

August 21, 1959

James C. Hagerty, Press Secretary to the President

-----

THE WHITE HOUSE

EXECUTIVE ORDER

-----

THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES

WHEREAS the State of Hawaii has this day been admitted into the Union; and

WHEREAS section 2 of title 4 of the United States Code provides as follows: "On the admission of a new State into the Union one star shall be added to the union of the flag; and such addition shall take effect on the fourth day of July then next succeeding such admission."; and

WHEREAS the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (63 Stat. 377), as amended, authorizes the President to prescribe policies and directives governing the procurement and utilization of property by executive agencies; and

WHEREAS the interests of the Government require that orderly and reasonable provision be made for various matters pertaining to the flag and that appropriate regulations governing the procurement and utilization of national flags and union jacks by executive agencies be prescribed:

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the United States and as Commander in Chief of the armed forces of the United States, and the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, as amended, it is hereby ordered as follows:

PART I. DESIGN OF THE FLAG

Section 1. The flag of the United States shall have thirteen horizontal stripes, alternate red and white, and a union consisting of white stars on a field of blue.

Section 2. The positions of the stars in the union of the flag and in the union jack shall be as indicated on the attachment to this order, which is hereby made a part of this order.

Section 3. The dimensions of the constituent parts of the flag shall conform to the proportions set forth in the attachment referred to in section 2 of this order.

## PART II. REGULATIONS GOVERNING EXECUTIVE AGENCIES

Section 21. The following sizes of flags are authorized for executive agencies:

Size	Dimensions of flag	
	Hoist (width)	Fly (length)
(1)	20.00 ft.	38.00 ft.
(2)	10.00 "	19.00 "
(3)	8.95 "	17.00 "
(4)	7.00 "	11.00 "
(5)	5.00 "	9.30 "
(6)	4.33 "	5.50 "
(7)	3.50 "	6.65 "
(8)	3.00 "	4.00 "
(9)	3.00 "	5.70 "
(10)	2.37 "	4.50 "
(11)	1.32 "	2.50 "

Section 22. Flags manufactured or purchased for the use of executive agencies:

(a) Shall conform to the provisions of Part I of this order, except as may be otherwise authorized pursuant to the provisions of section 24, or except as otherwise authorized by the provisions of section 21, of this order.

(b) Shall conform to the provisions of section 21 of this order, except as may be otherwise authorized pursuant to the provisions of section 24 of this order.

Section 23. The exterior dimensions of each union jack manufactured or purchased for executive agencies shall equal the respective exterior dimensions of the union of a flag of a size authorized by or pursuant to this order. The size of the union jack flown with the national flag shall be the same as the size of the union of that national flag.

Section 24. (a) The Secretary of Defense in respect of procurement for the Department of Defense (including military colors) and the Administrator of General Services in respect of procurement for

Section 25. Subject to such limited exceptions as the Secretary of Defense in respect of the Department of Defense, and the Administrator of General Services in respect of executive agencies other than the Department of Defense, may approve, all national flags and union jacks now in the possession of executive agencies, or hereafter acquired by executive agencies under contracts awarded prior to the date of this order, including those so possessed or so acquired by the General Services Administration for distribution to other agencies, shall be utilized until unserviceable.

### PART III. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 31. The flag prescribed by Executive Order No. 10798 of January 3, 1959, shall be the official flag of the United States until July 4, 1960, and on that date the flag prescribed by Part I of this order shall become the official flag of the United States; but this section shall neither derogate from section 24 or section 25 of this order nor preclude the procurement, for executive agencies, of flags provided for by or pursuant to this order at any time after the date of this order.

Section 32. As used in this order, the term "executive agencies" means the executive departments and independent establishments in the executive branch of the Government, including wholly-owned Government corporations.

Section 33. Executive Order No. 10798 of January 3, 1959, is hereby revoked.

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

THE WHITE HOUSE,

August 21, 1959.

## THE WHITE HOUSE

Washington

August 21, 1959

### THE NATIONAL FLAG

In connection with the admission of Hawaii as a State of the Union, the President today issued an Executive order adding the 50th star to the union of the flag. The new flag will supersede the 49-star flag which was prescribed on the admission of Alaska as a State of the Union.

