

Pottawattamie Commission of Veteran Affairs UPDATES

December 2007

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Schedule of Events:

December 7th [Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, 1941](#)

Service Organization Meetings:

1st Tuesday of the month - Disabled American Veterans Chapter No. 5 - 7:30 p.m.

2nd Tuesday of the month - American Legion - Treynor, Amvets - Walnut

Veterans Trust Fund

- The State of Iowa has established a \$5 million fund to provide certain services to veterans. Beginning in December of 2007 the interest of this fund is available. **In order to qualify for assistance from the trust fund, the applicant must have a household income at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines and less than \$15,000 in liquid assets. Further asset guidelines may apply and are identified within the applicable option.**

Applications are obtained through the County Veteran Affairs offices.

- **Travel expenses for wounded veterans directly related to follow-up medical care.** \$25 per day. Maximum in a 12 month period - \$1,000.
 - **Job training or college tuition assistance.** Total Maximum Assistance - \$3,000.
 - **Unemployment assistance during a period of unemployment due to prolonged physical or mental illness or disability resulting from military service.** Maximum in a 12 month period - \$3,000. Maximum monthly benefit - \$500
 - **Dental, vision, and hearing assistance for veterans living in a long term care facility or under a home health care contract.** Maximum benefit for dental care - \$2,500, vision care - \$500, hearing care - \$1,500. Liquid assets cannot exceed \$3,000.
 - **Benefits for a child or children or a disabled or deceased veteran following September 11, 2001.** One-time payment of \$250 – for children of disabled veterans. One-time payment of \$1,000 – for children of deceased veterans. Child means only biological or adopted children.
 - **Individual or family counseling programs.** Maximum in a 12 month period - \$2,500. Liquid assets cannot exceed \$3,000.
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- **Grant to Veterans organizations for providing military funeral honors.** Retro payments 7-1-07, Maximum in a 12 month period - \$500
 - **Grant to family support group programs or programs for children of the military.** Maximum in a 12 month period to a family readiness/support group - \$500

**I Pledge Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands,
one Nation under God,
indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.**



When to display the flag

Every day is a good day to fly the United States flag. If you decide to only fly the flag on historic and special occasions, we offer a list of those days:

Day	Date	Notes
New Year's Day	January 1	
Inauguration Day	January 20	
Martin Luther King's Birthday (observed)	3rd Monday in January	
Lincoln's Birthday	February 12	
Washington's Birthday	February 22	
Easter Sunday		
National Day of Prayer	1st Thursday in May	
Mother's Day	2nd Sunday in May	
Peace Officer's Memorial Day	May 15	half-staff until sunset
Armed Forces Day	3rd Saturday in May	
Memorial Day (observed)	Last Monday in May	half-staff until noon
Flag Day	June 14	
Independence Day	July 4	
Labor Day	1st Monday in September	
Patriot Day	September 11	half-staff until sunset
Constitution Day	September 17	
POW/MIA Recognition Day	3rd Friday in September	
National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service	1st Sunday in October	
Columbus Day (observed)	October 12	
Navy Day	October 27	
Veterans Day	November 11	
Thanksgiving Day	4th Thursday in November	
National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	December 7	half-staff until sunset
Christmas Day	December 25	
Election Days		

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Senator Jim Inhofe (R-Okla..) praised the passage by unanimous consent of his bill (S.1877) clarifying U.S. law to allow veterans and servicemen not in uniform to salute the flag.

Current law (US Code Title 4, Chapter 1) states that veterans and servicemen not in uniform should place their hand over their heart without clarifying whether they can or should salute the flag.

"The salute is a form of honor and respect, representing pride in one's military service," Senator Inhofe said. "Veterans and service members continue representing the military services even when not in uniform.

"Unfortunately, current U.S. law leaves confusion as to whether veterans and service members out of uniform can or should salute the flag. My legislation will clarify this regulation, allowing veterans and servicemen alike to salute the flag, whether they are in uniform or not.

