

Respecting Our Flag

Our Flag — the Sun and Stars — is the living symbol of our country, the Philippines. It is the emblem of our nationhood, of what we have been, of what we are, and of what we hope to be. In our flag are crystallized our common aspirations as Filipinos and our collective vision for our country's future.

This booklet contains important and instructive materials and information including The Flag Code, Scouting Practices in Respecting the Flag, History of our Flag, Dos and Don'ts with our Flag, Disposal Ceremony for worn-out Flags, Flag Facts, and many more.

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Freedom, where trumpets sounded,

Called you where battle roared

The battle done

The fame you won

Hallows your sacred sword.

For your home wears laurel;

Your brothers tell your fame,

And safe from fears

or future years

Bless every hero's name.

Beneath your colors fighting

You faced the cannon's roar

You dared the grave

Like heroes brave

To save your native shore.

~ Fernando Ma Guerrero

INTRODUCTION

Our Flag - the Sun and Stars — is the living symbol of our country, the Philippines. It is the emblem of our nationhood, of what we have been, of what we are, and of what we hope to be. In our flag are crystallized our common aspirations as Filipinos and our collective vision for our country's future.

As the symbol of our country, our flag should be accorded due respect and honor. Hence, its use and display should be regulated by approved practices as prescribed by our government. Scouts and citizens should show towards it their utmost respect.

It is regrettable that some are very careless in the observance of the laws concerning our flag. Perhaps this is brought about by ignorance of existing laws, rules, and regulations governing the proper respect due it.

The Boy Scouts of the Philippines, in its mission of developing our youth, enshrines our flag for what it stands for and the values it instills in training boys in character, proper discipline, and citizenship. It is hoped that this booklet, while intended primarily for those in the Scouting Movement, would be utilized as a guide by all Filipinos to render to our flag the honor, respect, and reverence due it.

Lupang Hinirang (Pambansang Awit ng Pilipinas)

Bayang Magiliw,
Perlas ng Silanganan,
Alab ng puso
Sa dibdib mo'y buhay.

Lupang hinirang,
Duyan ka ng magiting,
Sa manlulupig
Di ka pasisiil.

Sa dagat at bundok,
Sa simoy at sa langit mong bughaw,
May dilag ang tula
At awit sa paglayang minamahal.

Ang kislap ng watawat mo'y
Tagumpay na nagniningning,
Ang bituin at araw niya
Kailan pa ma'y di magdidilim.

Lupa ng araw, ng luwalhati't pagsinta,
Buhay ay langit sa piling mo;
Aming ligaya, na pag may mang-aapi
Ang mamatay nang dahil sa iyo.

THE FLAG CODE

(Based on Executive Order No. 137 issued by the President of the Philippines on January 7, 1966 as amended by Executive Order No. 194 issued on October 13, 1969.)

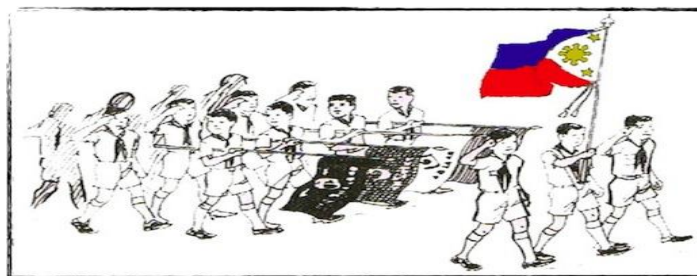
Reverence and respect for the accepted symbols of national solidarity are indicative of true patriotism and love of country. In order to develop and consecrate such sublime virtues and to inculcate in the minds of our people a just pride in their native land, the following rules for the observance of the National Flag and the National Anthem of the Republic of the Philippines are hereby prescribed.

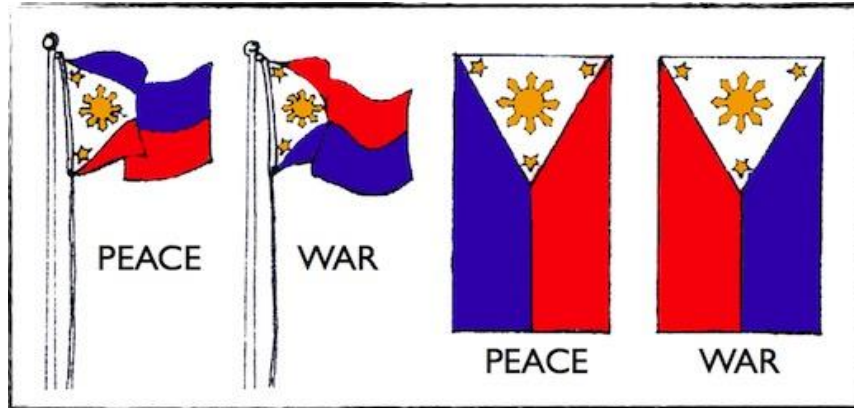
I. The National Flag

1. The National Flag alone shall be displayed in all public buildings, official residences, public squares, and institutions of learning every day throughout the year, and shall be raised at sunrise and lowered at sundown. It should be on the mast at the break of day, should remain flying throughout the day but shall not stay flying after the sun has set, except when specially prescribed. The flagstaff must be straight, slightly and gently tapering at the end.

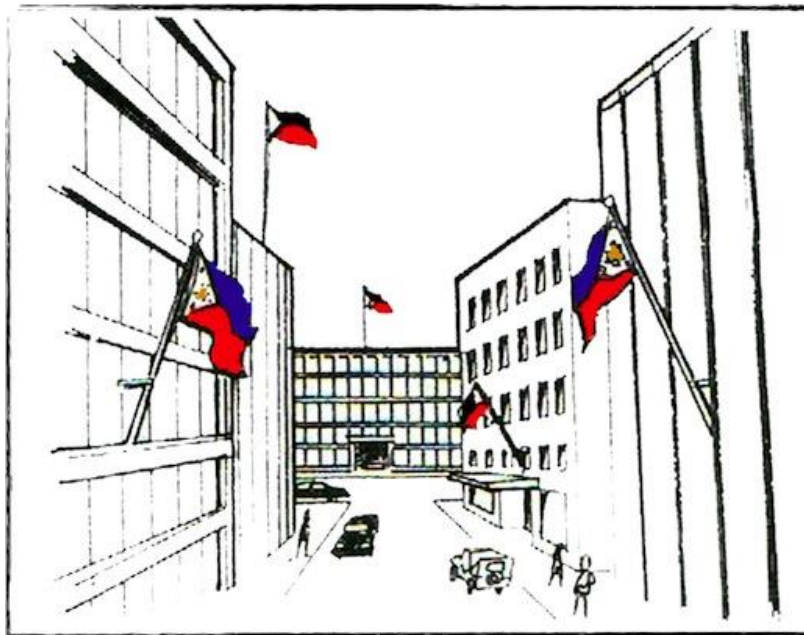


2. The Flag shall be permanently hoisted, day and night, in front of the following: at Malacañan, the official residence of the President of the Philippines; the Congress of the Philippines building; Supreme Court building; at the place of proclamation of the First Philippine Republic; at the Rizal Monument in Luneta; and at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Libingan ng mga Bayani.
3. The Flag should never be used to return the salute of any individual or organization. It should never be dipped by way of compliment or salute to or for any person, except when used for exchanging courtesies as an official act between States.
4. The Flag, if flown from a flagpole, should have its blue field on top in time of peace and the red field on top in time of war; if in a hanging position, the blue field should be to the right (left of the observer) in time of peace, the red field to the right (left of the observer) in time of war.

