

# **NH PATRIOT GUARD RIDERS, INC.**

## **AUTOMOBILE AND MOTORCYCLE FLAG DISPLAY GUIDELINES FOR NON-MILITARY VEHICLES**



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## **PREAMBLE**

This document is intended to establish the general guidelines in which to properly display the U.S. Flag, Service Flag(s), State Flag(s), and Organization Flags on non-military motor vehicles.

The information contained herein was provided by the *Military Research Project* using a variety of sources including but not limited to the U.S. Flag Code, directives issued by the U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Department of State, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, as well as current orders, manuals and/or directives from each branch of service in the U.S. Armed Services.

To view the full manual published by the *Military Research Project* please visit [usmhc.org/Flag.php](http://usmhc.org/Flag.php) to download the manual in either .doc or .pdf format.

## **DISCLAIMER**

The following information is intended to show the proper way in which to display the Flag, not the manner in which to display it.


Neither the NH Patriot Guard Riders, Inc. nor the Military Research Project is responsible for the methods in which you use to mount a flag or flags to your automobile or motorcycle. Mounting and “flying” a flag from an automobile or motorcycle can alter the way that vehicle handles at any speed; it is up to you to operate the vehicle in which you feel comfortable. Additionally adding a flag to an automobile or motorcycle may put additional stress on the vehicle causing premature wear and tear, frequent checks of all associated parts including the mounting system, poles, and flags are required.

## AUTOMOBILE AND MOTORCYCLE FLAG DISPLAY GUIDELINES FOR NON-MILITARY VEHICLES

No other flag should be flown higher than the Flag of the United States of America. No other flag should be noticeably larger than the Flag of the United States of America. The U.S. Flag is mounted *on its own right as the vehicle is moving forward*, **EXCEPT** when it is mounted as follows...

- A single U.S. Flag mounted on the roof of an automobile or truck, or on the rear fender or “bumper” of a motorcycle, **CAN** be mounted in the center of the vehicle **OR** it can be mounted on the right side (passenger side) of the vehicle.
- The U.S. Flag can be displayed in the center of a row of an odd number of flags (i.e. three flags, five flags, seven flags, etc.) mounted across the roof of an automobile or truck or in a fender-mount or bumper mount of the rear of a motorcycle. In this case, the U.S. Flag should be higher than all the other flags. “Higher” means that the uppermost red stripe of the flag should be above the top of all the other flags. This can generally be accomplished by using a U.S. Flag one size larger than all the other flags or by extending the length of the pole holding a U.S. Flag that is the same size as all of the other flags.
- The U.S. Flag displayed in the center of a row of *multiple* U.S. Flags mounted in a line across the roof of an automobile or truck, or in a fender-mount or bumper-mount on the rear of a motorcycle **CAN** be higher than all of the other U.S. Flags (in the case of an odd number of *multiple* U.S. Flags, i.e. three flags, five flags, seven flags, etc.) ... **OR** ... all of the U.S. Flags can be the same height and size.
- If U.S. Flags are flown from poles extending out of the “post holes” in the rear of, and on both sides, of the bed of a pickup truck, both U.S. Flags should be the same size and height.

The following pictures illustrate a variety of situations. Each example conforms to protocol guidelines...

	<p style="text-align: center;">One window-mounted U.S. Flag positioned on its own right (the passenger side of the vehicle) as the vehicle moves forward</p>
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One fender-mounted U.S. Flag  
positioned on its own right  
(the passenger side of the vehicle)  
as the vehicle moves forward



One roof-mounted U.S. Flag  
positioned in the center  
of the vehicle



One U.S. Flag  
positioned in the center  
of the rear of the motorcycle;  
flag is positioned straight-up



One U.S. Flag  
positioned in the center  
of the rear of the motorcycle;  
flag is angled to the rear



Two roof-mounted U.S. Flags  
of the same size and height  
positioned on both sides of the vehicle



Two U.S. Flags  
of the same height and size  
positioned in the center  
of the rear of the motorcycle;  
flags are leaning outwards at the same angle



U.S. Flag positioned on its own right  
as the vehicle moves forward;  
size of the U.S. Flag is  
equal to, or greater than, the other flag



U.S. Flag positioned on its own right  
as the vehicle moves forward;  
size of the U.S. Flag is  
equal to, or greater than, the other flag



