

Proper Disposal of US Flag

My friend Bonnie Christopherson sent me the photo of Cub Scout Troop 652 of Dilworth performing the ritual of the burning of the flags at VFW Post 1223 in Dilworth on Flag Day, June 14. So I did some research on the proper disposal of our flag and found many references on-line. For instance on the American Legion website there is a page on a resolution passed at the National Convention in New York on Sept 20-23, 1937. It recommends Flag Day, 14 June as the most appropriate date for flag retirement. Also listed on the webpage is the recommended ceremony to be used by local officers. Here is part of that ceremony "Comrades, we have presented here these Flags of our Country which have been inspected and condemned as unserviceable. They have reached their present state in a proper service of tribute, memory and love. A Flag may be a flimsy bit of printed gauze, or a beautiful banner of finest silk. Its intrinsic value may be trifling or great; but its real value is beyond price, for it is a precious symbol of all that we and our comrades have worked for and lived for, and died for a free Nation of free men, true to the faith of the past, devoted to the ideals and practice of Justice, Freedom and Democracy. Let these faded Flags of our Country be retired and destroyed with respectful and honorable rites and their places be taken by bright new Flags of the same size and kind, and let no grave of our soldier or sailor dead be unhonored and unmarked. Sergeant-at-Arms, assemble the Color Guard, escort the detail bearing the Flags and destroy these Flags by burning. The members shall stand at attention." The VFW website is shorter but basically the same and as follows:

1. The flag should be folded in its customary manner.
2. It is important that the fire be fairly large and of sufficient intensity to ensure complete burning of the flag.
3. Place the flag on the fire.
4. The individual(s) can come to attention, salute the flag, recite the Pledge of Allegiance and have a brief period of silent reflection.
5. After the flag is completely consumed, the fire should then be safely extinguished and the ashes buried.

Sweetie Bev and I spent the 4th of July at Bonanzaville as we have for the past few years. Early on the 4th, we helped Vietnam Veterans of America chapter 941 with their 5k/10k run and walk. Following that we volunteered with Bonanzaville's events including a ceremony placing a Jewish History Maker in Pioneer Village recognizing Jewish settlers and their impact on North Dakota's agricultural history. As the state with the 4th largest number of Jewish homesteaders in the Nation, Jews have played an integral part of North Dakota's social, economic, agricultural, and political life since territorial days. The 4th is the best day for us to celebrate all of the cultural and ethnic backgrounds that comprise the USA.