



# CEREMONIAL FOLDING OF THE FLAG & Draped Coffin



As a flag, it represents the highest symbol of a country and its people. Blood is shed in order to defend its heritage, traditions, principles, laws, honor and values. *I can think of no other country that displays one's flag in more ways with pride, etiquette and dignity than the United States of America!*

With today's freedom of speech and freedom of expression (thanks to radical groups), we have lost the true meaning of our flag in its values, honor and respect that were once cherished. During parades, many do not stand up or give recognition for which it stands for. Worse yet, at demonstrations it is cursed at, spit upon, burned and trampled over even by our own citizens. This behavior is an insult to those that have given their lives in defense of our freedoms of which they enjoy. *It's ironic that respect and dignity is shown by most when draped over a coffin. Is death the only way in which to obtain our flags respect!*

As no country is perfect, we are no exception. For those that revolt against a policy, issue or belief, anger should not be taken out on the flag. *A symbol does not make policy, man and their governments do!* For those that don't abide by our laws (even those that make and pass them) or like our way of life, should lose their citizenship and be dropped from our ranks and deported to their country of choice! Of course this will never happen as we have our rights of free speech and expression. I don't believe the founders of this country meant us to be violent or vulgar in expressing our freedoms! Enough said as these are my personal views, but remember one thing ... ***to keep the values which symbolizes our flag, our respect will stand only as long as all of us want it to stand!***

**The 13 Folds of the flag:** Whether the flag is being removed from a flag pole or lifted from a coffin, meticulous attention to detail is executed in folding it 13 times. No matter what size the flag if proportioned properly, it has 13 folds! During burial services and other formal ceremonies, scripts are available and may be read to give meaning to each of the 13 folds. These script readings must be requested by a family member as there is ***no official State or Federal Laws*** related to the flag that assigns any special meaning to the individual folds of the flag!

- ❖ **One of the oldest scripts and most seen and read was written by an anonymous chaplain and is religious in nature, but there are those who take issue with this version due to their religious/non-religious beliefs!**
- ❖ **Col. Henry Lamar Hunt (chaplain) U.S. Army retired; wrote a script depicting the history of American wars from the Revolutionary War to the present.**
- ❖ **The U.S. Air Force has approved a script that depicts historical events and accomplishments of the Air Force.**

***The words to these three scripts can be found on the Internet by typing in (1), the 13 folds of the American flag: (2), Col. Henry Lamar Hunt (chaplain) US Army retired and (3), New Air Force Flag-Folding Script.***

**In addition,** vast websites are available traditions and proper etiquette procedures ***out and let's get back to preserving***



describing in detail our flag history, its in folding and displaying the flag. ***Check them and respecting what is "America"!***