

Policy 7

US Flag Etiquette and Veteran Honors



Upon the family's request, every eligible Veteran shall receive a **military funeral honors** ceremony that includes folding and presenting the United States burial flag and the playing of Taps. The Military Honor Guard will take the lead, and the EMS Honor Guard will work in coordination at funerals, such as Door Guards, ushers, and family liaisons. A United States flag drapes the casket of deceased veterans to honor the memory of their service to the country.

An EMS provider who dies in the line of duty (LODD) as described in our guidelines may also receive these honors with a US flag-draped coffin and flag presentation to the family. These honors are not available to active-duty deaths of EMS providers.

Flag-draped casket and presentation

If the EMS personnel were a LODD, the United States of America flag is placed on a closed casket so the union blue field is at the head and over the left shoulder of the descendant. (LODD Deaths and Military funerals).

In the case of an active-duty death, the family may choose a white EMS flag. Folded in advance and placed on the casket, ready to present to the family.

After Taps is played, the flag is carefully folded into the symbolic tri-cornered shape. A properly proportioned flag will fold 13 times on the triangles. When folded, no red or white stripe is to be evident, leaving only the blue field with stars.

It is then presented as a keepsake to the next of kin or an appropriate family member.

1. Spouse
2. Oldest Son or daughter
3. Parent(s)
4. Blood or adopted relative
5. Brother or sister
6. Grandparent
7. Relative in accordance with the deceased's domicile.

The Flag Presentation Protocol is as follows:

Stand facing the flag recipient and hold the folded flag waist high with the straight edge facing the recipient.

Lean toward the flag recipient and solemnly present the flag to the recipient.

'On behalf of the Governor of Wisconsin, and a grateful Nation, please accept this flag as a symbol of our appreciation for your loved one's honorable and faithful service.'

WISCONSIN EMS HONOR GUARD DRILL MANUAL

Folding the United States of America flag:

1. To begin, with one person at either end, hold the flag waist high so that its surface is parallel to the ground,



2. Fold the lower half of the stripe section lengthwise over the field of stars, holding the bottom and top edges securely.



3. Fold the flag again lengthwise, now with the blue field on the outside.



4. Make a triangular fold by bringing the striped corner of the folded edge to meet the open (top) edge of the flag. (It is easier if the person folding the flag takes one step forward before starting to fold the flag.) 8.



5. Turn the outer (end) point inward, parallel to the open edge, to form a second triangle.



6. Continue the triangular folding until the entire length of the flag is folded in this manner.



7. When the flag is completely folded, only a triangular blue field of stars should be visible. If a hem protrudes beyond the blue field, it should be neatly tucked inside the folds of the flag so that it does not show. The folded flag is then presented to the next of kin.

