



Agenda Report

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson
Way
Viera, FL 32940

New Business - Miscellaneous

J.4.

12/10/2019

Subject:

Ponce de Leon Landing Flags

Fiscal Impact:

\$200

Dept/Office:

District 3

Requested Action:

Board discussion and action regarding flag design at Ponce de Leon Landing

Summary Explanation and Background:

In the mid-1980s, several parcels of land were acquired and subsequently combined to create the "South Beaches Regional Park." The Board, in January 2000, approved renaming the park to "Ponce Landing," after listening to presentations of contemporaneous theories of a Juan Ponce de Leon landing in Melbourne Beach. Later that year, funding was allocated by the Board to develop the park, including crossovers, pavilions, and restrooms. In 2002, the Board again renamed the park, this time to "Juan Ponce de Leon Landing." In 2005, a grand opening took place.

In 2006, the Board approved a design for improvements to the park, including a statute, granite wall, and flag pole. While a groundbreaking ceremony may have been held in 2007, the improvements were not completed until recently due to contracting revenues associated the economy entering a recession. In this interim time period, scholarly works have shown that it is extremely unlikely that Ponce de Leon landed in Melbourne Beach.^[1]

Coming to the issue at hand, the flag pole was completed on October 17, 2019. It uses an unconventional "nautical" design, which results in the Spanish flag being equal in stature with the United States flag, with the State of Florida flag flying beneath the Spanish flag alongside the Puerto Rican flag. This atypical design has caused an inordinate amount of confusion and consternation among local residents.

While this flag pole may have been designed with the intention of highlighting the now-debunked theory of a Ponce de León landing in the area, its effect has been something very different, ranging from bewilderment to insult.

As such, it is proposed to replace the current flag arrangement with the following:

United States Flag
Florida Flag
Brevard County Flag
POW/MIA Flag

^[1]See e.g. Turner, Samuel. "Juan Ponce de Leon and the Discovery of Florida Reconsidered." *The Florida Historical Quarterly* 92, no. 1 (2013): 1-30.

[http://ucf.digital.flvc.org/islandora/object/islandora%3A1936/datastream/OBJ/view/The Florida historical quarterly.pdf](http://ucf.digital.flvc.org/islandora/object/islandora%3A1936/datastream/OBJ/view/The_Florida_historical_quarterly.pdf)

Clerk to the Board Instructions:



Tammy Rowe, Clerk to the Board, 400 South Street • P.O. Box 999, Titusville, Florida 32781-0999

Telephone: (321) 637-2001
Fax: (321) 264-6972
Tammy.Rowe@brevardclerk.us

December 11, 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO: John Tobia, District 3 Commissioner

RE: Item J.4., Ponce de Leon Landing Flags

The Board of County Commissioners, in regular session on December 10, 2019, denied proposal to replace the current flag arrangement with the United States Flag, Florida Flag, Brevard County Flag, and POW/MIA Flag.

Your continued cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SCOTT ELLIS, CLERK

Tammy Rowe
Tammy Rowe, Deputy Clerk

/cmw

cc: County Manager





Lopez
12/10/19
Item J(4)

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Details Reports

File #:	1046	Status:	Agenda Ready
Type:	New Business - Miscellaneous	In control:	District 3
File created:	11/25/2019	Final action:	
On agenda:	12/10/2019		
Title:	Ponce de Leon Landing Flags		
Attachments:	1. Flag Pole.JPG		

History (0) Text

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While this flag pole may have been designed with the intention of highlighting the now-debunked theory of a Ponce de León landing in the area, its effect has been something very different, ranging from bewilderment to insult. As such, it is proposed to replace the current flag arrangement with the following:

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From: Samuel Lopez <utblopez@aol.com>

To: d1.Commissioner <d1.Commissioner@brevardfl.gov>; d2.Commissioner <d2.Commissioner@brevardfl.gov>; d3.Commissioner <d3.Commissioner@brevardfl.gov>; d4.Commissioner <d4.Commissioner@brevardfl.gov>; d5.Commissioner <d5.Commissioner@brevardfl.gov>

Subject: Agent Tuesday, Nov. 10th 2019 Item # 4 Don Juan Ponce de Leon Historical Site in Melbourne Beach Florida

Date: Fri, Dec 6, 2019 6:22 pm

Attachments: Scanned Attachments for County Commissioners Agenda Item #4.pdf (6164K)

Dear Commissioners:

I would like to thank the Board of County Commissioners through-out the years, since 2000, for their assistance and support in allowing me to develop one of the most famous and vital site of the beginning of our nation. The Juan Ponce de Leon Historical Site is an educational and cultural site for all of Brevard County's residents and visitors to enjoy and learned about the discovery of Florida on April 2nd 1513 "The First Landing at Melbourne Beach" by Don Juan Ponce de Leon, who also was the first appointed Governor of Puerto Rico and the first appointed Governor of Florida by King Ferdinand of Spain.