"I look forward to seeing those who have served saluting proudly at baseball games, parades, and formal events. I believe this is an appropriate way to honor and recognize the 25 million veterans in the United States who have served in the military and remain as role models to others citizens. Those who are currently serving or have served in the military have earned this right, and their recognition will be an inspiration to others."

This bill passed July 25, 2007.



The History of the Service Flag

The Service Flag is an official banner authorized by the Department of Defense for display by families who have members serving in the Armed Forces during any period of war or hostilities the United States may be engaged in for the duration of such hostilities.

The history of the Service Flag is as patriotic and touching as the symbolism each star represents to the families that display them.

The service flag (also known as "blue star banners" or "son in service flags") was designed and patented by World War I Army Captain Robert L. Queissner of the 5th Ohio Infantry who had two sons serving on the front line. The flag quickly became the unofficial symbol of a child in service. President Wilson became part of its history when in 1918 he approved a suggestion made by the Women's Committee of the Council of National Defenses that mothers who had lost a child serving in the war to wear a gold gilt star on the traditional black mourning arm band. This led to the tradition to cover the blue star with a gold star on the Service flag to indicate that the service member has died or been killed.

The color of the stars is also symbolic in that the blue star represents hope and pride and the gold star represents sacrifice to the cause of liberty and freedom.

During World War II, the practice of displaying the service flag became much more widespread. In 1942, the Blue Star Mothers of America was founded as a veteran service organization and was part of a movement to provide care packages to military members serving overseas and also provide assistance to families who encountered hardships as a result of their son or husband serving during the war.

Virtually every home and organization displayed banners to indicate the number of members of the family or organization serving in the Armed Forces, and again, covered those blue stars with a gold star to represent each member that died.

In 1960, Congress chartered the Blue Star Mothers of America as a veterans service organization and in 1966, the Department of Defense revised the specifications for the design, manufacture and display of the Service Flag.

The Department of Defense specifies that family members authorized to display the flag include the wife, husband, mother, father, stepfather, parent through adoption, foster parents who stand or stood in loco parentis, children, stepchildren, children through adoption, brothers, sisters, half brothers and half sisters of a member of the Armed Forces of the United States. The flag should be displayed in a window of the residence of person who are members of the immediate family.

The Service Flag may also be displayed by an organization to honor the members of that organization serving in the Armed Forces during a period of war or hostilities.

How to Display the Service Flag

The Service Flag is an indoor flag and should be flown facing out from the front window of the home or organization. If the U.S. flag is also displayed with the Service Flag, the U.S. flag should be of equal or greater proportions and should take the place of honor above the Service Flag. If a gold star is added to the Service Flag, it should take the position of honor and be placed over the blue star that is positioned closest to the staff. The gold star should be smaller than the blue star to create a blue border surrounding the gold star.

The office has service flags available for purchase, they are \$7.00.

