

Section 7 of the U. S. Flag Code (m)

The flag, when flown at [half-staff](#), should be first hoisted to the peak for an instant and then lowered to the [half-staff](#) position. The flag should be again raised to the peak before it is lowered for the day. On Memorial Day the flag should be displayed at [half-staff](#) until noon only, then raised to the top of the staff.

By order of the President, the flag shall be flown at [half-staff](#) upon the death of principal figures of the United States Government and the Governor of a State, territory, or possession, as a mark of respect to their memory. In the event of the death of other officials or foreign dignitaries, the flag is to be displayed at [half-staff](#) according to Presidential instructions or orders, or in accordance with recognized customs or practices not inconsistent with law. In the event of the death of a present or former official of the government of any State, territory, or possession of the United States, the death of a member of the Armed Forces from any State, territory, or possession who dies while serving on active duty, or the death of a [first responder](#) working in any State, territory, or possession who dies while serving in the line of duty, the Governor of that State, territory, or possession may proclaim that the National flag shall be flown at [half-staff](#), and the same authority is provided to the Mayor of the District of Columbia with respect to present or former officials of the District of Columbia, members of the Armed Forces from the District of Columbia, and [first responders](#) working in the District of Columbia. When the Governor of a State, territory, or possession, or the Mayor of the District of Columbia, issues a proclamation under the preceding sentence that the National flag be flown at [half-staff](#) in that State, territory, or possession or in the District of Columbia because of the death of a member of the Armed Forces, the National flag flown at any Federal installation or facility in the area covered by that proclamation shall be flown at [half-staff](#) consistent with that proclamation.

The flag shall be flown at [half-staff](#) 30 days from the death of the President or a former President; 10 days from the day of death of the Vice President, the Chief Justice or a retired Chief Justice of the United States, or the Speaker of the House of Representatives; from the day of death until interment of an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, a Secretary of an [executive or military department](#), a former Vice President, or the Governor of a State, territory, or possession; and on the day of death and the following day for a Member of Congress. The flag shall be flown at [half-staff](#) on Peace Officers Memorial Day, unless that day is also Armed Forces Day.

As used in this subsection—

- (1) the term "[half-staff](#)" means the position of the flag when it is one-half the distance between the top and bottom of the staff;
- (2) the term "[executive or military department](#)" means any agency listed under sections 101 and 102 of title 5;
- (3) the term "Member of Congress" means a Senator, a Representative, a Delegate, or the Resident Commissioner from Puerto Rico; and
- (4) the term "[first responder](#)" means a "public safety officer" as defined in section 1204 of title I of the [Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968](#) (34 U.S.C. 10284).