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STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 92<sup>nd</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

For Release:  
July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020

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## **The Importance of Flag Etiquette**

As I drive around the district, I have noticed more United States flags proudly flown. Even though Independence Day may have passed, our nation's flag represents more than a national holiday, it signifies our freedom and those who fought for it. Noticing more flags on display, I cannot be more proud of the people of the 92nd Assembly District for showing their patriotism and upholding the values and traditions of our nation.

Flag etiquette is very important and is a long-standing tradition much like national holidays, hunting, sporting events, and family customs. While many of us understand the basics of the U.S. Flag Code, there are many things that may be overlooked.

For example, the American flag should always be flown to the observer's left. When flown beside other nations' flags, they are to be flown at the same height with state and local flags lower. In the case of mourning, our flag is lowered to half-staff to remember those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice defending our nation as well as the death of other notable figures of the community.

One of the more difficult flag etiquette procedures is the proper lowering and folding of a flag. When the American flag is lowered, other flags must be lowered first. In addition, there is a meaning behind each of the 13-folds of the flag in its customary manner. It is important to fold the flag properly into a triangle through the 13-fold process making sure the flag never touches the ground.

If your flag is in need of replacement due to being weathered or worn, there are many organizations like the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) that will help you dispose of it in a respectful manner.

For more information on proper flag etiquette and disposal, please visit the official VFW page at <https://www.vfw.org/community/flag-etiquette>, the American Legion's website at <https://www.legion.org/flag/code> or any other reliable source's page.

I encourage you to pass this information down to future generations to keep our symbol of freedom flying high.

As always, feel free to contact my office with questions, comments, or concerns.

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