Addressing Commissioner Tobia Summary and Explanation and Background:

Paragraph 2 As he stated "In this interim time period, scholarly works have shown that it is extremely unlikely that Ponce de Leon landed in Melbourne Beach"

My reply to that statement: **The Magazine of the Florida Humanities Council Forum Viva Florida dated 2013**, Marking 500 years of Spanish heritage, page 4 stated "Where exactly he first set foot on Florida's Atlantic coast is unknown, **but many scholars now believe it was near current-day Melbourne Beach**" Also, on page 4, please note on the bottom of Attachment 2 it also states, starting with the time line 1513 explorer Juan Ponce de Leon sets foot on land he named La Florida probably near present day Melbourne Beach. As illustrated on Attachments 1 and 2.

As an Historian appointed by Commissioner Nancy Higgs to Brevard County Historical Commission and working with the Dean of Historian from the University of Florida, Michael Gannon, Lt. Col. Douglas T. Peck, who in 1993 made the actual voyage, twice, from Punta Aguada, Puerto Rico to Florida and landed both times in Melbourne Beach by the allotted time and information from the archives from Spain, also Frank Thomas, Melbourne Beach local Historian and Eugene Lyons, Historian from Vero Beach. All jointly have research and proven that Don Juan Ponce de Leon discovered Florida within the vicinity of Melbourne Beach.

The National Geographic Society contacted Douglas T. Peck, as shown on Attachment 3, and stated that they had made a study of all the books and academic journal articles on the 1513 voyage of Juan Ponce de Leon to obtain an accurate track for an annotated map of world exploration, which they had in work and were going to publish. They further stated that his comprehensive research which included both library and field research in reconstructing the voyage from the 1601 holograph copy of the log (James E. Kelley's translation specifically for my research) was far the most thorough and well-supported... **I would like to state, "That as of this date, no other historian scholar has made the voyage to prove otherwise"**

Coming to the issue of the Flag Poles at the Juan Ponce de Leon Landing Site:

First the Spanish Flag being equal in stature with the United States Flag. That comment is incorrect The Spanish Flag is being flown in the same manner as the United States Flag due to Flag Etiquette Standards of Respect, see Attached 6 page 2 paragraph 4. which states when the U.S. Flag is flown with the national banner of other countries, each flag must be displayed from a separate pole of the same height. Each flag should be the same size. They should be raised and lowered simultaneously. **The flag of one nation may not be displayed above that of another nation.**

The above **Flag Etiquette** is all about respect of one country to another and not insulting either one. I think what's needed is an educational and cultural understanding of what this project means to Brevard County and to the rest of United States of America. We should be honored that this discovery happened here in Brevard County. And the flags of Spain and Puerto Rico being flown there, is part of the history of Juan Ponce de Leon since he was an appointed Governor of both Spain and Puerto Rico.

Florida and Spain has had a partnership since 1513 and Spain with Brevard County since 1854, when it was incorporated. As shown when the seal of Brevard County was updated to include the discovery of Florida by Juan Ponce de Leon holding the Spanish Flag and the first landing on the moon in 1969 holding the American Flag. As shown on attachment 7. **To this date no one has disputed this information** on Brevard County's Seal and now we have a Commissioner who is questioning that partnership at the Historical Landing Site at Don Juan Ponce de Leon in Melbourne Beach.

The State Capital of Florida has also shown a partnership with Spain by exhibiting the Spanish Seal placed at the State Capitol Granite Wall, as illustrated on Attachment 8. Also The State of Florida Senate Seal dated 1838 displays equally the five flags that are recognized in the State of Florida's history. As shown on Attachment 9.

