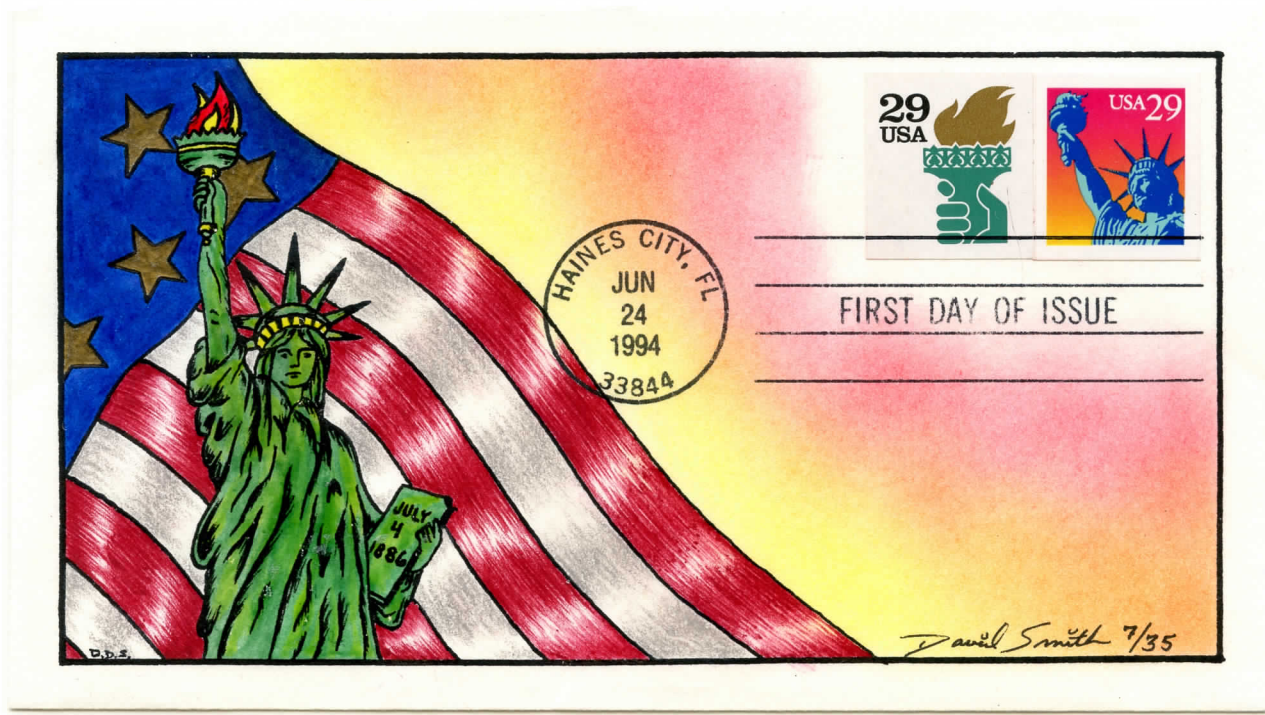


The U.S. Flag

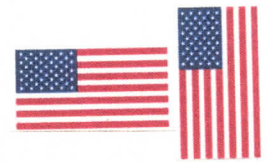
Carol Costa, lynca8@earthlink.net



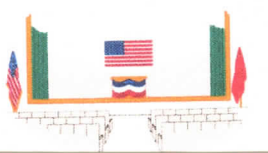
The flag stands for our country and the American people. It represents our highest principles, our way of life, and our heritage, including the sacrifice of those who have died in its defense. For these reasons, the flag of our country deserves our respect. An American citizen shows respect for the flag by displaying it properly.



The “**flag’s own right**” as referenced in the U.S. Flag Code, governs the proper display of the flag in many settings. The “right” is the position of honor developed from the time when the right hand was the “weapon hand” or “point of danger.” The right hand raised without a weapon was a sign of peace. The right hand, to any observer, is the observer’s left. Therefore, the flag and the union (blue field of stars) is displayed to the observer’s left, which is the flag’s “own right.”



Although not required from a residential location, the **half-staff position** can be represented by a black streamer attached just below the spearhead of the pole so that it flies freely along the flag. The streamer should be about the same width as a single stripe on the flag, and at least as long as the flag itself.



When displayed **from a speaker’s platform or in a church**, if the flag is displayed flat, it should be above and behind the speaker, with the union to the speaker’s right. If the flag is displayed from a staff, it should be placed in the position of honor – at the speaker or clergyman’s right as he faces the audience. All other flags should be on the speaker’s left.

