

# FLAG DAY IS JUNE 14



50 stars and 13 stripes, the American flag embodies our country's freedom and core values. Each star represents a state, while the stripes represent the 13 British colonies that declared their independence from the tyrannical Great Britain. Because of its significance, the American flag should **never** be disposed of in the trash. Once a flag has reached the end of its life, it should be "retired" in a proper, dignified manner.

## The 'Flag Code'

While throwing away the American flag is not illegal, it is considered poor etiquette and thus should be avoided. Title 4, Chapter 1, of the US Flag Code states the following:

*"The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning."*

Granted, this is somewhat of a broad statement that is open for interpretation, but the emphasis of the US Flag Code involves disposal in a "dignified" manner.

# FLAG DAY IS JUNE 14

## Ceremonial Burning of the American Flag

As noted in the US Flag Code cited above, the preferred method for retiring a damaged American flag is burning. This does not mean that you should toss it into an open fire, however. The flag should be folded military style into the traditional triangle fold, at which point it can then be carefully lowered into the fire while those around take a moment to salute and honor it. Some organizations may say the Pledge of Allegiance during this moment, while others have their own ceremony scripts, such as the Boys Scout script,

## The Elk City Elks Lodge #2343 will be hosting a Ceremonial Burning of the American Flag

On June 14, 2021 at 6:00 p.m., the Elks Lodge will host a Ceremonial Burning of the American Flag, with the assistance of the **Elk City Fire Department and the Boys Scout Troup #144.**

If you have a damaged American flag, or if you would like to be a part of this ceremony, please join us at the Elks Lodge located at 108 Blue Ridge Drive in Elk City. Refreshments will be served.

Hope to see you at the lodge, June 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.