Last but not least, the State of Florida recognizes Melbourne Beach as the First Landing Site by their Florida Land Marker given to the Don Juan Ponce de Leon Historical Landing Site. As shown on Attachment 10.

I want to thank you for the time you are taken to read this information and to be educated about the facts we are providing concerning this issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Samuel C. Lopez

President

UTB United Third Bridge, Inc.

2293 Aurora Road, Melbourne, FL 32935

Cell: 321-863-5165

Chairman

UTB United Third Bridge, Inc. Royal Order of Don Juan Ponce de Leon

"Melbourne Beach, The First Landing"

Chairman

Florida Puerto Rican / Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Inc.

2293 Aurora Road, Melbourne, FL 32935

Past Historical Commissioner (served two terms)

Brevard County Historical Commission

801 Dixon Blvd., Suite 1110

Cocoa, FL 32922

President

Florida Puerto Rican / Hispanic Minority Empowerment Committee

Chairman

Florida/Brevard Empowerment Coalition

President

UTB United Third Bridge, Inc. Puerto Rican Relief Fund

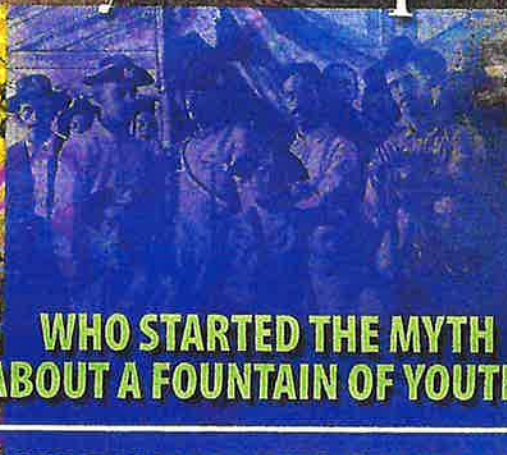
NIYAC n men 2

THE MAGAZINE OF THE FLORIDA HUMANITIES COUNCIL

FORUM

Viva Florida!

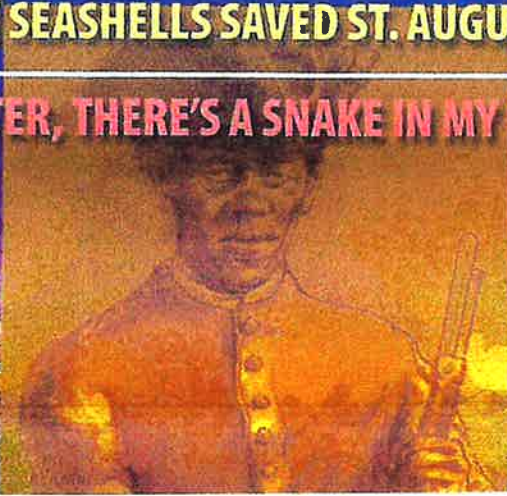
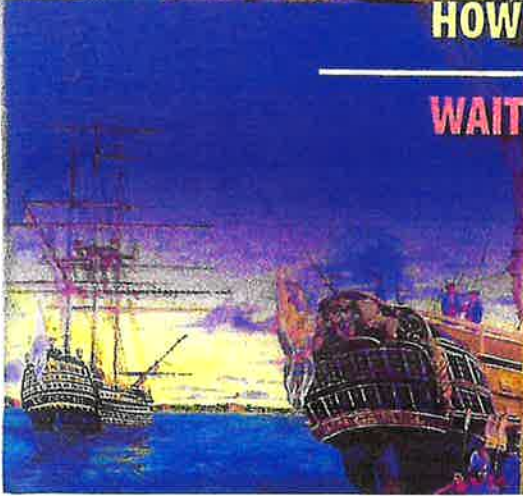
Marking 500 years of Spanish heritage



WHO STARTED THE MYTH ABOUT A FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH?

HOW SEASHELLS SAVED ST. AUGUSTINE

WAITER, THERE'S A SNAKE IN MY SOUP!





Dreams lost, dreams found in the QUEST FOR FLORIDA

Christopher M. : La Florida, 200 linen, 48 in. by Courtesy of the www.Christophe

An ambitious explorer, Juan Ponce de León, set sail on March 3, 1513, from a Spanish port in Puerto Rico, hoping to locate the fabled island of Bimini to find his fortune. But his three ships happened upon a much larger landmass, which he named "La Florida" in honor of the season *Pasqua florida* (Easter of the flowers). Where exactly he first set foot on Florida's Atlantic coast is unknown, but many scholars now believe it was near current-day Melbourne Beach. *AK*



PONCE'S LANDING was "the most momentous event in the history of Florida," writes Florida historian Gary Mormino.

