

MENDOCINO COUNTY POLICY #17	COUNTY FLAG POLICY
ADOPTED: November 25, 1975 MODIFIED: August 25, 1987 MODIFIED: July 25, 1995 MODIFIED: November 7, 2000 AMENDED: May 8, 2007 AMENDED: July 23, 2024	ADOPTED BY: RESOLUTION #75-491 MODIFIED BY: RESOLUTION # 87-184 MODIFIED BY: Minute Order MODIFIED BY: Minute Order AMENDED BY: Minute Order AMENDED BY: Minute Order

- A. The County of Mendocino hereby adopts a flag display policy in order to be consistent with national and state policies, to provide guidance to County departments as to when the flag is to be flown at half-staff at the County Administration Center and other County-maintained facilities equipped with flagpoles, and to provide a policy for the flying of ceremonial flags.
- B. The flag of the United States of America and the flag of the State of California will be displayed at various County facilities equipped with flagpoles. Flags shall be displayed in accordance with United States Code Title 4, Chapter 1, and with Chapter 3 of Division 2 of Title 1 of the California Government Code. Flags shall be flown at half-staff as provided in such laws, or when ordered by the President or the Governor. In addition, pursuant to various Federal laws, flags shall be flown at half-staff on the following days:
1. National Peace Officers' Memorial Day, May 15 of each and every year, sunrise to sunset, in honor of law enforcement officers whose lives have been lost in the line of duty; and
 2. Memorial Day, the last Monday in May of each and every year from sunrise until noon, then raised to the top of the staff, in remembrance for those who have died in military service of the United States; and
 3. Patriot Day, September 11 of each and every year, sunrise to sunset, in honor of those lives lost to terrorism; and
 4. National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Day, first Sunday in October of each and every year; and
 5. National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, December 7 of each and every year, sunrise until sunset, in honor of the individuals who died as a result of their services at Pearl Harbor.
- C. Flags at Half-Staff for County Officials. Flags may additionally be displayed at half-staff to commemorate the deaths of the following individuals:
1. A County Supervisor - from the day of death until interment; and
 2. An elected County official - from the day of death until interment; and
 3. Any other designated officials or individuals who have rendered distinguished services to the County of Mendocino upon declaration of the Board of Supervisors or the Mendocino County Chief Executive Officer - from the day of death until interment.
- D. The Prisoner of War/Missing in Action (POW/MIA) flag shall be displayed on the dates listed in Section 1082 of Public Law 105-85, at the following locations:
1. County Administration Center; and
 2. All County-owned Veterans Memorial Buildings.
- E. Ceremonial Flags.
1. The County's flagpoles are not intended to serve as a forum for free expression by the public. All flags displayed on property controlled by the County are government speech, not private speech. No County department or agency shall make a flagpole or other part of County property available to display a flag except in accordance with this policy. It is the responsibility of the major

occupant at County facilities not maintained by the County to display flags in accordance with this policy.

2. The Board of Supervisors may authorize the display of flags other than the national flag or state flag (“ceremonial flags”), in conjunction with official actions, ceremonial items, or proclamations of the Board of Supervisors, as an expression of the County’s official sentiments. The use of ceremonial flags or other third-party flags outside County buildings on County-owned flagpoles is prohibited except as specified herein.
3. Requests to display ceremonial flags on County flagpoles must come from a member of the Board of Supervisors or the Chief Executive Officer and be approved by a majority of Board members during a meeting conducted under the Ralph M. Brown Act.
4. Ceremonial flags may be displayed on flagpoles for a duration that is relevant to the purpose of the ceremonial flag, but no longer than 31 consecutive days.
5. When the Board of Supervisors has authorized the flying of a ceremonial flag, such flags are to be displayed in addition to and not in lieu of the National and State Flags required to be displayed by California Government Code Section 431.