



General Grand Chapter

Order of the Eastern Star™
Established November 1876

February 24, 2020

RE: Change in Flag Protocol

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The U.S. Flag Code states that the American Flag is to be posted to the right of the speaker when it is posted on a stage/platform and that the flags of other Nations are to be posted to the left of the speaker. However, research has shown it is not improper, disrespectful or against the Code to extend "diplomatic courtesy" to another Nation by posting their flag next to the American Flag *as long as the American Flag is posted in the position of honor*, which is the first flag posted to the speaker's right.

With this knowledge, I am changing my flag protocol as stated in my Protocol Booklet. It is my preference as Most Worthy Grand Matron that the Canadian Flag be posted on the same side of the state/platform as the American Flag. Please place the American Flag in the first position to the right of the speaker and the Canadian Flag next to it in the second position to the right of the speaker. Both flags are to be of the same height and if the U.S. Flag staff has an eagle as a finial, the wings of the eagle are to be facing the audience as a symbol of protection over those present. If the Canadian Flag staff has a maple leaf as a finial, it is proper for the maple leaf to face the audience.

I appreciate your consideration of my preference regarding posting the U.S. and Canadian Flags. If your Jurisdiction prefers to continue using former protocol, this will not be considered wrong or improper.

In friendship,

Marianne R. Shenefelt

Marianne Shenefelt
Most Worthy Grand Matron