



Press Release

Date: June 8, 2012

To: Local newspapers and media outlets; Village website

Re: **Proper American Flag Etiquette**

With the 4th of July holiday rapidly approaching, the Village of Willowbrook would like to remind citizens of proper American flag etiquette. Federal law stipulates many aspects of flag etiquette or Flag Code. The following are some general guidelines from the Flag Code that should answer many of the most common questions:

- The flag should be lighted at all times, either by sunlight or by an appropriate light source.
- The flag should be flown in fair weather, unless the flag is designed for inclement weather use.
- When displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall, the union should be uppermost and to the flag's own right, that is, to the observer's left. When displayed in a window, the American flag should be displayed in the same way, with the union or blue field to the left of the observer in the street.
- The flag should never be dipped to any person or thing.
- The flag should never be used for any decoration in general. Bunting of blue, white and red stripes is available for these purposes. The blue stripe of the bunting should be on the top.
- The flag should never be used for any advertising purpose. It should not be embroidered, printed or otherwise impressed on such articles as cushions, handkerchiefs, napkins, boxes, or anything intended to be discarded after temporary use. Advertising signs should not be attached to the staff or halyard.
- The flag should not be used as part of a costume of athletic uniform, except that a flag patch may be used on the uniform of military personnel, fireman, policeman and members of patriotic organizations.
- The flag should never be used for receiving, holding, carrying, or delivering anything.
- When the flag is lowered, no part of it should touch the ground or any other object; it should be received by waiting hands and arms. To store the flag it should be folded neatly and ceremoniously.
- The flag should be cleaned and mended when necessary.
- When a flag is so worn it is no longer fit to serve as a symbol of our country, it should be destroyed by burning in a dignified manner.

Thanks to the generosity of a Willowbrook veteran, a collection box has been placed in the lobby of the Village Hall located at 7760 Quincy Street, Willowbrook, IL. Citizens may drop off their worn flags Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 11:00 p.m. and the flags will be disposed of in a proper and dignified manner.

Additional information can be obtained from the USA Flag website, www.use-flag-site.org.

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