



CEREMONIAL FLAG FOLDING



I recently attended a funeral where a Ceremonial Honor Guard folded and presented the American Flag to the deceased veteran's widow. I later was asked what the meaning was for this ceremony and its format. To answer the question, I was forced to do some research. The result of my research follows:

The flag is folded into the shape of a tri-cornered hat, in memory of the hats worn by the colonial soldiers during the war for independence. The flag has 12 folds to achieve its tri-cornered shape. Each fold has a special symbolism.

The first fold of our flag is a symbol of life.

The second fold is a symbol of our belief in the eternal life.

The third fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veteran departing our ranks who gave a portion of life for the defense of our country to attain a peace throughout the world.

The fourth fold represents our weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in times of war for His divine guidance.

The fifth fold is a tribute to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but still our Country, right or wrong."

The sixth fold is for where our hearts lie. It is with our heart that we 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.

The seventh fold is a tribute to our armed forces, for it is through the armed forces that we protect our country and our flag against all her enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of our Republic.

The eighth fold is a tribute to the one who entered in to the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day, and to honor mother, for whom it flies on Mother's Day.

The ninth fold is a tribute to womanhood; for it has been through their faith, love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great have been molded.

The tenth fold is a tribute to father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of our country since they were first born.

The eleventh fold, in the eyes of a Hebrew citizen, represents the lower portion of the Seal of King David and King Solomon, and glorifies, in their eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The Twelfth fold, in the eyes of a Christian citizen, represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in their eyes, God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.

When the flag is completely folded, the Stars are uppermost, reminding us of our National Motto: "In God We Trust".

Contributed by Rex Lloyd, TVC Staff