"It most likely involved a Spanish sailor or soldier wading ashore to encounter an Ais or Tequesta warrior or shaman. Perhaps the inhaling of strange body smells, the pain inflicted by Toledo steel or stone-tipped spears, or the unintelligible words marked Florida's chapter of genesis."

This discovery of a new land began a life-altering cultural exchange between two worlds. "If there was any discovery made, it was mutual, between peoples and cultures alien to one another," Mormino writes.

Over the next 52 years, a half-dozen Spanish expeditions (including a second effort by Ponce) set out for Florida. Another half-dozen explored nearby areas on the Gulf and Atlantic coasts. Some sought gold or Indian slaves or hoped to establish settlements. Some were driven off or killed by natives. Others became lost—wandering and starving as they made their way through tangled jungle foliage in the heat and mosquitoes. Some were wiped out by hurricanes.

Finally, in 1559 a Spanish expedition established a foothold in Florida—but it was short-lived. Don Tristán de Luna y Arellano led more than 1,000 colonists and 540 soldiers on 11 ships to the site of present-day Pensacola. A month later a major hurricane struck, destroying several of their ships before food and supplies were completely unloaded. The colony struggled and starved for two years before giving up and moving on.

Meanwhile, France wanted to establish a presence in the New World and began a colonizing effort in 1564 on Florida's northeast coast near present-day Jacksonville. Many of the 300 soldiers and settlers in this group

Top: Juan Ponce de León, far left, is guarded by conquistadors as he raises a cup to celebrate his expedition's 1513 landing on Florida's shore. This depiction by Florida artist Christopher M. St was commissioned by the Florida House of Representatives and is on display in the Capitol.



A portrait of Pedro Menéndez de Avilés, who founded St. Augustine in 1565. At left, a depiction of Ponce de León.

1513 Explorer Juan Ponce de León sets foot on land he names La Florida, probably near present-day Melbourne Beach.

1521 After serving as governor of Puerto Rico, Ponce leads a colonizing expedition to the Gulf Coast. He is wounded by Calusa Indians and retreats to Havana, where he dies.

1528 The expedition of Pánfilo de Narváez is blown ashore near Tampa Bay. Lost, the group wanders around the Gulf Coast. A few survivors arrive eight years later in Mexico City.

Attachment 3

Douglas T. Peck

626 Casabella Drive
Bradenton, FL 34209

Peckhistory@earthlink.net
www.NewWorldExplorersInc.org

Senor Samuel Lopez
2129 Royal Poinciana Blvd.
Melbourne, FL 32935

8 November, 2008

Dear Samuel

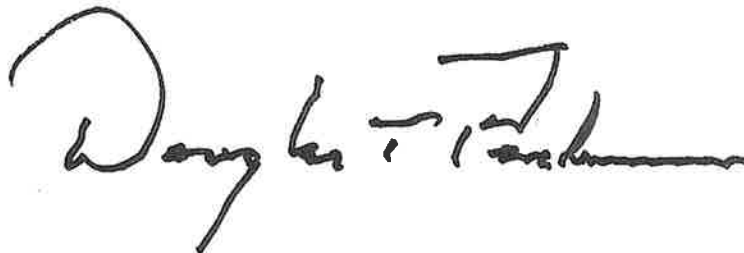
Enclosed are several copies of a detail from a larger annotated map showing major worldwide explorations published in the *National Geographic*, issue of February, 1998. The track of Juan Ponce de León's 1513 voyage (in blue) is shown leaving Puerto Rico, through the Bahamas, to a landing clearly below Cape Canaveral although Melbourne is not mentioned, thence to the west coast of Florida, then Cuba. This track follows my research exactly and was taken from the tracks shown in my 1993 book, *Ponce de León and the Discovery of Florida*.

