

T658 - Flag Retirement Ceremony (Abridged Version)

When the U.S. Flag becomes tattered or worn, it should be disposed of by burning. Here are the basics for a Flag retirement ceremony. Appropriate songs and/or readings may be added.

1. **SPL:** "Would the Audience please rise? Tonight we have the privilege to honor the symbol of our American freedom - the American Flag - as we retire her from active duty." <<Additional ALT TEXT if multiple flags are to be retired. >> "In fact, tonight we have several flags that have reached the end of their service, and so will be honored together."
 2. **SPL:** "Color Guard advance." <pause until they're in position>
 3. **SPL:** "Color Guard, display the colors." <Fold out flags to display to audience. Place the stars (as the audience sees them) in the upper left hand corner.>
 4. **SPL:** "Remember as you look at the Flag, it is the symbol of our nation. THE RED stands for courage and the human cost of freedom; THE BLUE stands for the true blue loyalty of its defenders; and THE WHITE symbolizes purity and liberty in our land of the free. THE STARS are symbols of the united efforts and the hope in the hearts of the many people striving to keep America strong."
 5. **SPL:** "Please join me in honoring the flag with one last Pledge. All those in uniform please salute, and all those in civilian clothes please put your right hand over your heart." <give Pledge of Allegiance>
 6. **SPL:** Color Guard, retire the colors. < Color Guard to lay the flag across the fire, tucking in the corners until it's all in the flame>
 7. **SCOUT #1** _____: "Four score and seven years ago, our fathers brought forth upon this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."
 8. **SCOUT #2** _____: "The thirteen stripes stand for the thirteen original colonies which are: Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, South Carolina, New Hampshire, Virginia, New York, North Carolina, and Rhode Island."
 9. **SCOUT #3** _____: "We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessing of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution on the United States of America."
 10. **SCOUT #4** _____: "We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal. They are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights. Among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."
 11. **SPL:** "We will now observe a moment of silence to reflect on our Flag, its service, and the men and women who have lived and served under it." <pause for moment>. "Thank you, this now concludes this Flag Retirement Ceremony."
 12. **NOTE** >>>After the ashes have cooled, they should be buried. (Where/If Applicable.)
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Please remember, this is a very solemn ceremony and should be done with the utmost respect and reverence for the flag to be retired.