



2023 Texas Resolution for a Ritual Addition, R-1

Intent: The intent of the resolution is to adopt a ceremonial ritual for the retirement of worn and unserviceable US Flags.

FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY

The following Post Officers comprise the Flag Retirement Detail. Additional Post (and/or Auxiliary) members are encouraged to participate. Participation of community and youth organizations is encouraged.

Commander
Senior Vice Commander
Junior Vice Commander
Chaplain
Officer of the Day
Bugler
Honor Guard

Senior Vice Commander

"Comrade Commander, we wish to present a number of unserviceable Flags of our Country for inspection and disposal."

Commander

"Our Flag has represented our country and it's fighting men and women since 1776, when thirteen stars and thirteen stripes represented the 13 original colonies, which became the first 13 states. Our Flag has been carried into battle throughout our war for independence, the War of 1812, the Mexican-American War, the Civil War, The Spanish-American War, 2 World Wars, Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Iraq and countless other skirmishes and battles around the globe. Our Flag, regardless of its construction, represents this ideal and the brave men and women who have upheld it. However, that individual Flag... that representation of those ideals and warriors... may fade and wear with time. When that individual Flag becomes unserviceable, Title 4, Section 8 of the United States Code states that 'No disrespect should be shown to the flag of the United States of America'. Furthermore, paragraph (K) of this same Title 4, Section 8 states, 'The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.'"

Commander

"Officer of the Day bring forth one folded Flag!"

Officer of the Day carries one folded Flag forward to be examined by the Post Commander. The Commander examines the flag to determine its serviceability, then returns the flag to the Officer of the Day.

VFW DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS

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Commander

"I find that this flag has honorably represented our nation and has given its all. The flag is torn and faded and is no longer serviceable. This flag will be retired of its duties, knowing that it has been replaced by a banner untorn and unfaded."

Commander

"Chaplain please offer a prayer"

Chaplain

"Almighty God, we ask you to consecrate this ceremony. We thank you for our country, its Flag and the brave men and women who have served under it. We ask your presence and guidance as we commit these worn and tattered Flags to the cleansing, purging flame and ask you to keep in our hearts and minds the symbolism of the Flag and the liberties that it represents. May this ceremony and this act bring in us a renewed sense of duty and devotion to our God and our Country. In your most Holy name we pray, Amen"

Commander

You will join me in a final Pledge of Allegiance to this flag. Present Arms! "I 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."

"Bugler, sound Taps"

Bugler

Plays Taps.

Commander

Order Arms!

"Comrade Senior Vice Commander, assist the Officer of the Day and the Honor Guard with disassembly of this unserviceable flag"

Senior Vice Commander, Officer of the Day & Honor Guard

Disassemble the flag, cut the union from the flag, cut the stripes, white from red, cut the 50 stars out of the union.

Commander

"Officer of the Day, take these shards that once comprised our National ensign and dispose of them in the purging flame that has been prepared."

Officer of the Day

Ensures that each participant places (at least) one piece of the disassembled flag on the fire. Following the ritualistic disposal of the disassembled flag, the remaining flags are placed, ceremoniously, on the fire, until all are consumed.

Officer of the Day

(after the flags are fully consumed by fire)

She is gone, sir!

Commander

This concludes our ceremony. Detail, dismissed!

After the fire has burned out, the grommets should be removed from the ashes and may be presented as mementos of the ceremony.

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Formation Setup

Jr. Vice Commander

X

Commander

X

Sr. Vice Commander

X

Chaplain

X

Honor Guard

X

Officer of the Day

X

Flag Table

X

0

Flag Barrel

0

Flag Barrel

Bugler

X