* The National Geographic Society contacted me early in 1997 and stated that they had made a study of all of the books and academic journal articles on the 1513 voyage of Juan Ponce de León to obtain an accurate track for an annotated map of world exploration which they had in work and were going to publish. They further stated that my comprehensive research which included both library and field research in reconstructing the voyage from the 1601 holograph copy of the log (James E. Kelley's translation specifically for my research) was by far the most thorough and well-supported; the others appeared to be only unsupported conjecture with no complete track shown and offered no meaningful evidence for their selection of a landing site. And since my work was copyrighted they requested permission to use my published track in their map of world explorations. This together with my book and other published works should provide overwhelming evidence that Juan Ponce de León landed at Melbourne Beach and put to bed the strained and almost desperate attempt by professor Milanich and others to defend their contrary published findings.

I have also included an autographed copy of my latest book; *Goddess of the Ancient Maya* for delivery to Crystal Colon as I believe this should be of interest to her.

Regards

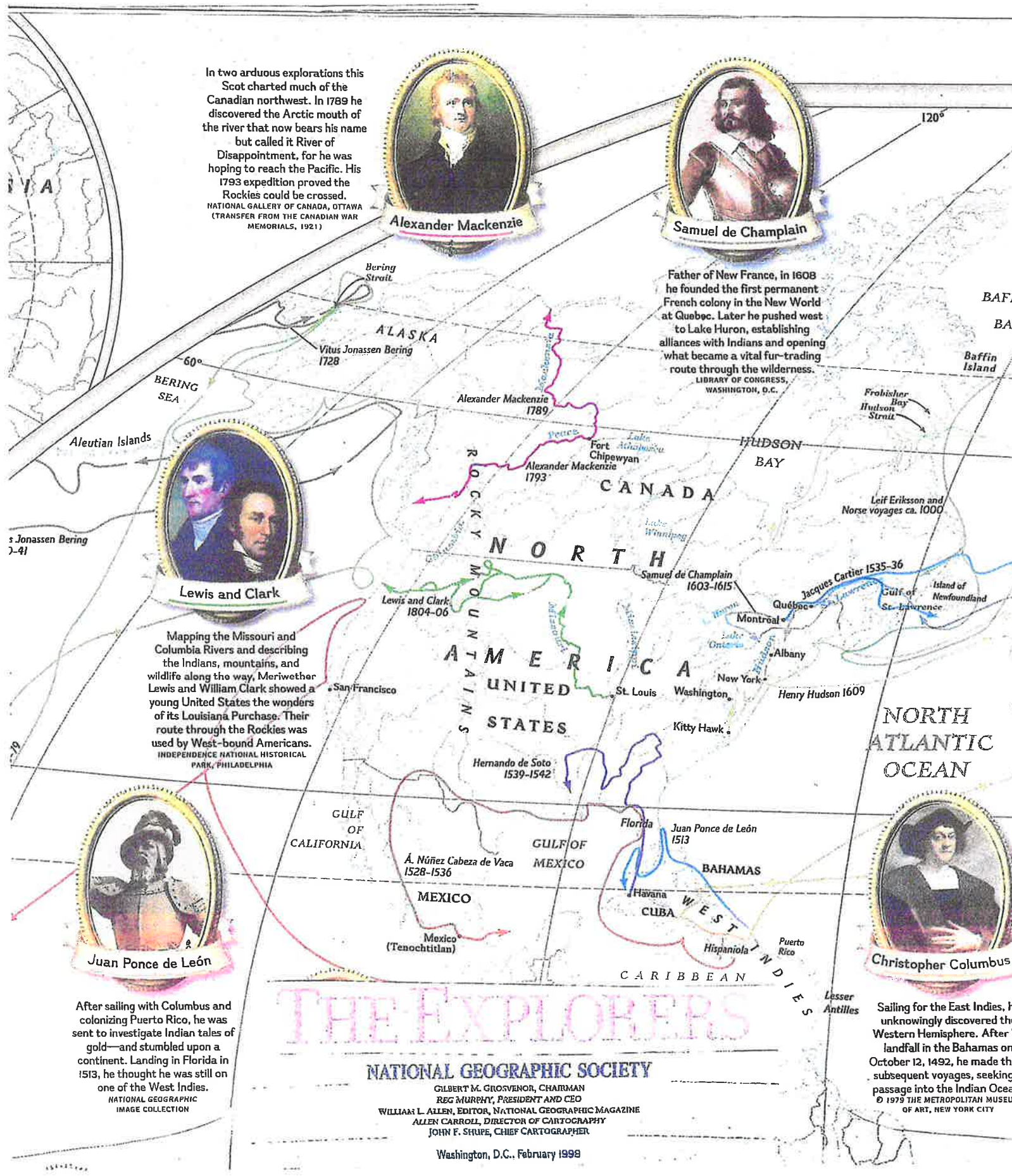
Douglas T. Peck
Independent Historian



***** Detail from a larger map showing worldwide exploration *****
 published in the *National Geographic*, February, 1998.

