



# COUNTY OF INYO

## U.S. FLAG DISPLAY POLICY

### PURPOSE

This policy establishes the principles whereby the County of Inyo Board of Supervisors authorizes the U.S. Flag to be flown at Half Staff on County facilities.

### GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The County of Inyo follows the U.S. Flag Code which defines the proper etiquette for display and use of the U.S. Flag. The County of Inyo will fly its flags at Half Staff as directed by the President of the United States, the Governor of California, or as otherwise directed by U.S. Flag Code:

1. The Flag Code provides for the Flag to be flown at Half Staff in mourning for designated, principal government leaders and also upon presidential or gubernatorial order.
2. In indicating when a flag should be flown at Half Staff, the Flag Code spells out many specific instances, i.e., May 5 – Peace Officers Memorial Day; Memorial Day, September 11, Fire Prevention Week, Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day and by Presidential order.
3. It then provides the instance described as “in accordance with recognized customs or practices not inconsistent with law” to also indicate when a flag may be flown at Half Staff.
4. In a report titled the United States Flag: Federal Law Relating to Display and Associated Questions by the Congressional Research Service ~ The Library of Congress there is this conclusion: “Again, the provisions of the Flag Code on flying the flag at half-staff are, like all the Code’s provisions, a guide only. They do not apply, as a matter of law, to the display of the flag at half-staff by private individuals and organizations. No federal restrictions or court decisions are known that limit such an individual’s lowering his own flag or that make such display alone a form of desecration.”
5. This policy sets forth the “recognized customs” acceptable for when the U.S. Flag may be flown at Half Staff on Inyo County facilities and when a display of local mourning through the use of a black mourning streamer is authorized.



## LOCAL AUTHORITY FOR FLAGS BEING FLOWN IN MOURNING

1. The U.S. Flag will be flown at Half Staff at County facilities for three days, upon notification to the County Administrator and concurrence of the Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors that a resident, child or grandchild of a resident, or a former resident, child or grandchild of a former resident of Inyo County serving in the U.S. Military, has been killed in the line of duty while protecting and serving their Country. Notification will include military verification of the death. Upon acceptance of the verification of the death the County Administrator will notify the Building and Maintenance Supervisor that the flags are to be flown at Half Staff.
2. The U.S. Flag will be flown at Half Staff at County facilities for three days, upon notification to the County Administrator and concurrence of Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors that an Inyo County law enforcement officer or firefighter, or any law enforcement officer or firefighter serving in Inyo County, has been killed in the line of duty. Notification will include a description of the circumstances that resulted in the death. Upon acceptance of the verification of the death the County Administrator will notify the Building and Maintenance Supervisor that the flags are to be flown at Half Staff.
3. The U.S. Flag will be flown at Half Staff at County facilities for three days, upon notification to the County Administrator and concurrence of the presiding Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors that an Elected Official of Inyo County has died while in office. Upon acceptance of the verification of the death the County Administrator will notify the Building and Maintenance Supervisor that the flags are to be flown at Half Staff.

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