Guard and Reserves of all military departments. The banner displayed in the front window of a home shows a family's pride in their loved one serving in the military, and reminds others that preserving America's freedom demands much.

The blue star represents one family member serving in the armed forces. A banner can have up to five stars, signifying that five members of that family are currently in military uniform on active duty. If the individual symbolized is killed or dies while serving the star representing that individual will have superimposed on it a gold star of smaller size so that the blue forms a border. On flags displaying multiple stars, including gold stars, when the flags are suspended as against a wall, the gold star(s) will be to the right of, or above the blue star(s) a place of honor nearest the staff.

Blue Star Mothers and Gold Star Mothers organizations were established during World War I and remain active today.

Blue Star Service Banners, while widely used across America during World Wars I and II, were not embraced during the Korean or Vietnam wars with nearly the same enthusiasm.