Attachment
5

The track of Juan Ponce de León's 1513 voyage (in blue) is shown leaving Puerto Rico, through the Bahamas, to a landing below Cape Canaveral, thence to the west coast of Florida, then Cuba.



In two arduous explorations this Scot charted much of the Canadian northwest. In 1789 he discovered the Arctic mouth of the river that now bears his name but called it River of Disappointment, for he was hoping to reach the Pacific. His 1793 expedition proved the Rockies could be crossed. NATIONAL GALLERY OF CANADA, OTTAWA (TRANSFER FROM THE CANADIAN WAR MEMORIALS, 1921)

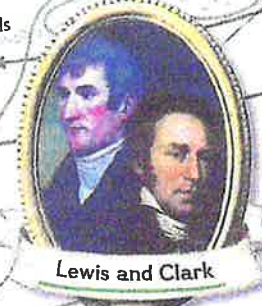


Alexander Mackenzie



Samuel de Champlain

Father of New France, in 1608 he founded the first permanent French colony in the New World at Quebec. Later he pushed west to Lake Huron, establishing alliances with Indians and opening what became a vital fur-trading route through the wilderness. LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, WASHINGTON, D.C.



Lewis and Clark

Mapping the Missouri and Columbia Rivers and describing the Indians, mountains, and wildlife along the way, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark showed a young United States the wonders of its Louisiana Purchase. Their route through the Rockies was used by West-bound Americans. INDEPENDENCE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK, PHILADELPHIA



Juan Ponce de León

After sailing with Columbus and colonizing Puerto Rico, he was sent to investigate Indian tales of gold—and stumbled upon a continent. Landing in Florida in 1513, he thought he was still on one of the West Indies.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC IMAGE COLLECTION



Christopher Columbus

Sailing for the East Indies, he unknowingly discovered the Western Hemisphere. After his downfall in the Bahamas on October 12, 1492, he made three subsequent voyages, seeking passage into the Indian Ocean. © 1979 THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART, NEW YORK CITY

THE EXPLORERS

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

GILBERT M. GROSVENOR, CHAIRMAN
 REG MURPHY, PRESIDENT AND CEO
 WILLIAM L. ALLEN, EDITOR, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE
 ALLEN CARROLL, DIRECTOR OF CARTOGRAPHY
 JOHN F. SHUPE, CHIEF CARTOGRAPHER

Washington, D.C., February 1998

UNITED STATES CODE@ usflag.org.

§175. Position and manner of display

(g) When flags of two or more nations are displayed, they are to be flown from separate staffs of the same height. The flags should be of approximately equal size. International usage forbids the display of the flag of one nation above that of another nation in time of peace.

Foreign Flags Etiquette
See page 2

Attachment 6
page 2



History of the Flag

Historic & Current
Flags of America

Patriotic Writings

Special Links

A Salute to Those
Who Serve: Past
and Present

Frequently Asked
Questions

Related Information

Related Links

Home

This website is dedicated to the

THEM FLAG ON THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Site Key: Click to Listen Click to Print

Flag Etiquette

STANDARDS of RESPECT

The Flag Code, which formalizes and unifies the traditional ways in which we give respect to the flag, also contains specific instructions on how the flag is not to be used. They are:

- The flag should never be dipped to any person or thing. It is flown upside down only as a distress signal.
- The flag should not be used as a drapery, or for covering a speakers desk, draping a platform, or for any decoration in general. Bunting of blue, white and red stripes is available for these purposes. The blue stripe of the bunting should be on the top.
- The flag should never be used for any advertising purpose. It should not be embroidered, printed or otherwise impressed on such articles as cushions, handkerchiefs, napkins, boxes, or anything intended to be discarded after temporary use. Advertising signs should not be attached to the staff or halyard
- The flag should not be used as part of a costume or athletic uniform, except that a flag patch may be used on the uniform of military personnel, fireman, policeman and members of patriotic organizations.
- The flag should never have placed on it, or attached to it, any mark, insignia, letter, word, number, figure, or drawing of any kind.
- The flag should never be used as a receptacle for receiving, holding, carrying, or delivering anything.