Bugle Calls

- 5:50 a.m. Assembly of the Buglers
Also known as First Call. This signal was used to call all the buglers to gather; it is also the first call of the camp day (between 4:45 & 6:00 a.m.) and the signal to wake up, wash and get ready for the morning roll call.
- 6:00 a.m. The Reveille
Sounded to mark morning roll call. This was not used to wake up the troops. The call is sounded when the men are formed on the color line, and signals the 1st Sergeants to call the men to attention. Upon the last note of this call, the flag was raised, the morning gun fired and the men all had to assemble for morning roll call.
- 6:15 a.m. Stable Call
Those who tended the stable were called to their duty with this call. Soldiers in the cavalry would report to the stables to feed and groom their mounts.
- 6:30 a.m. Breakfast Call
Troopers to report to the mess tent for breakfast, or time to prepare and eat breakfast. Breakfast usually consisted of bread and beef, perhaps potatoes or rice and plenty of hot, black coffee.
- 7:00 a.m. Sick Call
This call was sounded to assemble the sick so they could report to the hospital tent for treatment.
- 7:30 a.m. Fatigue Call
This call was the signal for policing of quarters, grounds and stables by fatigue parties.
- 8:55 a.m. Assembly of the Guard
All those assigned to guard duty are to assemble and mount the guard. This call was also used to call the relief of those standing guard. Men assigned to guard duty assemble in front of their respective barracks.
- 9:15 a.m. Watering Call
Details would be sent out for water with this call to replenish the camps' water supply and horses received their watering.
- 10:00 a.m. Drill Call
Troopers fall in on the drill field for drill instruction. Soldiers would practice the Manual of Arms, bayonet drills and marching. New recruits would be taught more basic skills.
- 11:00 a.m. The Recall
Used for a variety of reasons: to call back details and skirmishers to the main body, morning drill was to cease.
- 12:00 noon Dinner Call
This signal is sounded for the main meal of the day (lunch). Dinner was the main meal of the day usually consisting of beef, potatoes, limited vegetables, soup, plus coffee and bread. Beans were the most common vegetable ration and since potatoes often spoiled, they were dried into a brown, lumpy powder. During the summer the soldiers planted company gardens for fresh vegetables.
- 2:00 p.m. Boots and Saddles
This call was adopted by the army in 1841. It calls the troopers to their mounts and also signaled the alert for cavalrymen to put on their riding boots and saddle their horses.
- 5:30 p.m. The Assembly
The entire garrison would turn out for the Retreat ceremony. The actual lowering of the flag and playing of Retreat would occur at sunset. Troopers will form up in ranks.
- 6:00 p.m. Retreat
This call is used to signal the afternoon roll call. The call is sounded when the men are formed on the color line, and signals the 1st Sergeants to call the men to attention for afternoon roll call. The first eight notes are also sounded in the field to signal the falling back of a cavalry action. Also used for the flag-lowering ceremony.
- 9:00 p.m. Tattoo / To Extinguish Lights
"Tattoo" was the signal for the men to prepare for bed and to secure the post. The call was sounded when the men were formed on the color line, and signaled the 1st Sergeants to call the men to attention. This call is also sounded later to signal lights out.
- 9:15 p.m. Taps
Late in the war, this call was used to signal lights out. By the final note of "Taps" all lights were to be extinguished, all men bedded down in their bunks, and all loud talking was to cease.

History of Taps



Of all the military bugle calls, none is so easily recognized or more apt to render emotion than Taps. Up to the Civil War, the traditional call at day's end was a tune, borrowed from the French, called Lights Out. In July of 1862, in the aftermath of the bloody Seven Days battles, hard on the loss of 600 men and wounded himself, Union General Daniel Adams Butterfield called the brigade bugler to his tent. He thought "Lights Out" was too formal and he wished to honor his men. Oliver Wilcox Norton, the bugler, tells the story, "...showing me some notes on a staff written in pencil on the back of an envelope, (he) asked me to sound them on my bugle. I did this several times, playing the music as written. He changed it somewhat, lengthening some notes and shortening others, but retaining the melody as he first gave it to me. After getting it to his satisfaction, he directed me to sound that call for Taps thereafter in place of the regulation call. The music was beautiful on that still summer night and was heard far beyond the limits of our Brigade. The next day I was visited by several buglers from neighboring Brigades, asking for copies of the music which I gladly furnished. The call was gradually taken up through the Army of the Potomac."

This more emotive and powerful Taps was soon adopted throughout the military. In 1874 It was officially recognized by the U.S. Army. It became standard at military funeral ceremonies in 1891. There is something singularly beautiful and appropriate in the music of this wonderful call. Its strains are melancholy, yet full of rest and peace. Its echoes linger in the heart long after its tones have ceased to vibrate in the air.

- from an article by Master Sergeant Jari A Villanueva, USAF.

Words to Taps

(Note: there are no "official" words to Taps below are the most popular.)

Day is done,
gone the sun,
From the hills,
from the lake,
From the skies.
All is well,
safely rest,
God is nigh.

Go to sleep,
peaceful sleep,
May the soldier
or sailor,
God keep.
On the land
or the deep,
Safe in sleep.

Love, good night,
Must thou go,
When the day,
And the night
Need thee so?
All is well.
Speedeth all
To their rest.

Fades the light;
And afar
Goeth day,
And the stars
Shineth bright,
Fare thee well;
Day has gone,
Night is on.