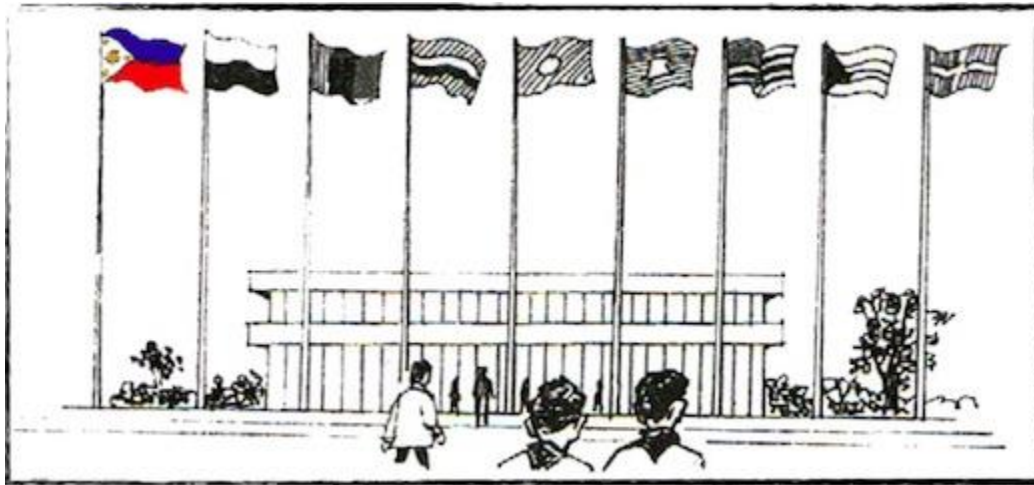




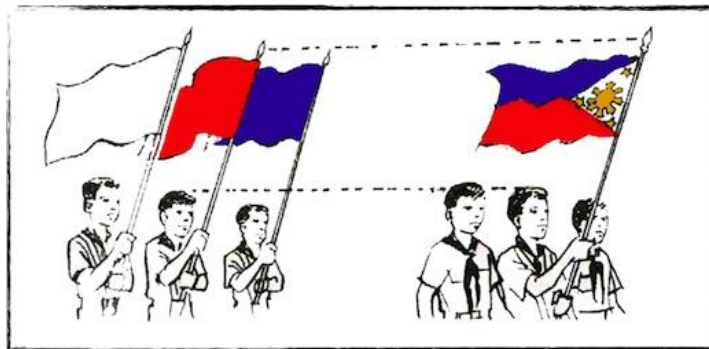
5. In hoisting the Flag, it should be raised briskly to the top-end of the flagpole which, if planted on the ground, should be at a prominent place and higher than the roof of the principal building in the compound. If the pole is attached to a building, it should be on top of its roof, and if placed at a window, it must project to an angle pointing upward.



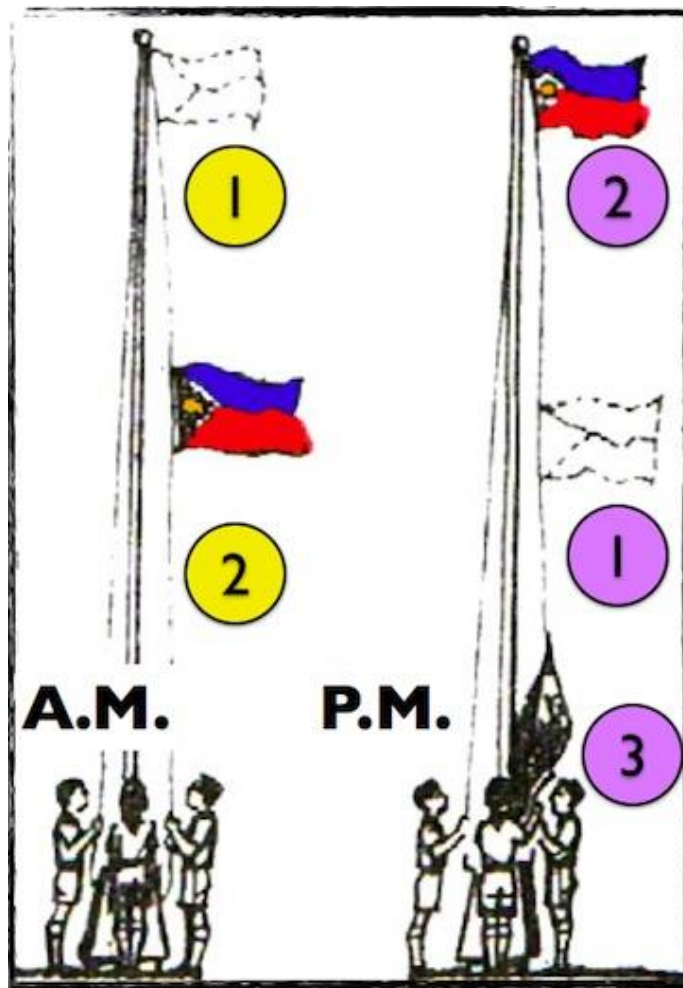
6. When the National Flag is used together with the flag of the Armed Forces or civil organization or with that of another nation, it must always be above or on the right of the other flag. When the National Flag is displayed in a parade with those of foreign nations, it shall always be in front of the center of the line of the other flags.



7. When the Flag is passing in a parade or in review, the people, if walking, should halt, uncover, stand at attention and salute; if sitting, they should uncover, stand at attention and salute.
8. The Flag shall be displayed on national holidays or special holidays as the President may proclaim, not only in all public buildings, official residences, public squares, and institutions of learning but, whenever practicable, also in all private buildings and homes from sunrise to sunset.



9. The public display of foreign flags is prohibited except in foreign diplomatic establishments such as in chanceries, embassies, or consulates, or other places authorized by bilateral or international agreement, or in international conferences of which the Philippines is a member, or in national holidays of foreign countries, provided that on such foreign national holidays the foreign flag shall be displayed together with the National Flag, which shall occupy the place of honor, i.e., on the right of the foreign flag, and shall not be smaller than the foreign flag.
10. The Philippine National Flag shall not be hoisted or displayed in front of buildings owned or occupied by alien individuals or corporations except on our national and special holidays or on other national holidays, subject, in the latter case, to the provisions of the next preceding paragraph.
11. When lowering the Flag, no part thereof should touch the ground. It should be handled and folded reverently. While the Flag is being raised or lowered and while the National Anthem is being played, the people should face the Flag, uncover, stand at attention and salute. Moving vehicles should stop, and the passengers should alight, un-cover, stand at attention and salute.



12. The Flag may be hoisted at half-mast in sign of mourning. To display the Flag at half-mast, it must first be hoisted to full-mast, allowing it to fly there for a moment before bringing it to half-mast. From this position it may be raised but not lowered. To lower the Flag at sunset or at any other time when ordered, it must again be hoisted to full-mast before bringing it down. The Flag may be hoisted at half-mast by authority of the President in cases of national mourning or on such other occasions as he may designate, or at the discretion of Department Heads or chief local officials in accordance with the regulations prescribed in Executive Order No. 166, dated October 8, 1938, as amended.
13. The Flag shall never be festooned, and shall always hang with nothing to cover its surface, it shall always occupy the highest place of honor and shall not be placed under any picture, or below a person.



14. The Flag shall never be used as a staff or whip, Head or covering for tables, or curtain for doorways. However, the Flag may be used by the Armed Forces to cover the casket of their honored dead, which includes deceased civilians who had rendered services in the Army, Navy, or civil office of great responsibility. The white triangle of the sun and stars will cover the head end of the casket, the blue stripe to the right, the red to the left of the deceased, with both colors evenly divided on each side of the casket. The Flag should never be lowered to the grave or allowed to touch the ground, except as authorized under Republic Act No. 3934. Wreaths of flowers should not be placed on top of a flag shrouded casket. A cross may be placed over the Flag as a symbol of “God above Country.”