U.S. Flag positioned on its own right  
as the motorcycle moves forward;  
size of the U.S. Flag is  
equal to, or greater than, the other flag



U.S. Flag positioned on its own right  
as the motorcycle moves forward;  
size of the U.S. Flag is  
equal to, or greater than, the other flag;  
both flags are positioned straight-up



U.S. Flag positioned on its own right  
as the motorcycle moves forward;  
size of the U.S. Flag is  
equal to, or greater than, the other flag;  
both flags are leaning outwards at the same angle



U.S. Flag positioned in the center  
of the rear of the motorcycle;  
U.S. Flag is larger and higher  
than the other flags





U.S. Flag positioned in the center  
of a row of flags on  
the rear of the motorcycle;  
U.S. Flag is mounted higher  
than the other flags

If multiple flags are displayed on the roof of an automobile or a truck, the U.S. Flag can be positioned by itself and centered **AHEAD** (towards the front bumper) of a “second row” that includes all of the remaining flags. The U.S. Flag should be the same size or larger than all of the other flags.

- ... **OR** ... the U.S. Flag can be positioned in the center of the row using a U.S. Flag that is larger than all of the other flags (or raising the U.S. Flag higher by extending the pole);
- ... **OR** ... the U.S. Flag can be positioned on its own right as the vehicle is moving forward using a U.S. Flag that is the same size or larger than all of the other flags.

Flags flown on the same pole as the U.S. Flag (i.e. the POW/MIA flag or the Armed Forces Memorial Tribute Flag) should always be positioned beneath the U.S. Flag and, preferably, should be one size smaller. When the POW/MIA flag or the Armed Forces Memorial Tribute flag are flown by themselves on separate poles, they should be positioned according to the ORGANIZATIONAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FLAGS precedence listed.

Flags flown on civilian motor vehicles should **NOT** be half-staffed. The flag can be furled and secured with a black mourning ribbon streamer ... **OR** ... a black mourning ribbon streamer can be attached to the top of the pole as illustrated below. This is usually done for the day of the funeral only.



U.S. Flag with a  
black mourning ribbon streamer  
attached to the top of the pole;  
the streamer is **NOT** attached to the flag itself

# ORDER OF PRECEDENCE FOR FLAGS

## 1. NATIONAL FLAGS

When flown with the flags of any other nation (i.e. Canada, Mexico, etc.), the U.S. Flag is positioned on its own right as the vehicle moves forward. Flags of other nations should be positioned to the immediate left of the U.S. Flag in alphabetical order, using the English language. **ALL** of the national flags, including the U.S. Flag, should be the same size and be positioned at the same height.

Members of patriotic groups, such as the Patriot Guard Riders, should reposition the national flags on their vehicles immediately after entering Canada or Mexico so that the host country's flag is on its own right as the vehicle moves forward. The remaining national flags, including the U.S. Flag, should be positioned to the immediate left of the host country's flag in alphabetical order, using the English language. Conversely, visitors from Canada or Mexico should position the U.S. Flag on its own right immediately after entering the United States. The remaining national flags, including the visitor's national flag, should be positioned to the immediate left of the U.S. Flag in alphabetical order, using the English language.

## 2. STATE FLAGS

State flags are positioned in the order they entered the Union...

1 – Delaware	26 – Michigan
2 – Pennsylvania	27 – Florida
3 – New Jersey	28 – Texas
4 – Georgia	29 – Iowa
5 – Connecticut	30 – Wisconsin
6 – Massachusetts	31 – California
7 – Maryland	32 – Minnesota
8 – South Carolina	33 – Oregon
9 – New Hampshire	34 – Kansas
10 – Virginia	35 – West Virginia
11 – New York	36 – Nevada
12 – North Carolina	37 – Nebraska
13 – Rhode Island	38 – Colorado
14 – Vermont	39 – North Dakota
15 – Kentucky	40 – South Dakota
16 – Tennessee	41 – Montana
17 – Ohio	42 – Washington
18 – Louisiana	43 – Idaho
19 – Indiana	44 – Wyoming
20 – Mississippi	45 – Utah
21 – Illinois	46 – Oklahoma
22 – Alabama	47 – New Mexico
23 – Maine	48 – Arizona
24 – Missouri	49 – Alaska
25 – Arkansas	50 – Hawaii



Flags of American Territories should be positioned next in alphabetical order. County flags should be positioned next and in alphabetical order within a state. City flags should be positioned next, with the capitol city placed first and other cities within the state positioned alphabetically. Municipal flags (town, township, unincorporated) should be positioned next, in alphabetical order.

