

DID YOU KNOW...

That there is a distinct difference in flying a flag at Half-staff or Half-mast?

Half-mast (British, Canadian and Australian English) or half-staff (American English) refers to a flag flying below the summit of a ship mast, a pole on land, or a pole on a building. In many countries this is seen as a symbol of respect, mourning, or in some cases, a salute. Most English-speaking countries use the term half-mast in all instances. In the United States, this refers officially only to flags flown on ships, with half-staff used on land.



In our country's early days, regulations did not exist for flying the flag at half-staff, until 1954, when President Dwight Eisenhower issued a proclamation on the proper times to fly at half-staff. According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, the flag should fly at half-staff for **30 days** following the death of a current or former president, and for **10 days** after the death of the vice president and other government officials.

How many times have you passed the Clubhouse and wondered why are the flags at half-staff? A few reasons could be the death of a chief justice, majority or minority leader of the Senate or House, foreign dignitaries or even after a tragic event.

Did you know that the flag should be briskly run-up to the top of the staff before lowered slowly to the half-staff position? Did you know that on Memorial Day, the flag is at half-staff only until noon? Did you know that the flag during extreme danger can be flown upside down?

How do we know in DWO when the flags are to fly at half-staff? Our Community Manager, receives an alert from the **Free American Flag Half-Staff Alerts app**. By scrolling to the bottom of the page of this website www.flagsexpress.com you too can subscribe. When a notification comes through, one of the staff members from the Clubhouse will raise the flag before lowering it.



Have you ever noticed the flags placed in front of the DWO Vista monuments by our Vets4Vets club? These are placed in a very specific order that include the American flag, POW-MIA in addition to the distinct Order of Precedence that is determined by the seniority of the services.

The correct order is **Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard**.

The Vets4Vets Club has set up a Point of Contact (POC) for American Flag disposal. Terri Lange has graciously volunteered to be the POC for the Vets Club if you need to properly dispose of your American flag.

Please contact Terri at terrilange@gmail.com or call her at 703-403-0693.