15. No imprint shall be made on the Flag nor shall it be marred by advertisement, or in any manner desecrated. It shall not be worn as a whole or part of a costume. It shall not be used as a pennant in the hood or in any part of a motor vehicle except in celebration of any national or special holiday as the President may designate.
16. It is inappropriate to use the Flag in a dancing pavilion or in any place where hilarity is prevailing. Its use inside or outside a cockpit, club, or other places where gambling or other vices are held is prohibited.
17. The National Flag shall never be used as a covering for a statue or monument nor should it be used to unveil the same.
18. A National Flag worn-out through wear and tear should not be thrown on a garbage heap or used as rag. It should be reverently burned to avoid misuse or desecration thereof. Government offices and educational institutions must not display worn-out or tattered flags. They should replace the same immediately.

II. The National Anthem

1. The National Anthem should not be played except on public acts of official or semi-official character or in formal ceremonies of civic nature. People in the immediate vicinity, if outdoors, should face the band, uncover, and stand at attention.
2. Whenever a band is present during the lowering of the Flag, the National Anthem should be played by the band. The Flag should be lowered slowly in such a manner that the termination of the lowering coincides with the last note of the music. Anyone present should face the Flag and stand at attention as hereinafter prescribed in this Order. If the National Anthem is played indoors, everyone present should stand at attention and face the band.
3. The National Anthem should not be played and sung for mere recreation, amusement, or entertainment purposes in social gatherings purely private in nature or at political partisan meetings

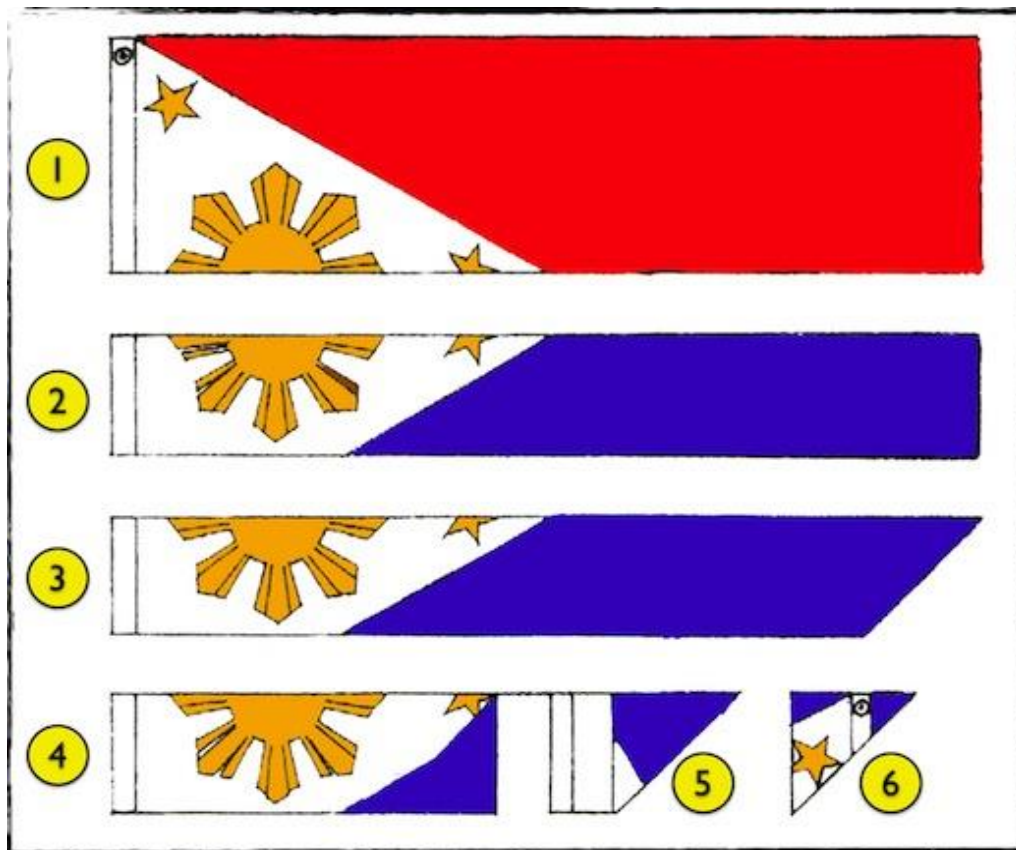
or places of hilarious or vicious amusement. It should, however, be sung in schools so the children may know it by heart.

4. The National Anthem should always be sung in Filipino, whether here or abroad.

III. Manner of Saluting

1. Members of the Armed Forces of the country and those belonging to semi-military and police organizations in uniform should adopt the military salute provided in their regulations.
2. Civilians, if outdoors, should stand at attention, and if wearing hats, should uncover and hold the hats over their hearts. Complete silence must be observed and no one should be allowed to walk around while the ceremony is going on.

How to Fold the Flag



SCOUTING PRACTICES IN RESPECTING THE FLAG

Guidelines in Conducting Flag Ceremonies



Our Flag should be looked upon as a sacred emblem and symbol of our nation. Flag ceremonies, therefore, must be held with solemnity and observed with all respect due our own country.

While it is not easy to prescribe all the details on how to conduct flag ceremonies due to varied occasions or situations, the following guidelines should help those in charge of this ceremony to hold it with the solemnity, honor, and respect befitting the symbol of our nation.

Flag Ceremony (Outdoor)

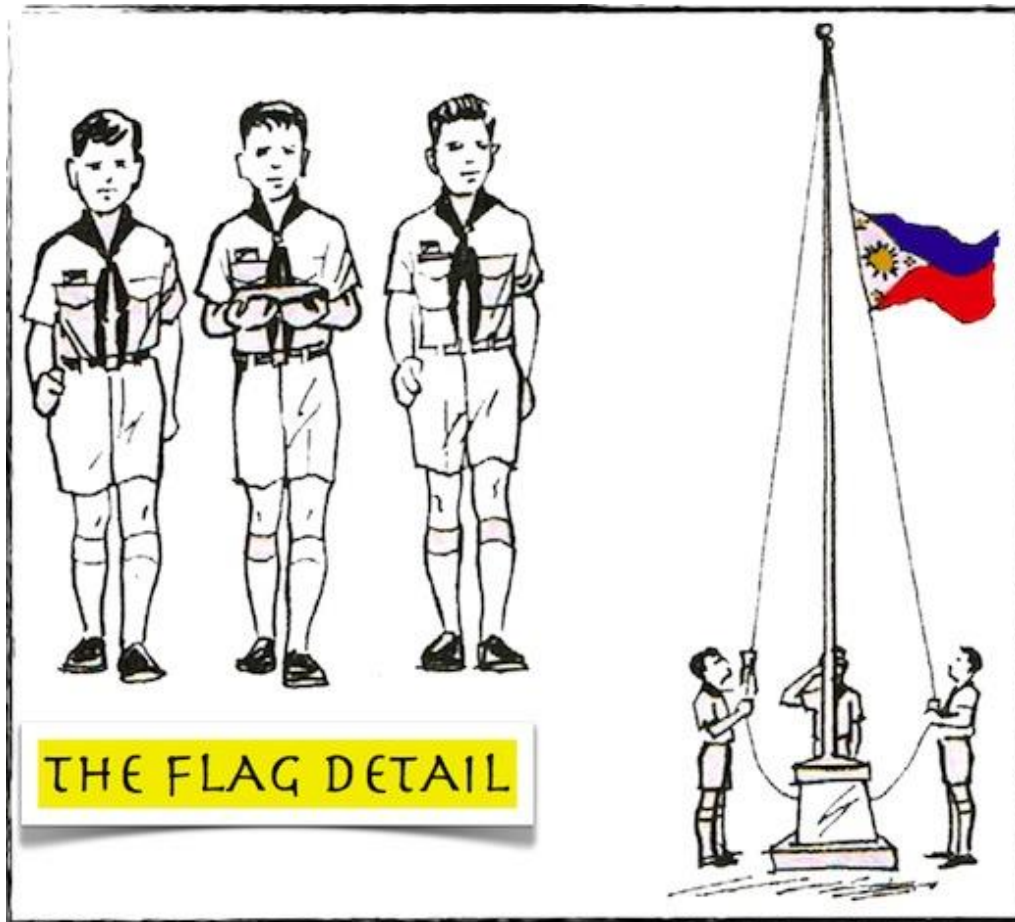
Flag Raising

The Philippine Flag, correctly folded, is brought ceremoniously into the formation by a three-member flag detail. The flag carrier in the middle holds the folded flag with his two hands at waist-level and is flanked by two color guards.