### **3. SERVICE FLAGS**

Service flags are positioned in the following order...

- U.S. Army
- U.S. Marine Corps
- U.S. Navy
- U.S. Air Force
- U.S. Coast Guard
- U.S. Merchant Marine
- U.S. Army National Guard
- U.S. Army Reserve
- U.S. Marine Corps Reserve
- U.S. Naval Reserve
- U.S. Air National Guard
- U.S. Air Force Reserve
- U.S. Coast Guard Reserve

### **4. REGIMENTAL COLORS**

Regimental flags or the United States Military are displayed from highest ranking to lowest ranking and alphabetically or numerically within equal ranks.

### **5. ORGANIZATIONAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FLAGS**

Flags representing Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) chartered by the U.S. Congress are positioned in the following order...

- American Ex-Prisoners of War
- American Legion
- AMVETS
- Blinded Veterans Association
- Catholic War Veterans
- Congressional Medal of Honor Society
- Disabled American Veterans
- Jewish War Veterans
- Legion of Valor
- Military Order of the Purple Heart
- Military Order of the World Wars

National Association for Black Veterans  
 Paralyzed Veterans of America  
 The Retired Enlisted Association  
 Veterans of Foreign Wars  
 Veterans of the Vietnam War  
 Vietnam Veterans of America

Flags representing other organizations chartered by the U.S. Congress, civic groups, and patriotic organizations are positioned in alphabetical order and alphabetically or numerically within equal groups. Examples included in this group ... Armed Forces Memorial Tribute flag, Blue Star Mothers of America flag, Boy Scouts of America flag, Bugles Across America flag, Knights of Columbus flag, Patriot Guard Riders flag, POW/MIA flag, etc.

**6. ILLUSTRATED EXAMPLES OF THE CORRECT PLACEMENT OF FLAGS USING THE ORDER OF PRECEDENCE**

**\*NOTE\*** ... the following illustrations should be viewed as if you were standing **BEHIND** a vehicle (automobile, truck, or motorcycle) and looking at the rear of the vehicle. Imagine the flags are mounted from your right to your left across the trunk of an automobile, the cab of a pickup truck, or in a holder fastened to the rear-wheel fender of a motorcycle.

	<p>U.S. Flag is positioned on its own right in a row of national flags; the flags of Canada and Mexico are positioned immediately to the left of the U.S. Flag in Alphabetical order; all flags are equal in size and at the same height.</p>
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	<p>U.S. Flag is positioned on its own right; the flag of Canada is next in precedence and is followed by the flag of the State of Minnesota; all flags are equal in size and at the same height.</p>
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The U.S. Flag is positioned on its own right; the flag of the State of Wisconsin is next because Wisconsin's date of admittance into the Union precedes that of the State of Minnesota; all flags are equal in size and at the same height.



The U.S. Flag is positioned on its own right; the flag of the State of South Dakota is next in precedence and is followed by the flag of the U.S. Army; all flags are equal in size and at the same height.



The U.S. Flag is positioned on its own right; the flag of the United States Navy is next in precedence and is followed by the POW/MIA flag; all flags are equal in size and at the same height.



The U.S. Flag is positioned in the center and is higher than all other flags; the Minnesota flag is next in precedence, so it is positioned at the far right with the flag of the U.S. Air Force to the left, and then the Disabled American Veterans flag, and then the POW/MIA flag; all flags other than the U.S. Flag are equal in size; the U.S. Flag can be the same size or larger than all of the other mounted flags, but it must be mounted higher than all of the other flags.



The U.S. Flag is positioned in the center and is higher than all other flags; the Minnesota flag is next in precedence, so it is positioned at the far right with the flag of the U.S. Air Force to the left, and then the Disabled American Veterans flag, and then the POW/MIA flag; all flags other than the U.S. Flag are equal in size; the U.S. Flag can be the same size or larger than all of the other mounted flags, but it must be mounted higher than all of the other flags.



The U.S. Flag is positioned on its own right; followed by the Branch flags in order of precedence ... U.S. Army, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Coast Guard; all flags are equal in size and at the same height.