When the flag is lowered, no part of it should touch the ground or any other object; it should be received by waiting hands and arms. To store the flag it should be folded neatly and ceremoniously.

The flag should be cleaned and mended when necessary.

When a flag is so worn it is no longer fit to serve as a symbol of our country, it should be destroyed by burning in a dignified manner.

Note: Most American Legion Posts regularly conduct a dignified flag burning ceremony, often on Flag Day, June 14th. Many Cub Scout Packs, Boy Scout Troops, and Girl Scout Troops retire flags regularly as well. Contact your local American Legion Hall or Scout Troop to inquire about the availability of this service.

Displaying the Flag Outdoors

When the flag is displayed from a staff projecting from a window, balcony, or a building, the union should be at the peak of the staff unless the flag is at half staff.

When it is displayed from the same flagpole with another flag - of a state, community, society or Scout unit - the flag of the United States must always be at the top except that the church pennant may be flown above the flag during church services for Navy personnel when conducted by a Naval chaplain on a ship at sea.

When the flag is displayed over a street, it should be hung vertically, with the union to the north or east. If the flag is suspended over a sidewalk, the flag's union should be farthest from the building.

When flown with flags of states, communities, or societies on separate flag poles which are of the same height and in a straight line, the flag of the United States is always placed in the position of honor - to its own right.

..The other flags may be smaller but none may be larger.

..No other flag ever should be placed above it.

..The flag of the United States is always the first flag raised and the last to be lowered.

* When flown with the national banner of other countries, each flag must be displayed from a separate pole of the same height. Each flag should be the same size. They should be raised and lowered simultaneously. The flag of one nation may not be displayed above that of another nation.

Raising and Lowering the Flag



The flag should be raised briskly and lowered slowly and ceremoniously. Ordinarily it should be displayed only between sunrise and sunset. It should be illuminated if displayed at night.

The flag of the United States of America is saluted as it is hoisted and lowered. The salute is held until the flag is unsnapped from the halyard or through the last note of music, whichever is the longest.

Displaying the Flag Indoors

When on display, the flag is accorded the place of honor, always positioned to its own right. Place it to the right of the speaker or staging area or sanctuary. Other flags should be to the left.

The flag of the United States of America should be at the center and at the highest point of the group when a number of flags of states, localities, or societies are grouped for display.

When one flag is used with the flag of the United States of America and the staffs are crossed, the flag of the United States is placed on its own right with its staff in front of the other flag.