The Flag is brought in when the assembly is ready, not before, and immediately attached to the halyard by the two color guards, by attaching the snap hooks to the grommets of the Flag. If there are no snap hooks, the halyard is attached to the grommets with two half-hitches.

An invocation or prayer may be recited before the Flag is tied to the halyard and prepared for hoisting to signify "God Above Country."

At the start of the *Pambansang Awit*, the Flag is raised with a quick jerk of the halyard, to cause it to unfurl by itself, before briskly raising it. As soon as the Flag leaves the flag carrier's hands, he takes one step backward and executes the Scout salute. The two guards hold on to the halyard after the Flag reaches the top and remain at attention until the last note of the anthem, when they tie the halyard to the pole, then make a step backward and execute the Scout salute.



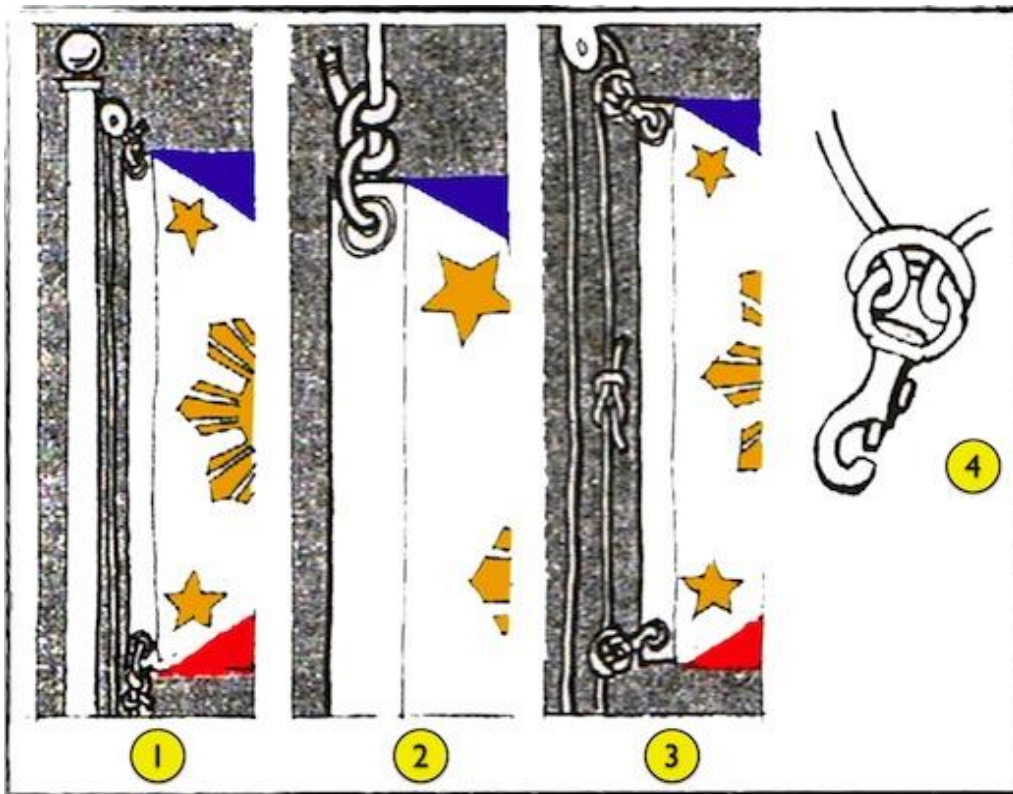
The flag detail then marches back to its original formation or may stay at a designated spot near the flagpole.

Flag Lowering

Flag lowering should be done prior to sundown. A three-member flag detail approaches the as in Flag-raising. The color guards untie the halyard and pause for a while. The *Pambansang Awit* is played or a bugle to sound flag retreat or a long whistle blast is blown. Those within seeing and hearing distance stop whatever they are doing, face the direction of the Philippine Flag and salute, if they can see it; otherwise they just stand at attention.

The Flag is then lowered slowly by the two members of the color detail while the flag carrier catches the Flag, taking care not to let it touch the ground.

As soon as the Flag is lowered, another whistle blow is sounded signaling that everybody can resume whatever they were doing. The two immediately detach the Flag from the halyard and the flag carrier starts folding it while the other color guard fastens the halyard to the flagpole. The flag detail marches in formation from the flag area to return the flag to its depository.



Figs. 1 and 2 shows the usual way of tying the flag to the halyard with two half-hitches. This method puts undue strain on the canvas trim of the flag.

Fig. 3 and 4 shows the use of snap hooks to attach the flag to the halyard, whose ends between the hooks are joined with a square knot or fisherman's bend. This method puts less strain on the flag.

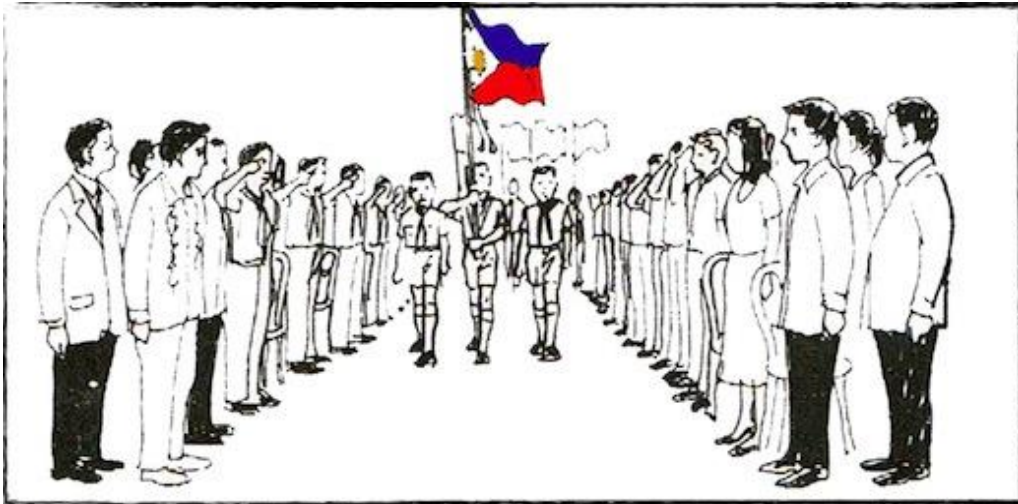
Flag Ceremony (Indoor)

Program Opening Ceremony with the Flag

When the Entry of Colors is made part of the opening ceremony of a program, the general assembly, the guests, and those on the stage should already be in their respective positions.

When everybody is already in position, the master of ceremonies may announce the sequence of the opening ceremony, requesting everybody to remain standing until after the ceremonial portion, which may start with the prayer and the singing of the *Pambansang Awit* and include the recitation of the **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag** and the **Scout Oath and Law**.

The Philippine Flag starts from the rear portion of the hall and is carried on a flagstaff either at the right of another flag or three or four paces ahead when accompanied by at least two other flags. An even number of color guards are at the flanks of the Flag bearer, who ideally should wear a flag holster.



