## CUSTOMS FOR DISPLAY

Display the flag from sunrise to sunset on buildings or flagstaffs and at night, only if properly lighted.

The flag should be raised and lowered by hand and never raised furled.

Always hoist the flag briskly and lower it ceremoniously.

The flag may be displayed on any day, but especially on national holidays.

On Memorial Day, display the flag at half-mast until noon only; then hoist it to the top of the staff.

When carried, the flag should be held aloft, never flat or horizontal.
(t) Salute a flag when it passes by in a parade, during the Pledge of Allegiance or National Anthem and in a ceremony raising or lowering it.
( The flag should never be allowed to touch the ground or floor, nor brush against any objects, nor be used as drapery of any sort.
$\star$ The flag should never be displayed with the union down except as a signal of distress in instances of extreme danger.
( When a flag is no longer in a condition to be displayed, it should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.

## A message from <br> Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara, PE

## Dear Friend,

The American flag has stood as a symbol of freedom and justice for more than 240 years. Through war and peace, the sight of the American flag has shown friend and foe alike that the spirit of democracy lives on.

I have prepared this brochure to help you better understand the history and significance of the American flag and its customs. As always, if you have any questions or comments about this or any other community issue, please contact my district office.

Sincerely,


Angelo Santabarbara, PE Member of Assembly

## District Offices:

433 State Street, Center City Schenectady, NY 12305 518-382-2941
2550 Riverfront Center Amsterdam, NY 12010 518-843-0227

## Albany Office:

Room 502, LOB, Albany, NY 12248
518-455-5197
Email:
santabarbaraa@nyassembly.gov nyassembly.gov/mem/Angelo-Santabarbara

AMERICAN FLAG

ITS HISTORY

courtesy of Assemblyman
Angelo Santabarbara, PE

## Our AMERICAN FLAG

The origins of the Stars and Stripes are deeply ingrained in American folklore. It is widely believed that Betsy Ross made the first American flag. However, various towns in colonial America have claimed to be its birthplace.
We know that on June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress adopted the Stars and Stripes as the official flag of the United States of America.
The Declaration of Independence made this resolution necessary. Previously, each colony had its own flag, which they flew on colonial vessels. England considered these armed vessels pirate ships and hanged their crews if they were captured.
The American flag was designed to represent the new union of the

13 original states: it would have 13 stripes, alternating red and white, and 13 stars, white on a blue field.
One of the first flags had the stars arranged in a circle, based on the idea that all colonies were equal. The 13 stripes, resting side by side, symbolized the struggle for independence. The flag's color scheme also has symbolic meaning: red stands for valor and bravery, white signifies purity and innocence and blue represents vigilance, perseverance, and justice.
In 1818, after a few design changes, Congress decided to retain the flag's original 13 stripes and add new stars to reflect each new state that entered the union. The flag was last modified on July 4, 1960, when Hawaii was incorporated as a state.


The "Betsy Ross" Flag In use June 14, 1777 - May 1, 1795


The 48-Star Flag
In use July 4, 1912 - July 3, 1959


The 15-Star, 15-Stripe "Star Spangled Banner" Flag In use May 1, 1795 - July 3, 1818


The 50-Star Flag In use July 4, 1960 - present

## IMPORTANT MOMENTS IN Celag Clistory

April 4, 1818
Congress returns the 13 original stripes to the flag and decides to add a new star for each new state accepted into the union.

June 22, 1942
Congress establishes a code of how the American flag should be handled and displayed.

August 3, 1949 President Truman signs an Act of Congress designating June 14 as National Flag Day.

February 23, 1945 The American flag rises over Iwo Jima after the United States captures the island during WWII.

July 4, 1960 The $50^{\text {th }}$ star is added a year after Hawaii becomes the 50 th state .

Francis Bellamy writes the original "Pledge of Allegiance," which first appeared in the Youth's Companion magazine in September 1892.

January 13, 1794 Congress increases the flag after Vermont and Kentucky join the union.

Francis Scott Key writes the "StarSpangled Banner" as he sees the flag flying over Fort McHenry in Baltimore Harbor after a British bombardment.

September 13-14, 1814 .