By law, the new 50-star flag will become the official flag of the United States on July 4, 1960, the birthday of the Union. Display of the new flag before that time would be improper. However, it would not be improper to display the 48-star flag or the 49-star flag after that date; with limited exceptions agencies of the Federal Government will continue to display the 48-star flag and the 49-star flag so long as they remain in good condition and until existing stocks of unused flags are exhausted. It is appropriate for all citizens to do the same.

Following is certain information with respect to the historical and symbolic aspects of the national flag:

#### History of national flag

Before we became a Nation, our land knew many flags. Long ago, the Norsemen probed our coastal waters sailing under the banner of the black raven. Columbus carried a Spanish flag across the seas. The Pilgrims carried the flag of Great Britain. The Dutch colonists brought their striped flag to New Amsterdam. The French explored the continent under the royal fleur-de-lis. Each native Indian tribe had its own totem and insignia. Immigrants of every race and nationality, in seeking a new allegiance, have brought their symbols of loyalty to our shores.

During our Revolution, various banners were used by the not-yet-united colonies. A green pine tree with the motto, "An Appeal To Heaven," was popular with our young Navy. The rattlesnake's warning, "Don't Tread On Me," was displayed by aroused colonists along the Atlantic seaboard. The Moultrie "Liberty" flag, a large blue banner with a white crescent in the upper corner, rallied the defenders of Charleston, South Carolina, in 1776. The Bunker Hill flag was a blue banner with a white canton filled with a red cross and a small green pine. The flag of the maritime colony of Rhode Island bore a blue anchor under the word "Hope." Strikingly similar to the stars and stripes was the flag carried by the Green Mountain Boys of Vermont at the Battle of Bennington on August 16, 1777.

As the American frontier expanded, two new States were added to the Union, and these were incorporated into the flag. This meant that two stars and two stripes were added to the design -- making a total of 15 each. It was this flag that withstood enemy bombardment at Fort McHenry, Maryland, September 13 - 14, 1814, and inspired Francis Scott Key to write the "Star Spangled Banner."

Later, when other States were added to the Union, the Congress, feeling that more stripes would blur the basic design, returned to the original 13 red and white stripes.

Since 1818, each new State has brought a new star to the flag. This growing pattern of stars could be said to reflect the growing dimensions of America's responsibilities, as the 13 stripes reflect the constant strength of our country's traditions.

The 50 States and the dates of their entry into the Union:

Alabama	December 14, 1819	Montana	November 8, 1889
Alaska	January 3, 1959	Nebraska	March 1, 1867
Arizona	February 14, 1912	Nevada	October 31, 1864
Arkansas	June 15, 1836	New Hampshire	June 21, 1788
California	September 9, 1850	New Jersey	December 18, 1787
Colorado	August 1, 1876	New Mexico	January 6, 1912
Connecticut	January 9, 1788	New York	July 26, 1788
Delaware	December 7, 1787	North Carolina	November 21, 1789
Florida	March 3, 1845	North Dakota	November 2, 1889
Georgia	January 2, 1788	Ohio	March 1, 1803
Hawaii	August 21, 1959	Oklahoma	November 16, 1907
Idaho	July 3, 1890	Oregon	February 14, 1859
Illinois	December 3, 1818	Pennsylvania	December 12, 1787
Indiana	December 11, 1816	Rhode Island	May 29, 1790
Iowa	December 28, 1846	South Carolina	May 23, 1788
Kansas	January 29, 1861	South Dakota	November 2, 1889
Kentucky	June 1, 1792	Tennessee	June 1, 1796
Louisiana	April 30, 1812	Texas	December 29, 1845
Maine	March 15, 1820	Utah	January 4, 1896
Maryland	April 28, 1788	Vermont	March 4, 1791
Massachusetts	February 6, 1788	Virginia	June 25, 1788
Michigan	January 26, 1837	Washington	November 11, 1889
Minnesota	May 11, 1858	West Virginia	June 20, 1863
Mississippi	December 10, 1817	Wisconsin	May 29, 1848
Missouri	August 10, 1821	Wyoming	July 10, 1890

#### Customs and usage as to flag of the United States

Laws have been written to govern the display of the flag and to insure a proper respect for it. Custom has decreed certain other observances in regard to its use. As a symbol of the Nation, standing for our heritage of liberty and justice, the flag is naturally held in