At a signal like “Ladies and gentlemen, the colors!” everybody faces the middle aisle where the color detail will march through. At a command, Scouts and Scouters execute the Scout salute (see when to salute the flag) as the Flag passes by and slowly turns until everybody gradually faces the stage. The Philippine Flag, accompanied by the color guards, is brought to the front and center of the stage, while other national or organization flag(s), if any, are brought also to the center behind the Philippine flag, or to the left of the stage (right of the observer), behind their respective flag stands.

A prayer or invocation may be recited signifying “God Above Country.”

The flag bearer holds the Flag upright, while other flag bearers dip their association or organization flags as the *Pambansang Awit* is sung, as the assembly observes the usual respect to the Philippine Flag. The *Panunumpa sa Watawat* is then recited with Scouts and Scouters executing the Scout sign.

On command, the flag bearers post the flag in their respective flag stands simultaneously and the guards take one step backward. When all flags have been posted and the ceremonial portion is finished, all members of the color detail face the Philippine Flag, execute the Scout salute and, in column file, leave the stage inconspicuously.

Closing Ceremony with the Flag

The Entry of Colors in a program requires a corresponding Exit of Colors. Where the former is incorporated in a program that may last for several hours or days, the Exit of Colors also serves an important role in officially closing the program.

In the Exit of Colors, everybody stands at attention. The color detail which brought in the flags do the reverse. As soon as they stop beside their respective flag assignments, they face the Philippine Flag and, at a command, execute the Scout salute. They remove the flagstuffs from the flag stands, starting with the Philippine Flag, followed by the other flags. Here the Flag may again be brought to the center and an appropriate patriotic song to render respect to the flag may be played or sung, before the flag detail marches away from the stage through the center aisle. The assembly faces center and executes the Scout salute as the Flag passes by.



Other Flag Ceremonies

It is usual for most programs whether held indoors or outdoors to feature the Philippine Flag and other flags already set on the stage. For both settings, ensure that the Philippine Flag occupies a place of prominence and is in its own rightful place (left of the audience). Flag stands to be used, specially for outdoor purposes, must be heavy or weighed down to prevent, with sudden gusts of wind, the toppling of flags on the stage that may disrupt the program.

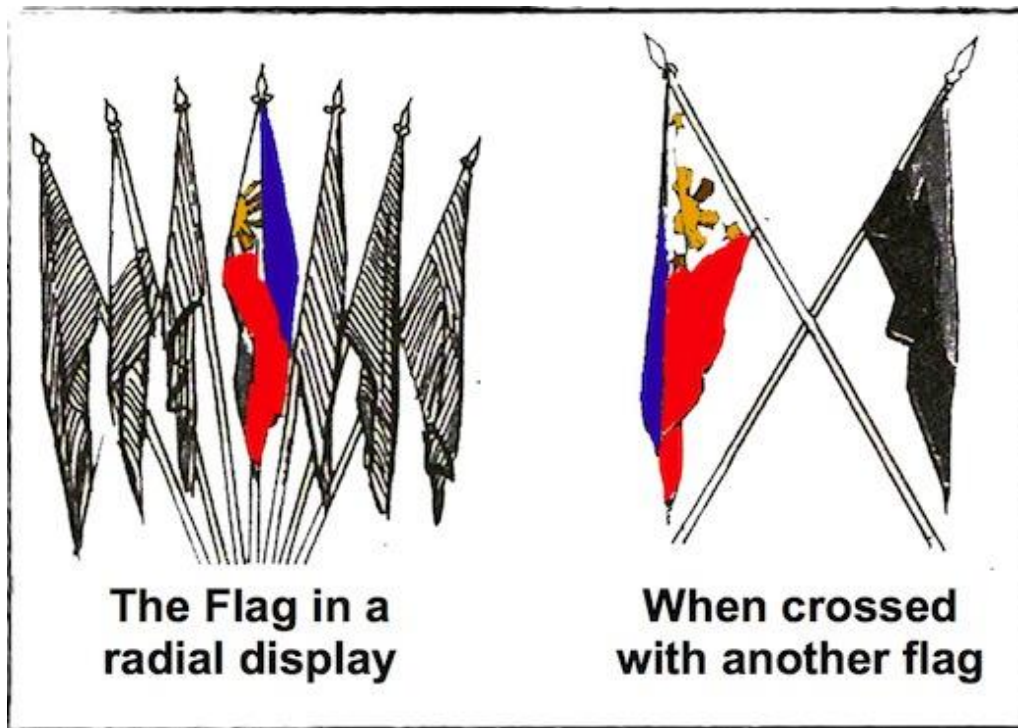
For programs held outdoors at night or in halls and auditoriums with special lighting controls, a more dramatic effect can be achieved when only the flag is spotlighted and the other lights dimmed or put off during the ceremony.

An Invocation or Prayer, the *Pambansang Awit* played or sung, followed by the **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag** and the recitation of the **Scout Oath and Law** may form part of the opening ceremonies.

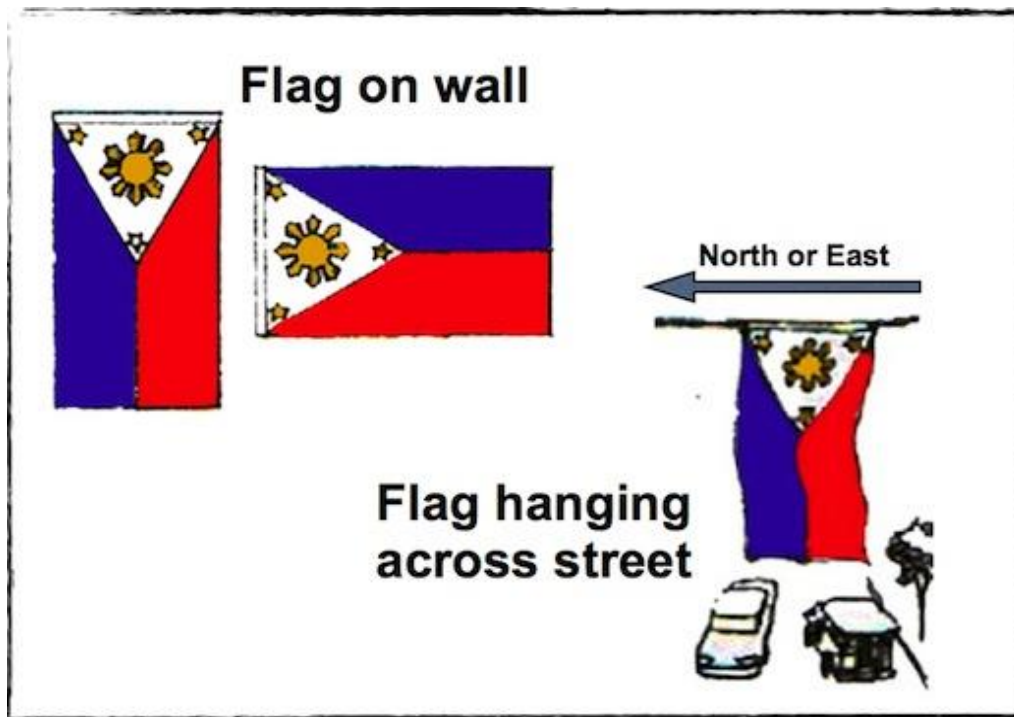
It is also a customary practice in rendering respect to the flag during a closing program to sing or play, in lieu of the *Pambansang Awit*, an appropriate patriotic song.