Thanks and praise,
For our days,
'Neath the sun,
Neath the stars,
'Neath the sky,
As we go,
This we know,
God is nigh

The History of The Vietnam War POW/MIA Flag

In 1971, Mrs. Mary Hoff, an MIA wife and member of the National League of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia, recognized the need for a symbol of our POW/MIAs. Prompted by an article in the Jacksonville, Florida TIMES-UNION, Mrs. Hoff contacted Norman Rivkees, Vice-President of Annin & Company which had made a banner for the newest member of the United Nations, the People's Republic of China, as a part of their policy to provide flags to all UN member nations. Mrs. Hoff found Mr. Rivkees very sympathetic to the POW/MIA issue, and he, along with Annin's advertising agency, designed a flag to represent our missing men. Following League approval, the flags were manufactured for distribution.

The flag is black, bearing in the center, in black and white, the emblem of the League. The emblem is a white disk bearing in black silhouette the bust of a man, watch tower with a guard holding a rifle, and a strand of barbed wire; above the disk are the white letters POW and MIA framing a white 5-pointed star; below the disk is a black and white wreath above the white motto YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN.



Concerned groups and individuals have altered the original POW/MIA Flag many times; the colors have been switched from black with white - to red, white and blue, -to white with black; the POW/MIA has at times been revised to MIA/POW. Such changes, however, are insignificant. The importance lies in the continued visibility of the symbol, a constant reminder of the plight of America's POW/MIAs.

On March 9, 1989, a POW/MIA Flag, which flew over the White House on the 1988 National POW/MIA Recognition Day, was installed in the United States Capitol Rotunda as a result of legislation passed overwhelmingly during the 100th session of Congress. The leadership of both Houses hosted the installation ceremony in a demonstration of bipartisan congressional support. This POW/MIA Flag, the only flag displayed in the United States Capitol Rotunda, stands as a powerful symbol of our national commitment to our POW/MIAs until the fullest possible accounting for Americans still missing in Southeast Asia has been achieved.

For a complete listing go to this web site for all the POW/MIA's from the State of Iowa that were involved in

[Vietnam War, Korean War, Cold War, Persian Gulf War http://www.icwest.com/tc/iamiapow.htm](http://www.icwest.com/tc/iamiapow.htm)

LAST NAME	SERVICE	Loss rank	STATUS	Date of Incident	Home of Record	Country of Casualty
ADAMS, Steven Harold	USAF	E3	XX	10/18/1966	SPENCER, IA	VN
AYERS, Richard Lee	USAF	O4	XX	4/16/1970	WATERLOO, IA	VS
CLARK, Jerry Prosper	USA	W1	XX	12/15/1965	DAVENPORT, IA	VS
COHRON, James Derwin	USA	E6	XX	1/12/1968	CENTERVILLE, IA	LA
COOK, Kelly Francis	USAF	O5	XX	11/10/1967	SIOUX CITY, IA	VN
CROSS, Ariel Cross	USMC	O2	XX	7/17/1968	DES MOINES, IA	VS
DAVIS, Francis John	USN	O4	XX	6/14/1972	MONTROSE, IA	VN
EILERS, Dennis Lee	USAF	O3	XX	12/24/1965	CEDAR RAPIDS, IA	LA
GRIFFEY, Terrence Hastings	USAF	O2	BB	5/26/1966	FT DODGE, IA	VS
HERRICK, Jamew W. Jr.	USAF	O2	XX	10/27/1969	PANORA, IA	LA
HISE, James Hamilton	USN	O2	BB	3/25/1967	DES MOINES, IA	VS
KILLEN, John Dewey III	USMC	E3	BB	6/30/1967	DES MOINES, IA	VS
KING, Charles D.	USAF	E4	XX	12/25/1968	MUSCATINE, IA	LA
KROMMENHOEK, Jeffrey M.	USN	O3	XX	10/25/1967	SIOUX CITY, IA	VN
LEONARD, Robert B.	USN	E5	BB	10/2/1969	DES MOINES, IA	VN
MILIUS, Paul L.	USN	O5	XX	2/27/1968	WAVERLY, IA	LA
MORRISON, Glenn R. Jr.	USAF	O3	XX	10/26/1966	MASON CITY, IA	VS
PALEN, Carl Anthony	USA	E5	XX	1/3/1971	DUBUQUE, IA	VS
PETERSON, Delbert R.	USAF	O2	XX	3/9/1966	MANSON, IA	VS
PIITTMANN, Alan D.	USAF	E3	XX	11/16/1966	SHELBY, IA	LA
REX, Robert F.	USAF	O3	BB	3/9/1969	ODEBOLT, IA	LA
SCULL, Gary Bernard	USA	O1	XX	3/12/1970	HARLAN, IA	VS
SPARKS, Donald L.	USA	E3	XX	6/17/1969	CARROLL, IA	VS
WARREN, Gray D.	USAF	O3	XX	10/26/1969	DES MOINES, IA	LA
WHITFORD, Lawrence W. Jr.	USAF	O5	XX	11/2/1969	CEDAR FALLS, IA	LA
WOOD, Rex Stewart	USN	O4	BB	6/2/1967	MOULTON, IA	VN

