

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

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**HALF-STAFFING OF U. S. FLAGS**

The following rules with respect to the display of the Flag of the United States of America at half-staff upon the death of certain officials are quoted, for the information of the Department, from a proclamation by the President of the United States dated March 1, 1954:

1. The Flag of the United States shall be flown at staff on all buildings, grounds, and naval vessels of the Federal Government in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its territories and possessions for the period indicated upon the death of any of the following designated officials or former officials of the United States:
  - (a) The President or a former President: for thirty days from the day of death.

The flag shall also be flown at half - staff for such period at all United States embassies, legations, and other facilities abroad, including all military facilities and naval vessels and stations.
  - (b) The Vice President, the Chief Justice or retired Chief Justice of the United States, or the Speaker or the House of Representatives: for ten days from the day of death.
  - (c) An Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, a member of the Cabinet, a former Vice President, the Secretary of the Army, the Secretary of the Navy, or the Secretary of the Air Force: from the day of death until interment.
2. The Flag of the United States shall be flown at half-staff on all buildings, grounds, and naval vessels of the Federal Government in the metropolitan area of the District of Columbia on the day of death and on the following day upon the death of a United States Senator, Representative, Territorial Delegate, or the Resident Commissioner from the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and it shall also be flown at half-staff on all buildings, grounds, and naval vessels of the Federal Government in the State, Congressional District, Territory, or Commonwealth of such Senator, Representative, Delegate, or Commissioner, respectively from the day of death until interment.

3. The Flag of the United States shall be flown at half-staff on all buildings and grounds of the Federal Government in a State, Territory, or possession of the United States upon the death of the Governor of such State, Territory, or possession from the day of death until interment.
4. In the event of the death of other officials, former officials, or foreign dignitaries, the Flag of the United States shall be displayed at half-staff in accordance with such orders or instructions as may be issued by or at the direction of the President, or in accordance with recognized customs or practices not inconsistent with law.
5. The heads of the several departments and agencies of the Government may direct that the Flag of the United States be flown at half-staff on buildings, grounds, or naval vessels under, their Jurisdiction on occasions other than those specified herein which they consider proper, and that suitable military honors be rendered as appropriate.