Displaying the Flag

1. When displayed outdoors with flags of other nations, the Philippine Flag should occupy prominent position - that is, displayed on a separate flagpole slightly higher, or in front and center of the other flagpoles or, if in one line of flagpoles of equal length, with the Philippine Flag placed at the right (left of the observer) of the other national flags. In both instances, the other national flags are displayed in alphabetical order.
2. When displayed on a stage indoors, as in conferences, the Philippine Flag and the other national flags are displayed in one line either at the right or at the back of the guests depending upon the number, following the same protocol as when displayed outdoors. The Philippine Flag occupies the center and highest position when it is together with other national flags in a radial display.



3. When the Philippine Flag is displayed in a parade with those of other nations, or with association or organization flags, it shall always be in front and ahead by three or four paces of the center of the line of the other flags.
4. When displayed with organization flags, like the flag of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines and the World Scout flag, the Philippine Flag is displayed separately from the non-national flags. The organization flags are ranked according to level (world, nation, region, council, district, institution, troop), with the highest placed at its extreme right. (When the BSP flag is displayed with flags of other organizations, all the flags are arranged alphabetically and/ or by groups).
5. When the Flag is displayed horizontally on a wall, the blue field should be above and the white triangle to the left of the observer. When displayed vertically, the blue field should be at the left of the observer.



Raising the Flag

1. When the Philippine Flag is raised, the *Pambansang Awit* is sung accompanied by a band, if available. The Flag is raised briskly. On the first note, Scouts and Scouters automatically execute the Scout salute and, automatically, bring their hands down at the last note, without waiting for any command. Those outside the assembly but within hearing distance, stand at attention, face the direction of the Flag and execute the proper salute.
2. When raised with other national flags, the Philippine Flag is hoisted ahead of the others. The other national flags are raised simultaneously after a few bars of the *Pambansang Awit*.

Lowering the Flag

1. The Philippine Flag is lowered slowly as everybody makes the Scout Salute. If the lowering is done with the *Pambansang Awit*, it is timed in such a way that the flag would touch the hands of the color bearer at the last note of the anthem.

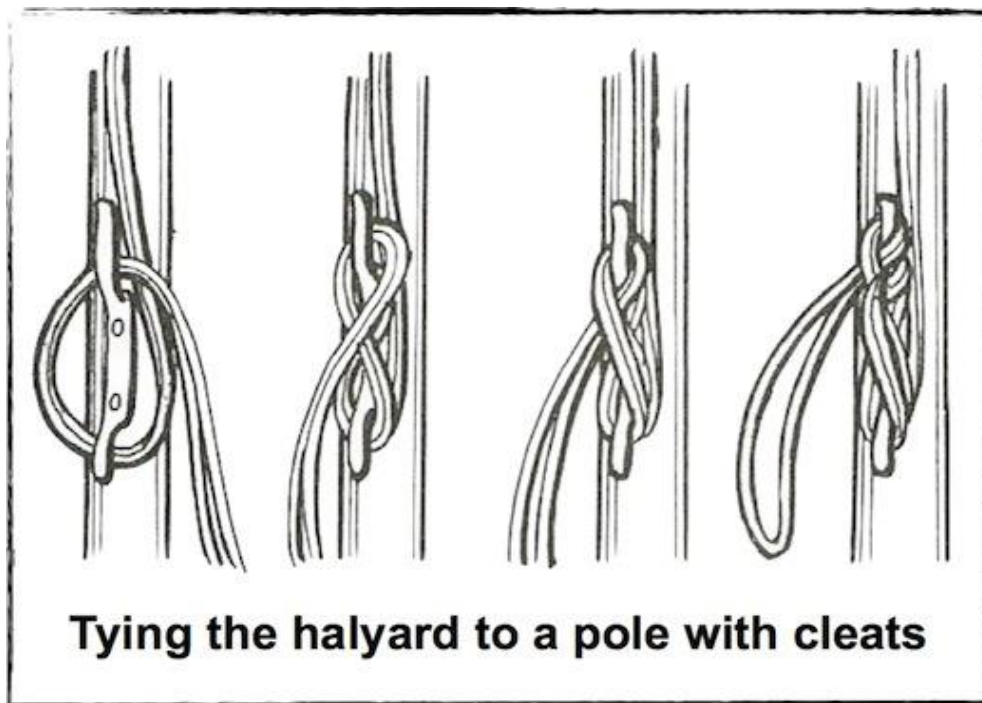


2. When the Flag is lowered without the *Pambansang Awit*, a bugle call for flag retreat may be sounded or a long whistle blow made before the actual lowering. Those within hearing distance stop whatever they are doing, face the direction of the Philippine Flag and salute, if they can see it; otherwise they just stand at attention.

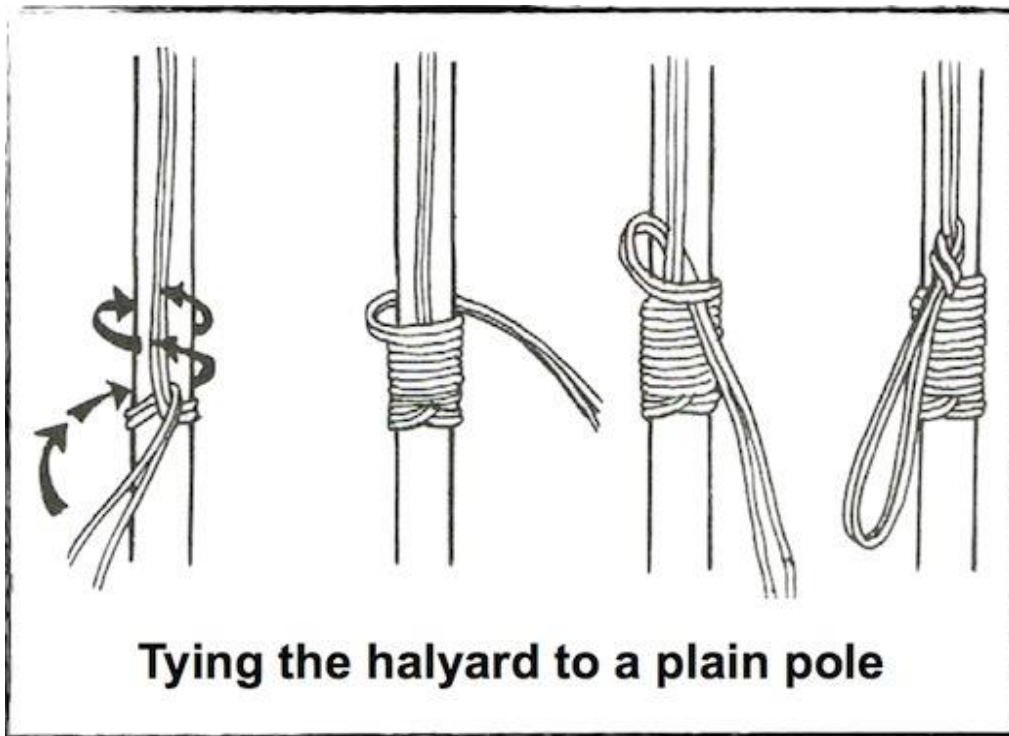
As soon as the Flag is lowered, a short whistle blow is sounded signaling the end of the ceremony.

Securing the Flag

1. If the flagpole has cleats, the halyard is tied by making a series of figures-of-eight on the cleats ending it with a half-hitch and a slippery half-hitch.
2. If the flagpole does not have cleats, the tying of the halyard is started with a half-hitch around the pole. The rest of the halyard is wrapped upward around the pole and closed with a half-hitch and a slippery half-hitch around the standing part of the halyard.



3. The ideal length of a halyard is twice the height of the pole from ground level. if snap hooks are to be used, join or knot the ends of the halyard with a square knot or a fisherman's knot between the snap hooks to relieve the tension on the flag.
4. If the Flag does not unfurl by itself even with a jerk of the halyard (which usually happens when it is incorrectly folded), it should be allowed, temporarily, to fly in this manner and fixed when the ceremony is over.