Respectfully Burning Old Glory



Title 36, Chapter 10, Paragraphs 170-78

The United States Code is the official compilation of the Federal laws of a general and permanent nature that are currently in force. The Federal Statute that defines how the American Flag is to be treated is found in United States Code, Title 36, Chapter 10, Paragraphs 170-178.

The Federal Government has a website at <http://www.access.gpo.gov/uscode> that is the place where the official explanation of the US Code can be found.

Title 4, Chapter 1, Section 8 is entitled "Respect for flag." Critical portions of that section follow: "No disrespect should be shown to the flag of the United States of America...The flag represents a living country and is itself considered a living thing...**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.** [emphasis mine]."

Resource site: <http://www.usa-flag-site.org/faq/disposal.shtml>

Repair and Disposal of Worn Flags

Washing

If your American flag is beginning to look dirty or dingy, washing it may save it from an early retirement. The Flag Code does not prohibit washing flags. In fact washing your flag on a regular basis can prolong its life. Most outdoor flags can be hand-washed with a mild laundry detergent. If you're not sure if your flag can be washed, or of the proper washing procedure, take it to the dry cleaners. Many offer free flag-cleaning services, especially in the month of July.

Despite the common myth, flags that touch the ground do not need to be destroyed. If your flag does touch the ground, and it gets dirty, simply wash it. Allowing a flag to touch the ground is disrespectful to the flag, but of course accidents do happen. Just try to prevent it from happening again.

Repairing

As long as the flag is serviceable, it is acceptable to repair minor damages. While it is permitted to do repairs yourself, taking your flag to a seamstress may be a safer option. It's important that the repairs are not noticeable, and that the dimensions of the flag aren't altered. Flags with large tears or excessive fraying should be retired.

To avoid damage to your flag, bring it inside in bad weather, and make sure your flagpole or staff is in good condition. Rust can corrode your flag. If you are putting a flag into storage, make sure it is dry and the bag or container locks out moisture. Mold and mildew can grow on damp fabric.

FYI: Anyone with faded, torn or otherwise unserviceable flags may leave them at the Treynor American Legion or at the Veterans Affairs office. The office is also looking for an old mail box that can be used to collect flags to be placed outside of the office please let us know.



The American Legion Ceremony for the Disposal of Unserviceable Flags

The Post assembles in meeting, out-of-doors, at night. Members are aligned in two parallel rows about twenty feet apart, facing each other. Officers at their stations as shown. A small fire is burning opposite the Commander and beyond the rows of members.

Sergeant-at-Arms: "Comrade Commander, we wish to present a number of unserviceable Flags of our Country for inspection and disposal."

Commander: "Comrade Sergeant-at-Arms advance with your detail and present the Flags for disposal and inspection."

