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## STATE OF WISCONSIN, DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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August 28, 2007

### WDVA Bulletin No. 800

**TO: County Veterans Service Officers**

**SUBJECT: Days on which federal law currently designates the flag is to be flown at half-staff**

To All Concerned:

We appreciate being contacted regarding why flags were not flown at half-staff on July 27th of this year. Due to the temporary nature of the governing federal law, there has been some confusion surrounding whether or not July 27th is a day on which the U.S. flag should be flown at half-staff.

Federal law dictated that the flag be flown at half-staff in recognition of National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day, July 27 until 2003, the 50th anniversary of the signing of that armistice agreement. This designation was not a permanent designation; it expired in 2003. See 36 U.S. Code Sec. 127:

<http://uscode.house.gov/uscode-cgi/fastweb.exe?getdoc+uscview+t33t36+1603+0+++%28korean%20armistice%29%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20>

Days on which federal law currently designates the flag is to be flown at half-staff include:

- **May 15: Peace Officers Memorial Day** (36 U.S.C. Sec. 136): <http://uscode.house.gov/uscode-cgi/fastweb.exe?getdoc+uscview+t33t36+1612+0+++%28flag%20AND%20halfstaff%29%20%20AND%20%28%2836%29%20ADJ%20USC%29%3ACITE%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20>
- **Memorial Day** (Last Monday in May) (36 U.S.C. Sec. 116; 4 U.S.C. Sec. 6): <http://uscode.house.gov/uscode-cgi/fastweb.exe?getdoc+uscview+t33t36+1592+24+++%28memorial%20AND%20day%29%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20>; <http://uscode.house.gov/uscode-cgi/fastweb.exe?getdoc+uscview+t01t04+11056+7+++%28korean%20armistice%29%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20>
- **Sep. 11: Patriot Day** (36 U.S.C. Sec. 144): <http://uscode.house.gov/uscode-cgi/fastweb.exe?getdoc+uscview+t33t36+1620+1+++%28flag%20AND%20halfstaff%29%20%20AND%20%28%2836%29%20ADJ%20USC%29%3ACITE%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20>
- **Dec. 7: National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day** (36 U.S.C. Sec. 129): <http://uscode.house.gov/uscode-cgi/fastweb.exe?getdoc+uscview+t33t36+1605+2+++%28pearl%20harbor%29%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20>

A complete listing of days currently designated in federal law on which the U.S. flag is especially to be flown is contained in the U.S. Flag Code, in Title 1 of 4 U.S. Code. In this listing, Memorial Day is designated as a day on which the flag is to be flown at half-staff until noon. See 4 U.S.C. Sec. 6: <http://uscode.house.gov/uscode-cgi/fastweb.exe?getdoc+uscview+t01t04+11056+7++%28korean%20armistice%29%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20>

In accordance with federal law, the President of the United States may designate by Presidential Proclamation, and the Governor of a State or Territory of the United States may designate by Executive Order that the flag be flown at half-staff in accordance with federal law. Non-recurrent occasions on which the U.S. flag is designated to be flown at half-staff, such as deaths of certain dignitaries, in specified in 4 U.S.C. Sec. 7. See: <http://uscode.house.gov/uscode-cgi/fastweb.exe?getdoc+uscview+t01t04+11057+7++%28korean%20>

Presidential proclamations are available online from the White House at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/proclamations/>. In accordance with governing federal law, the last federal designation for the flag to be flown at half-staff on July 27th was made by the President in July 2003 for July 27, 2003. See: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/07/20030724-3.html>

Executive Orders for the State of Wisconsin are available online from the Office of the Governor, at: [http://www.wisgov.state.wi.us/media\\_list.asp?catid=5&name=Executive%20Orders&locid=19](http://www.wisgov.state.wi.us/media_list.asp?catid=5&name=Executive%20Orders&locid=19)

Please feel free to contact us if WDVA can be of additional assistance.

POC is WDVA Executive Assistant Anthony Hardie, (608) 266-0517.