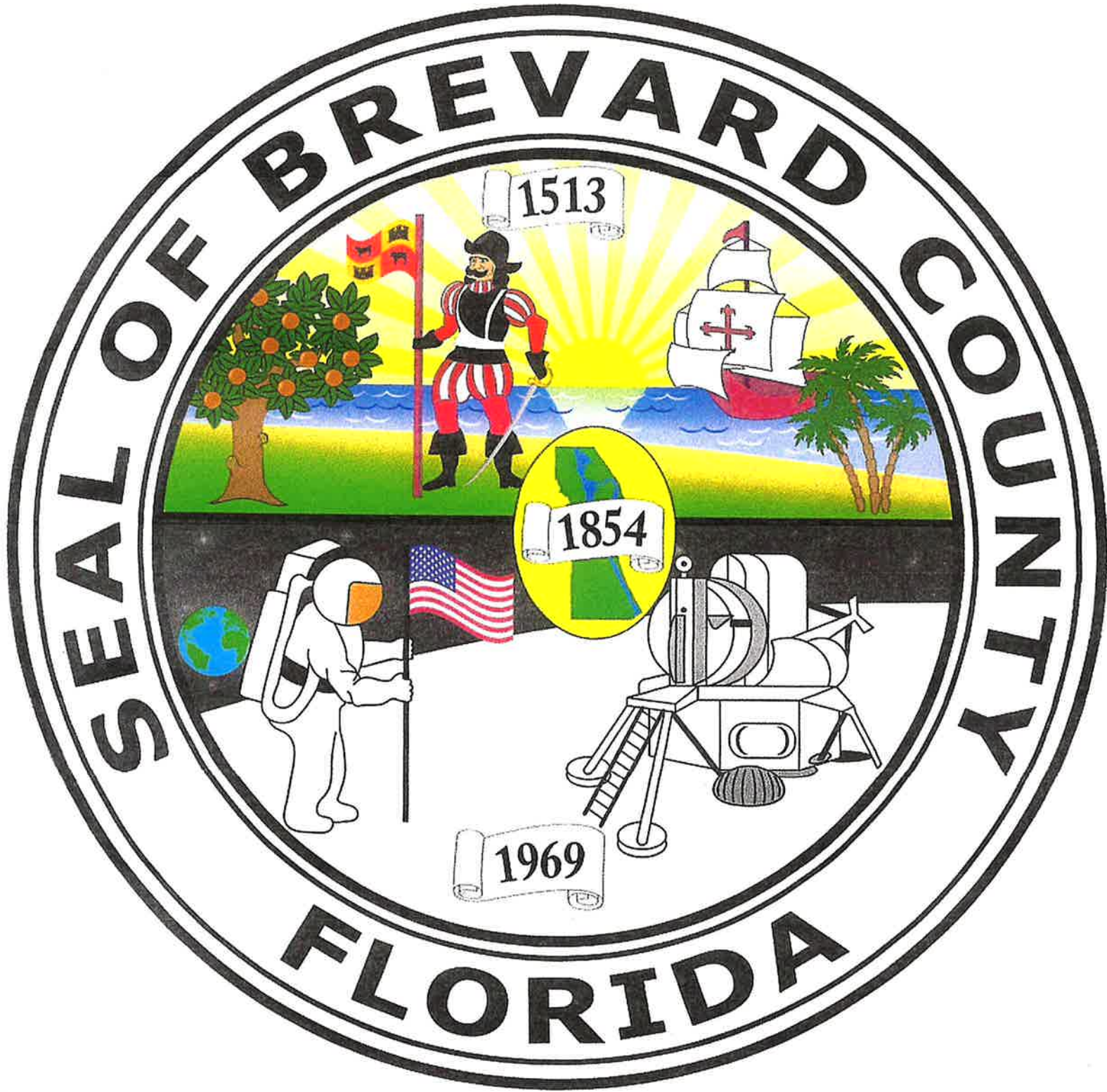
When displaying the flag against a wall, vertically or horizontally, the flag's union (stars) should be at the top, to the flag's own right, and to the observer's left.

Parading and Saluting the Flag

When carried in a procession, the flag should be to the right of the marchers. When other flags are carried, the flag of the United States may be centered in front of the others or carried to their right. When the flag passes in a procession, or when it is hoisted or lowered, all should face the flag and salute.

The Salute

Attachment 7



UTB President Samuel C. Lopez and Mayor Santiago Baeza Benavides and the First Lady Nuria Benavides from Santervas de Campos, Spain; the birthplace of Don Juan Ponce de Leon at the Historical Landmarker in Melbourne Beach, Florida location of the 500 Year Celebration of the Discovery of Florida



POW FLAG PROTOCOL PER DEPT OF DEFENSE

From: Isabel Wright <mrsisabelwright@aol.com>

To: utblopez <utblopez@aol.com>

Date: Mon, Dec 9, 2019 4:33 pm

What is the protocol for flying the POW/MIA flag? **PUBLISHED: 03/05/19 | UPDATE 03/20/19 BY U.S. DEPT OF DEFENSE** The POW/MIA flag is flown below the U.S. flag. Generally, it is not displayed with other flags. The POW/MIA flag is generally not included in a color guard next to the U.S. flag (i.e. on a separate pole), it should be on the U.S. flag's direct left. The POW/MIA flag should be flown on:

- Armed Forces Day (3rd Saturday in May)

- Memorial Day (Last Monday in May)

- Flag Day (June 14)

- Independence Day (July 4)

- National POW/MIA Recognition Day (3rd Friday in September)

- Veterans Day (November 11)

The POW/MIA flag flies continuously over:

- The White House

- The Capitol Rotunda

- The Korean War Veterans Memorial

- The Vietnam Veterans Memorial

- The World War II Memorial

- Each National Cemetery

- Buildings containing the offices of the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State Affairs, the Director of the Selective Service System

- Each major military installation

- Each U.S. post office