(Sergeant-at-Arms calls his detail to attention. They form at the Post of the Sergeant-at-Arms, take the Flags which are to be inspected march abreast down center until opposite the Second Vice-Commander, turn right and halt two paces in front of the Second Vice-Commander. The Sergeant-at-Arms steps one pace forward and salutes.)

Sergeant-at-Arms: "Comrade Vice-Commander, we present these unserviceable Flags for your inspection."

Second Vice-Commander: "Is the present condition of these Flags the result of their usual service as the Emblem of our Country?"

Sergeant-at-Arms: "These Flags have become faded and worn over the graves of our departed comrades and the soldier and sailor dead of all our nation's wars."

Second Vice-Commander: "Present these Flags to the First Vice-Commander for his inspection." (The Sergeant-at-Arms salutes, about faces, commands the detail), "About Face," (crosses behind the detail and takes his post at its left, commands) "Forward March." (The detail marches to within two paces of the First Vice-Commander, halts and proceeds as before.)

Sergeant-at-Arms: "Comrade Vice-Commander, we present these Flags which have been inspected by the Second Vice-Commander, for your further inspection."

First Vice-Commander: "Have any of these Flags served any other purpose?"

Sergeant-at-Arms: "Some of these Flags have been displayed in various public places." First Vice-Commander: "Present them to the Commander for final inspection and fitting disposal."

(The Sergeant-at-Arms salutes, about faces, commands the detail), "About Face," (crosses behind the detail and takes position on its left commands), "Forward March." (The detail marches to center, turns left, halts within two paces of the Commander, Sergeant-at-Arms steps one pace forward and salutes.)

Sergeant-at-Arms: "Comrade Commander, we have the honor to present for final inspection and proper disposal these Flags of our Country."

Commander: "Have these Flags been inspected by the First and Second Vice-Commanders?"

Sergeant-at-Arms: "They have."

Commander: "Comrade Second Vice-Commander, what does your inspection show and what do you recommend?"

Second Vice-Commander: "Comrade Commander, since these Flags have become unserviceable in a worthy cause, I recommend that they be honorably retired from further service."

Commander: "Comrade First Vice-Commander, what does your inspection show and what do you recommend?"

First Vice-Commander: "Comrade Commander, since these Flags have become faded and worn in a tribute of service and love, I also recommend that they be fittingly destroyed."

Commander: "Comrades, we have presented here these Flags of our Country which have been inspected and condemned as unserviceable. They have reached their present state in a proper service of tribute, memory and love.

"A Flag may be a flimsy bit of printed gauze, or a beautiful banner of finest silk. Its intrinsic value may be trifling or great; but its real value is beyond price, for it is a precious symbol of all that we and our comrades have worked for and lived for, and died for—a free Nation of free men, true to the faith of the past, devoted to the ideals and practice of Justice, Freedom and Democracy.

"Let these faded Flags of our Country be retired and destroyed with respectful and honorable rites and their places be taken by bright new Flags of the same size and kind, and let no grave of our soldier or sailor dead be unhonored and unmarked. Sergeant-at-Arms, assemble the Color Guard, escort the detail bearing the Flags and destroy these Flags by burning. The members shall stand at attention."

(Color Guard forms. The detail about faces. Preceded by the Color Guard the detail marches down center to the fire. National Colors cross over and take position on the right of the fire, facing the Commander. Post Standard takes position on left of fire. The detail lines up behind the fire, which is burning low.)

Commander: "The Chaplain will offer prayer."

Chaplain: "Almighty God, Captain of all hosts and Commander over all, bless and consecrate this present hour.

"We thank Thee for our Country and its Flag, and for the liberty for which it stands. "To clean and purging flame we commit these Flags, worn-out in worthy service. As they yield their substance to the fire, may Thy Holy Light spread over us and bring to our hearts renewed devotion to God and Country. Amen."

Commander: "Hand salute."

(Color Guards present arms. Post Standard is dipped. All officers and members except those on the Flag detail salute. Members of the Flag detail dip the condemned Flags in kerosene and place them on a rack over the fire).

(Bugler sounds "To the Colors.")

Commander: (at conclusion of "To the Colors") "Two."

(The Color Guard shall resume its station and detail is dismissed.)

