



TOWN OF BLACKSTONE

Flag Policy

PURPOSE:

This policy seeks to establish clear guidelines regarding the display of all flags flown on Town-owned properties.

POLICY:

1. Allowable flags and locations, and occasions in general:

Except during inclement weather, the flag of the United States shall regularly be flown during daylight hours from at least one flagpole at each Town facility with one or more flagpoles. It shall not be flown at night except when illuminated. No flag or banner may be displayed above the flag of the United States, and no flag other than the POW-MIA flag shall be displayed below the American flag on any Town flagpole.

The flag of the United States shall be flown following all applicable laws, including 4 U.S.C. §§ 1 – 10. If there is any inconsistency between such rules and this policy, such laws shall take precedence.

Following Mass. Acts 1986, c. 399, § 1, the POW-MIA flag shall regularly be flown during daylight hours from a flagpole on the grounds of at least one Town facility.

No flags other than the flag of the United States, the POW-MIA flag, the flag of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in accordance with 950 CMR 34, and the flag of the Town of Blackstone will be flown on any flagpoles belonging to the Town.

2. Responsibility for lowering and raising flags:

The Town Administrator shall designate staff responsible for raising and lowering the flags at the Municipal Center. At all other town buildings with a flag, the department head shall designate staff and ensure that the flags are taken down and raised at their building.

3. Flags at half-staff:

The flag of the United States will be flown at half-staff whenever ordered by the President of the United States or the Governor of Massachusetts. Additionally, regarding the passing of any current or former employee or town officials (elected or appointed), the flag will be flown at half-staff for three days: the day before burial, the day of burial, and the day after burial. The Town Clerk's Office will determine past official status. If the Town Clerk's office cannot determine past employment, or it is impossible to determine status on weekends and holidays, the default will be to treat the individual as a current or former employee or town official. When it is brought to the attention of the Town Administrator or designee that a current or former official or employee has died, the Town Clerk shall be asked to determine whether the decedent qualifies to receive the honor of having the flags flown at half-staff and for how long according to the criteria outlined in the section above. Once the Town Clerk determines their status and reports back to the Town Administrator or designee, a



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decision can be made if the flags will be flown at half-staff and on which dates. If the decision is made that flags shall be flown on half-staff, the Town Administrator or designee shall inform the Board of Selectman.

APPLICABILITY:

This policy applies to all flagpoles belonging to the Town of Blackstone.