Synopsis

Honoring Old Glory!

How to respect, care for and display our nation’s flag.

The purpose of this one frame experimental display exhibit is to illustrate through post cards, stamps, covers and ephemera the proper respect, care and display of Old Glory. Proper display of the flag exemplifies the traits of patriotic Americans who respect and cherish the flag of their country and appreciate the intangible ideals and principles that it symbolizes.

The Subject is based on the U. S. Public law 623, enacted by the 77th Congress to insure the U. S. flag is eternally treated with the respect due of a great nation’s flag. The code has been amended numerous times as late as 2014.

The treatment and plan of the exhibit is to lift-up to my peers the proper respect, care and display of the flag. These courteous actions are lessons I have learned in the past but have forgotten over the years. My interest in assembling this exhibit was sparked by the U.S. flag collection my younger brother maintains. This exhibit will eventually be a gift to him.

The exhibitor has a good knowledge of U. S. flags. As mentioned above, I have been buying U.S. flag stamp issues and ephemera for my younger brother for years. Articles from The American Philatelist, Linn’s Stamp News and check list from the American Topical Association have given me the background to put this exhibit together. Finding appropriate material to illustrate the various protocols is a completely different story. Most of the US flag stamps only show the flag on a staff, these are of little help in demonstrating protocol.

The exhibit has several post cards from the early 1900s. Many are vintage and in remarkably pristine condition. The Associated Press and American Press Association’s glossy prints provided reference points when post cards or stamps were not available. The step by step example of how to properly fold an American flag utilized 4” x 6” parade flags. The tactical reverse U.S.A. flag patch is an authentic patch purchased from Camp Shelby Post Exchange, in Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

This exhibit is very timely in my opinion. As U.S. citizens, we should know the proper ways of displaying and caring for Old Glory, our National Symbol! Two hand-outs are available under the exhibit frame: “Meaning behind the Folds” includes Flag Trivia on the back and patriotic song lyrics including: “The Star Spangled Banner,” “America,” “America the Beautiful,” “The Stars and Stripes Forever,” “You’re a Grand Old Flag” and “Yankee Doodle Dandy.”

References:
Books:
Stoffer, Jeff (Editor), Indivisible: The Story of Our Flag. An American Legion Family Centennial Publication © 2015 by The American Legion, Indianapolis, IN

Internet:
www.usflag.org/flagetiquette
www.usa-flag-site.org/flag-etiquette
www.ushistory.org