

# Freedom's Feast MEMORIAL DAY



Those things which are precious are saved only by sacrifice.

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Check out this timeline of US flag history.



TOP TO BOTTOM: A Reginald Lewis Museum visitor shows off his flag; Kipp Ujima students are proud of their creations; a young flag maker at a Memorial Day home picnic



## ★ MAKE YOUR OWN MEMORIAL DAY FLAG KEEPSAKE ★

In a ceremony called “**Flags In**,” soldiers of the 3rd US Infantry place small US flags on every gravestone at Arlington National Cemetery on the Thursday before Memorial Day and patrol throughout the weekend to see that each flag stays upright. Each flag acknowledges our gratitude for the sacrifice that these service men and women made for our country. Arlington Cemetery is our national veteran’s cemetery just outside of our nation’s capital in Arlington, Virginia. This is the cemetery where General John Logan held the first national Memorial Day ceremony in May of 1868. “Flags In” is now practiced at veteran’s cemeteries all across the nation for Memorial Day. It is also the custom to fly our flag at half staff from morning until noon on Memorial Day in tribute to our fallen heroes. The return to full staff shows that our nation lives.



### BRUSH UP ON YOUR FLAG ETIQUETTE

The current US flag with 13 red and white stripes and 50 stars on a blue background was adopted on August 21, 1959 when Hawaii became the 50th state.

### Why We Do It

Artists have been inspired by the American Flag since its creation. They have used its image and colors to sell things, to promote political candidates, to express their own political ideas and to affirm their patriotism.

The prominence of the American flag in our Memorial Day observance makes the holiday a fitting time to make our own flag keepsake.

### Ways to Do It

- Make an American Flag *look alike* that is special to you because you made it. (Be mindful of flag etiquette! See margin at right).
- Create a flag inspired by the American flag . It may have stars and stripes and the red, white and blue colors and include some sayings or words that capture what Memorial Day means to you. See this wonderful interview with graphic artist **Kit Hinrichs** to see how his American Flag collection has inspired him.
- Make a flag about a key idea or a person (consider pandemic heroes too) whom you admire when you think of Memorial Day.
  - Highlight the idea of service and sacrifice for country.
  - Feature a veteran whom you know and want to honor or memorialize.
  - Focus on a person or organization doing important work to help those providing military service to our country.

- 1 No flag ever flies *above* the US flag.
- 2 The US flag should not be used as part of a costume or athletic uniform.
- 3 When lowering the US flag, make sure it doesn't touch the ground but goes into hands and arms.
- 4 The US flag should not be used for decorating or anything else that might be thrown away.
- 5 No additions—words, numbers, drawings, autographs—should be put on the US flag.
- 6 The US flag flies at half-staff only by order of the US President on the death of principal figures of the US government or the governor of that state, territory or possession.
- 7 When worn out, dispose of the flag by burning in a dignified way.

Use these blanks to make flag sketches:



Incorporate some of the symbols, colors, or seals from these military service branches into your flags.



## What You Will Need

### Option #1: Paper Version

- Glue Stick
- 8 1/2" x 11" construction paper in a range of colors (or make mini-flags)
- Embellishments: sparkle, yarn, light weight beads
- Colored markers that do not bleed on construction paper
- Scissors for cutting shapes and letters (if you prefer cut out letters to handwritten)
- Elmer's Wood Glue (if you want to mount flags on small staffs)
- 1/8" diameter dowels or wooden paint stirrers

### Option #2: Cloth Version

- White school glue
- Cloth scraps for 8 1/2" x 11" backs that will provide a good background: solids, stripes, muslin (old pillow cases are good too). Cut out your flag with pinking shears so the edges won't unravel. Try different shapes: pennants or a thinner banner that can stretch between two dowels or hangers.
- Fabric pens or markers
- Light weight felt and yarn in assorted colors, sparkle for fun
- Transparent thread and beads for decoration
- 1/8" diameter dowels (if you want to mount flags on small staffs)

Have fun making your Memorial Day Keepsake flag!

Share your Memorial Day Keepsake creation with your neighbors by displaying it outside or share it with others on social media and explain what inspired you. Or set up a flag "maker's space" at your Memorial Day celebration so others can join in the fun too. Display your group's work when everyone is finished!

Don't forget to share your work with us on [facebook!](#)

We would love to see what you've done and we know that other feasters would too.

Thank you to our partners [Art with a Heart](#) for their collaboration on this keepsake project. Visit us again for Independence Day at [www.freedomsfeast.us](http://www.freedomsfeast.us)

