

## FLAG PROTOCOL WHEN LOWERING THE U.S. FLAG AND MARYLAND STATE FLAG

By order of the Governor or authorized representative, the Maryland flag shall be flown at half-staff on any occasion deemed appropriate and for a period of time prescribed by the Governor or authorized representative. Executive Order 01.01.1999.30 26:22 MD. R. 1661 <https://dsd.maryland.gov/executiveorders/Pages/01.01.1999.30.aspx> (October 22, 1999)

### **Presidential Proclamation, Death of: Public Official, Firefighter, Police Officer, Military Personnel:**

SOS Staff assigned to Flag Protocol is responsible to prepare and issue a notification to lower the U.S. Flag and Maryland State Flag when a Pres. Proclamation is issued or the Governor orders the Maryland Flag lowered. The chart below states how long the flag is lowered, per Executive Order, the Governor has the discretion to prescribe a different time.

**ALL notifications are initiated by either a Presidential Proclamation or Governor’s Order.**

The following time frames are used when issuing a notice to lower the flag.

**Note: Governor has the discretion to alter time frames to lower the Maryland Flag. Orders from the Governor supersede the chart below.**

President or Former President	30 days from day of death
Vice President	10 days from day of death
Chief Justice of the U.S	10 days from day of death
Retired Chief Justice of the U.S.	10 days from day of death
Speaker of the House	10 days from day of death
Associate Justice of the Supreme Court	Day of death until sunset on day of interment
Secretary of Executive or Military Department	Day of death until sunset on day of interment
Former Vice President	Day of death until sunset on day of interment
Member of US Congress or Senate	Day of death and the following day
Governor of a State	Day of death until sunset on day of interment
MD Lieutenant Governor	Day of death until sunset on day of interment
MD Delegate/Senator/County Executive	Day of death until sunset on day of interment
Former MD Governor	Day of death until sunset on day of interment
Former MD Lieutenant Governor	Day of interment from sunrise to sunset
Former MD Congressman or US Senator	Day of interment from sunrise to sunset
Former MD Delegate/Senator/County Executive	Day of interment from sunrise to sunset
Former MD Cabinet Secretary	Day of interment from sunrise to sunset
MD Firefighter (line of duty)	Day of death until sunset on day of interment
MD Police Officer (line of duty)	Day of death until sunset on day of interment
MD Correctional Officer (line of duty)	Day of death until sunset on day of interment
Member of the Armed Forces from Maryland	Day of interment from sunrise to sunset
Presidential Proclamation	Follow instructions of proclamation

### **Armed Forces**

- The U.S. Flag and Maryland State Flag are lowered from sunrise to sunset on the day of interment.
- Public law 110.41 authorizes the Governor to order that the U.S. flag be flown at half-staff in the event of the death of a member of the Armed Forces from that State who dies while serving on active duty. 4 U.S.C §7(m) (2016). <https://www.congress.gov/110/plaws/publ41/PLAW-110publ41.pdf>

### **Police Officer, Firefighter, or Correctional Officer killed in the line of duty:**

- When a Police Officer, Firefighter, or Correctional Officer is killed in the line of duty (must be “line of duty”), the Maryland Flag is lowered immediately.
- An “updated” notification will be issued indicating the date to restore the Flags to Full Staff on day of interment.

- Effective February 9, 2018, H.R. 189 authorizes the Governor to lower the U.S. Flag to half-staff in the event a first responder is killed in the line of duty. <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/search/pagedetails.action?packageId=BILLS-115hr1892eh>
- The Governor has authority to lower U.S. Flag when a member of Armed Forces from Maryland dies while on active duty. Public Law 110-41, gives this authority. <https://www.congress.gov/110/plaws/publ41/PLAW-110publ41.pdf>

#### Local Jurisdictions:

- County and municipal government officials may order the Maryland Flag lowered on property in their jurisdiction. Executive Order 01.01.1999.30, paragraph 5.04: "The Maryland flag should be flown at half-staff when ordered by county and municipal government officials on all property under their jurisdiction."

#### The following events honor Heroes: BOTH the U.S. Flag and Maryland Flag are lowered at sunrise and raised at sunset

- **May 15:** Peace Officers Memorial Day\* *\*Flags are not lowered if Peace Officers Memorial Day conflicts with Armed Forces Day: the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat. in May)*
- **Memorial Day: Half-Staff until 12 Noon\*\*** *\*\*Memorial Day, flags are lowered until noon in honor of those who died in the line of duty and raised to full-staff at noon in honor of the living veterans*
- **September 11:** Patriot Day
- **First Sunday in October:** Fire Prevention Week -
- **December 7:** National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

#### The following events honor Heroes: ONLY the Maryland Flag is lowered at sunrise and raised at sunset

- **February 20:** Civil Rights Heroes Day. This day recognizes the courage, sacrifice, and relentless efforts of civil rights and abolition leaders throughout history and reaffirms our commitment to be a land of opportunity, hope, and justice for every citizen.
- **First Friday in May** Fallen Heroes Day.
- **First Sunday in June:** Maryland Fire and Rescue Services Memorial Remembrance Day.
- **August 31:** International Overdose Awareness Day-

#### POW-MIA and the Honor and Remember flags:

POW/MIA flag, honors those that are Prisoners of War and Missing in Action

Honor and Remember flag, designed to honor all members of the Armed Forces who died in the line of duty

- No notification is issued re: POW-MIA and Honor and Remember flags
- On the State House, POW-MIA and Honor and Remember flags fly on:
  - Armed Forces Day (3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in May)
  - Memorial Day
  - Independence Day
  - Veterans Day
  - Saturday & Sunday closest to Memorial and Veterans Day
  - POW/MIA Recognition Day (3<sup>rd</sup> Friday in September)
- POW-MIA and Honor and Remember flags are to be flown on State Grounds on the right side of the building (facing Rowe Blvd)
- With the exception of the State House, a State building that is an historic building, or a State building that has a flagpole attached to the building and is determined to be structurally unable to withstand additional flags being flown from the flagpole; the Secretary of General Services and the Secretary of Transportation shall cause the POW/MIA flag to be flown on the grounds of all State buildings under their control whenever the flag of the United States is flown (Annotated Code of Maryland, State Finance and Procurement Article, 4-210). <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmStatutesText.aspx?article=gsf&section=4-210&ext=html&session=2018RS&tab=subject5>
- POW-MIA flag is flown below the United States flag on state buildings. The POW-MIA flag is flown at half-staff when the United States flag is flown at half-staff. When only the Maryland flag is flown at half-staff, the POW-MIA flag is still flown at full-staff.

#### Blue Star Flag:

Formally known as the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. The Service flag is an official banner authorized by the Department of Defense for display by families who have members serving in the Armed Forces during any period of war or hostilities the United States may be engaged in for the duration of such hostilities. The Service flag may also be displayed by an organization to honor the members of that organization serving during a period of war or hostilities.