5. If the halyard or the pulley on the pole breaks during the ceremony, which also happens although rarely, any member of the color detail should catch the flag, detach it from the halyard and with another holding the other end, display it horizontally with raised and outstretched arms. It can be folded after the *Pambansang Awit* and brought out of the formation ceremoniously, taking care not to disrupt the proceedings.

OUR FLAG - IT'S HISTORY

By **Eulogio B. Rodriguez**

Former Director, National Library

Introduction

The Flag is the symbol of a unique country in the Far East - A country Oriental by inheritance and geography, and both Occidental and Oriental by religion, culture, and government.

Our Flag is the emblem of the result of the efforts of the Filipinos to lay down in this part of the globe an adequate foundation for the superstructure of the Republic of the Philippines. It stands for our Country which is bound to become in the Orient the forerunner of a Christian, democratic republic, where every individual is entitled to a fair and equal opportunity to rise in life and enjoy the right to personal property and the pursuit of his own happiness. Our Flag is the banner of a country which believes that the happiness of its people is best determined by themselves. It is the visible expression of the Filipino soul in its aspiration for nationality and freedom.

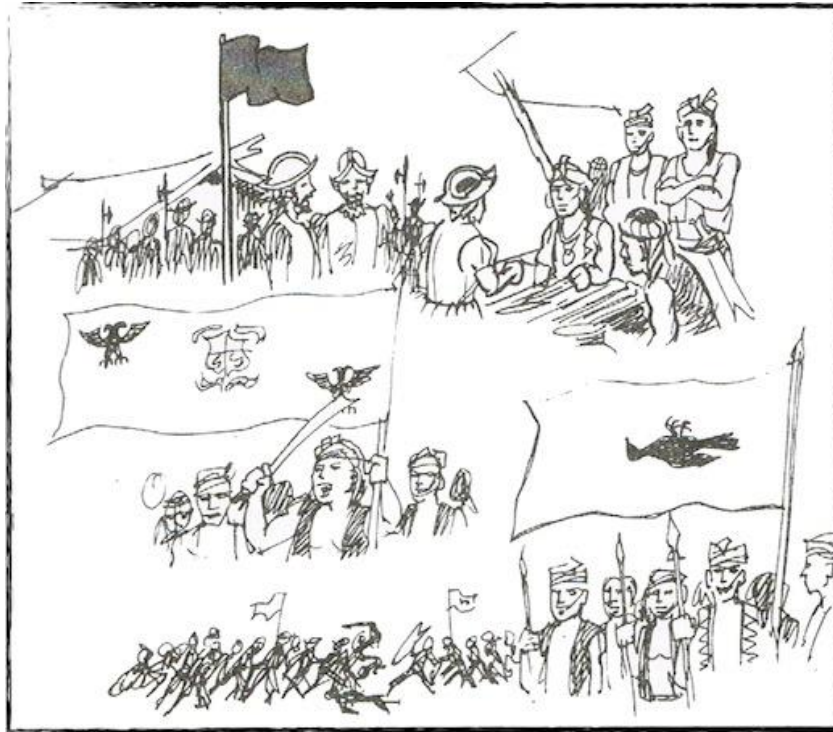
Our Flag bespeaks that urge prompting the Filipino soul to give expression to its creative endowments — those God-given rights that make for human progress and add to the lasting joys of the world.

Our Flag is symbolic of the soul of our fatherland, and we will strive to transmit it to posterity not less, but greater and even better, than when it was transmitted to us.

I pledge to serve our Flag faithfully, to maintain unswervingly the integrity and honor of the Philippines, and, to the best of my ability, to perform the duties of a patriotic and law-abiding Filipino citizen. I promise to honor our Flag, and with all my strength, to work and die, if need be, for its welfare.

Its History

Not long after his arrival in Manila in 1571, Legaspi succeeded in effecting a treaty of friend-ship with Lakan-Dula, the Rajah of the Tagalog city of "Maynila," where a few years later was to be located at the Port of Santiago and its accessory embankments at the mouth of the Pasig. Rajah Soliman and his son, Prince Magat Salamat, who were respectively nephew and grandnephew of Lakan-Dula, did not look with favor upon the alliance of friendship with the Spaniards. For this reason, while Rajah Soliman and his son fought against the Spaniards, Rajah Lakan-Dula hoisted a white flag at his home as an indicator that he was for peace and had nothing to do with that war. Knowledge of the use of the red and the white flags as symbols of war and peace, respectively, was practically universal all over the Philippines. As a matter of fact, by that time, the Mohammedans of the South had been making extensive use of these symbols of peace and war.



From 1565 to 1896, or from the time Legaspi came to Cebu up to the outbreak of the Philippine Revolution, about one hundred separate and isolated revolts and uprisings broke in this country, but no flag was known to have been used in any of them as an emblem of the whole Philippines. The chief of the revolting group used a banner as a rallying banner, but not as a symbol of their religion or their religious or their political affiliation.

Banners Used in Revolts

The Pangasinan Uprising of 1762 was featured by the use of a flag carried by one of its leaders of "two varas long and a trifle more narrow. At each corner it had a two-headed eagle, and in the center; an escutcheon with its border, and within it the arms of the Order of St. Dominic." [1]

When the Joloanos resisted the attack of Governor Claveria's forces in 1848, "the Moros hoisted on the fort at the commencement of the battle a red flag and a dead crow, the latter as a sign of death." [2]

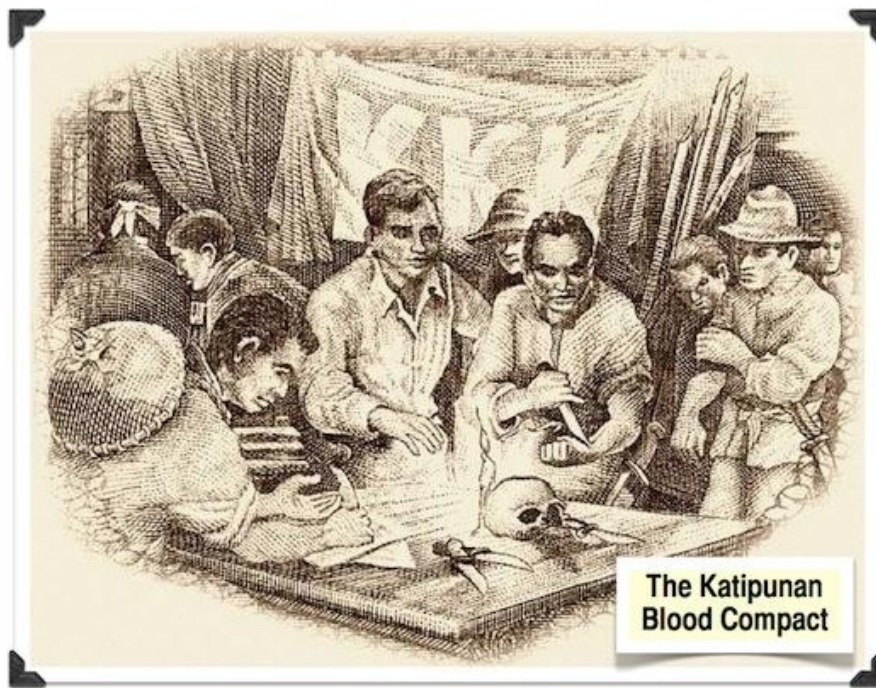
In the so-called Cavite Revolt of 1872, a revolutionary flag was hoisted which, according to eye-witnesses, consisted of a "square red banner" while others made the assurance that it was a combination of one red and one white stripe." [3]

The Katipunan Flag

Not till after the organization of the Katipunan in 1892, under the leadership of Andres Bonifacio, had there been an attempt made to devise a flag which, in a general sense, might be considered as the banner of the whole Filipino people. This was, of course, in conformity with the fact that the primary object of the Katipunan was to unite all the Filipinos in order to wrest their freedom from Spain. This use of force was decided upon only after all peaceful means had been tried and had proved a failure.