(Color Guard advances down center and places Colors. Members of the detail resume their places among the members.)

GENERAL FLAG DISPOSAL CEREMONY

Speaker 1: "(Leader of Ceremony), We wish to present a number of unserviceable flags of our country for inspection and disposal."

Leader of Ceremony: "(Speaker 1), Advance with your detail and present your flags for inspection and disposal."

(Speaker 1) calls his detail to attention and stands by flags. (Speaker 2) comes forward and stands in front of flags. (Speaker 1) salutes briskly and holds. (Speaker 2) salutes briskly and when done (Speaker 1) stops saluting. When done with this they start next speech.

Speaker 1: "(Speaker 2) , we present these unserviceable flags for your inspection."

Speaker 2: "Is the present condition of these flags the result of their usual service as the emblem of our country?"

Speaker 1: "Some of these flags have become faded and worn over the graves of our departed veterans and the soldiers and sailors dead of all our nation's wars."

Speaker 2 starts to inspect flags and when done starts next speech.

Speaker 2: "(Speaker 1), please present these flags to (Speaker 3) for his inspection."

When done Speaker 2 moves out of way. Speaker 3 moves to Speaker 2's old position. Starts to speak.

Speaker 1: "(Speaker 3), we present these flags which have been inspected by (Speaker 2) for your further inspection."

Speaker 3: "Have any of these flags served any other purpose?"

Speaker 1: "Some of these flags have been displayed in various public and private places."

Speaker 3 starts to inspect flags and when done starts next speak.

Speaker 3: "Present these flags to)Leader of Ceremony) for final inspection and fitting disposal ."

Speaker 3 moves aside and Leader of Ceremony takes Speaker 1's old position . Starts to speech.

Speaker 1: "(Leader of ceremony), we have the honor to present for your final inspection and proper disposal these flags of our country."

Leader of Ceremony: "Have these flags been inspected by (Speaker 2) and (Speaker3)?"

Speaker 1: "They have ."

(Leader of Ceremony) starts to inspect flags and when done starts next speech.

Leader of Ceremony : "(Speaker 2 and Speaker 3), what do your inspections show and what do you recommend?"

Speaker 2 and Speaker 3: "(Leader), since these flags have become faded and worn in a tribute of service and love, I also recommend that they be honorably retired by fire and from further service."

Leader of Ceremony: "Fellow citizens, we have presented here these flags of our country which have been inspected and condemned as unserviceable. They have reached their present state in a proper service of tribute, memory and love. A flag maybe a flimsy bit of printed gauze, or a beautiful banner of the finest silk. Its inherent value may be trifling or great; but its value is beyond price, for its precious symbol of all that our veterans have worked for, lived for, and died for--a nation of free men and women, true to the faith of the past, devoted to the ideals and practice of justice, freedom and democracy. Let these faded flags of our country be retired and destroyed with respectful and honorable rites and their places be taken by bright new flags of the same size and kind. Speaker 2, assemble the color guard, escort the detail bearing the flags and destroy these flags by burning."

Speaker 2: "(The Chaplain), will lead us in prayer,"

*****The Person giving the prayer may want to use their own*** Chaplain will walk over to the mike and will start his prayer.**

Chaplain: Almighty God, Captain of all hosts and Commander over all, bless and consecrate this present hour. "We thank Thee for our Country and its Flag, and for the liberty for which it stands. "To clean and purging flame we commit these Flags, worn out in worthy service. As they yield their substance to the fire, may Thy Holy Light spread over us and bring to our hearts renewed devotion to God and Country. Amen."

Leader of Ceremony: "Hand salute."

(Teams of 2 to 4 will hold flag while 1 person separates flags into 3 sections (blue union separate from stripes); 3 sections will be folded, and placed on a rack over the flame. While the last flag is burning, Taps will be played by trumpet player(s).)

How To Cut the Flag

To conduct a proper ceremony it is necessary to cut the United States flag before burning it. This is a sign of respect since cutting the flag makes it no longer look like the United States flag. The best way to cut the flag is with a sharp pair of scissors. The picture below shows how to cut the flag.



From: Grassley Press
Sent: Friday, November 30, 2007 2:52 PM
To: Grassley Press
Subject: Rural Veterans-Grassley Q & A

Grassley Q & A: Protecting our Rural Veterans

November 30, 2007

Q: Is there federal legislation being proposed to help veterans?

A: On December 7, 1941, our country was stripped of peace when the naval base at Pearl Harbor was attacked. We were immediately drawn into the second World War and brave soldiers from across the United States answered the call to arms. Those who put their country before self either at home or abroad came to define what we now call the Greatest Generation. Veterans of armed conflicts since World War II have also acted courageously and left footprints for their respective generations. The least we can do for the men and women who fight underneath our flag is provide them with the services they deserve. As the senior senator from Iowa, I have a special interest in making sure veterans living in rural areas receive their benefits. These veterans may be a good distance from a VA facility, including critical access hospitals and community health centers. All veterans are entitled to the benefits they earned through service, regardless of where they live. To make sure these services are available, I have co-sponsored two different pieces of legislation this year that will help aid veterans living in rural communities.

Q: How does your legislation improve access for rural veterans?

A: As more and more veterans return home, we need to make sure those in rural areas can access the services they need. To help make this a reality, earlier this year I was an original co-sponsor of legislation that would help ease the transportation costs for veterans by increasing the mileage reimbursement rate for veterans who must travel to seek medical care to the same rate paid to federal employees. Veteran's groups who provide transportation to medical facilities will be eligible for grants to ease their financial burden, as well. This legislation also commissions the Director of the Office of Rural Health to develop demonstration projects, centers of excellence, and other initiatives to improve access and care for veterans living in rural areas. In November I also sponsored a second piece of legislation with Senator Klobuchar from Minnesota that would literally mobilize the resources of the VA. The bill would create a pilot program to test the concept of a mobile system that would bring the benefits of the VA to veterans in rural communities. This portable VA would offer several health care related services. It would have the ability to fill prescriptions and deliver medication and would offer regular mental health screening with emphasis on soldiers who recently returned from combat. Beyond bringing health care to veterans, this mobile unit would provide counseling and education on accessing VA health care, job-placement assistance, bereavement counseling to families of service members killed in action and other benefits for which veterans are eligible. With this legislation, I am hopeful that the VA will be better equipped to provide the services promised to our veterans who so valiantly earned them.

Local Resources: Omaha VAH – 346-8800
 DAV VAH Transportation- 402-449-0659
 West Central Community Action - 322-5966
 Workforce Development Center – 242-2136
 Department of Human Services – 328-5661
 Vet Center – 402-346-6735
 Department of Veteran Affairs – 1800-827-1000
 Legal Aid – 328-3982
 Family Housing Advisory Service – 322-4436

The Pottawattamie County Commission of Veteran Affairs wishes you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



Office Locations And Hours

Pottawattamie County Commission of Veterans Affairs
 223 South 6th Street, Court House Annex
 Council Bluffs, Iowa 51501
 712-328-5797 FAX 712-328-5726 e-mail: veterans@pottcounty.com
 Monday –Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 pm closed 12:00-1:00 p.m.
 Avoca Court House Tuesdays 8:00 am – 4:00pm 712-307-6409

Commissioners:
 Andrew Trautman, Chairman
 Michael Carter, Secretary
 Philip Jacobs, Member

Staff:
 Darlene McMartin, B. S.W., Administrator
 Peggy Becker, Case Worker III
 Lori Swisher, Case Worker I
 Michael Grap, Clerk II
 Pamela Wilke, Receptionist

The staff of the Veterans Service can assist you with the following subjects:

- Compensation or Pension
- Disability Retirement
- Death Indemnity Compensation
- Appeal to Board of Veterans Appeal
- Hospital and Outpatient Benefits
- State of Iowa Benefits
- Educational Benefits
- Vocational Benefits
- Debt Waivers
- Obtaining Lost Military Records
- Review of Military Discharge
- Claims for Insurance Payments
- Burial Allowance