The Katipunan Flag played an important role in the rites and ceremonies of the members of the organization, as well as in the open field of battle. The Katipunan Flag consisted of a piece of red cloth

(kundiman) on which were placed in white, the letters K.K.K., sometimes arranged in a line and sometimes arranged so as to form an equilateral triangle. The three K's stand for ***Kataastaasang Kagalanggalangan Katipunan ng Mga Anak ng Bayan*** (Most Highest, Most Supreme, Most Venerable Society of the Sons of the people).



Bonifacio used for his Council (*Magdiwang*) a war standard which consisted of a piece of *kundiman* on which were a white sun with an indefinite number of rays and the three K's below the sun. The sun stood for liberty.

When Bonifacio's Council, *Magdiwang*, united with that of Aguinaldo's *Magdalo*, the three K's were replaced by K in Tagalog script superimposed on a white sun with eight rays around. The sun stood for liberty and the eight rays represented the eight provinces that first revolted against Spain.^[4] This flag was known as the Revolutionary Flag.

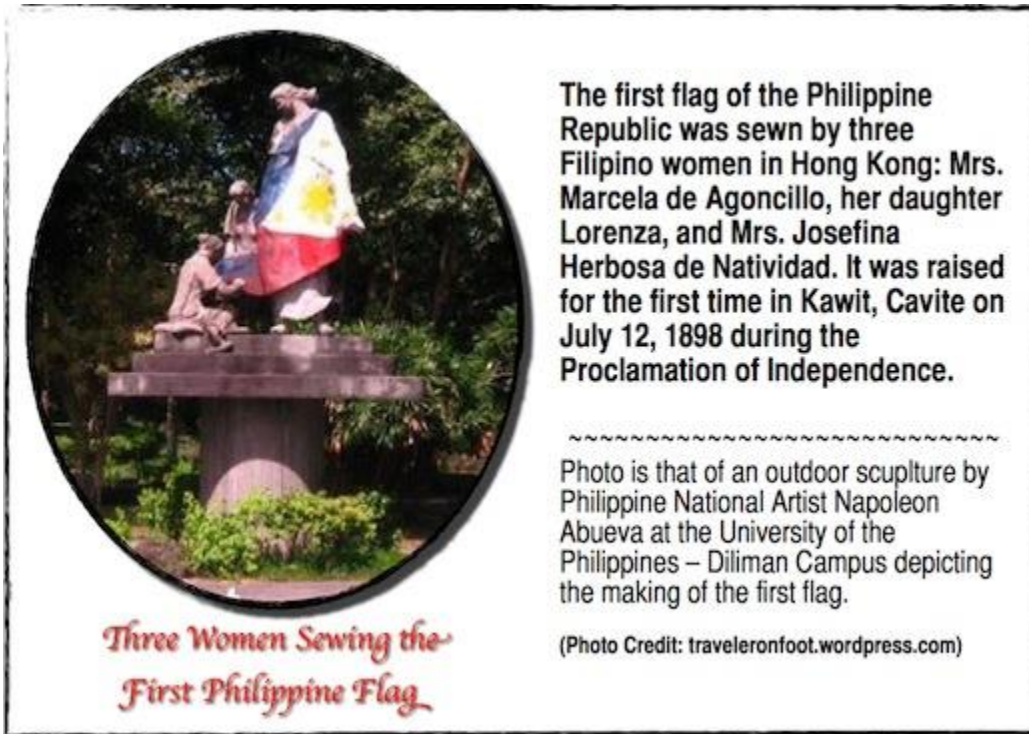
Evolution of the Filipino Flag

On March 17, 1897, the Revolutionary Flag was again reformed during a conference at Naic, Cavite. This flag had the mythological sun at the center and was often referred to as the “Sun of Liberty.”

Other Revolutionary Flags

Some revolutionary leaders used different flags for their battalions. Among these may be mentioned Llanera's Skull Flag, Pio del Pilar's War Standard, and Gregorio del Pilar's Tri-color Flag.

These flags, it should be remembered, were not adopted nationally but are described here because they had one way or the other influenced the designers of the present national ensign.

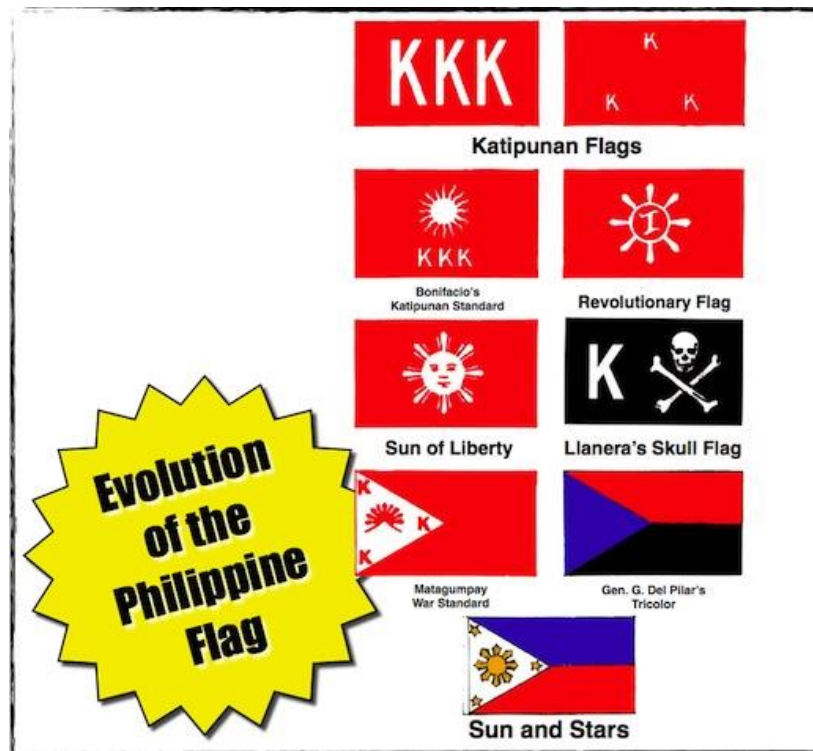


General Mariano Llanera of Cabiao, Nueva Ecija, a courageous and reckless fighter and one of the first active members of the *Katipunan*, chose for his battalion a black flag superimposed by a skull with crossed bones and a K, and in white. This flag did not last long as a war standard, but it made a very impressive appeal to the imagination of his soldiers.

General Pio del Pilar used a flag consisting of a rectangular piece of red cloth with a white triangle at the center of which was a sunburst behind a mountain. In each corner of the triangle was a letter K.

It is generally believed that General Gregorio del Pilar designed his flag after the Cuban Flag. His emblem consisted of a rectangular piece of cloth, with a blue triangle at the side close to the staff, a broad red stripe at the top, and a broad black stripe below. Red stood for bravery, blood and war; blue for justice for which his soldiers were fighting, and black for death which was the price they were willing to pay for the attainment of their ideals. It is to be noted that General Gregorio del Pilar's banner was similar in general outline to the present Philippine Flag. It was, in fact, the intermediary step between the First Philippine Flag and the present national color.

The First Philippine Flag (as reformed in Naic on March 17, 1897) did not have a chance to wave freely for a long period of time. On December 27, 1897, the **Treaty of Biak-na-Bato** temporarily ended the revolution. In accordance with this treaty, the Filipinos agreed to cease hostilities under certain conditions. But failure of the Spanish authorities to live up to the provisions of this treaty fanned anew the fire of revolt and the Filipino leaders, who agreed to live in exile in Hong Kong, immediately returned to the Philippines to resume the revolution.

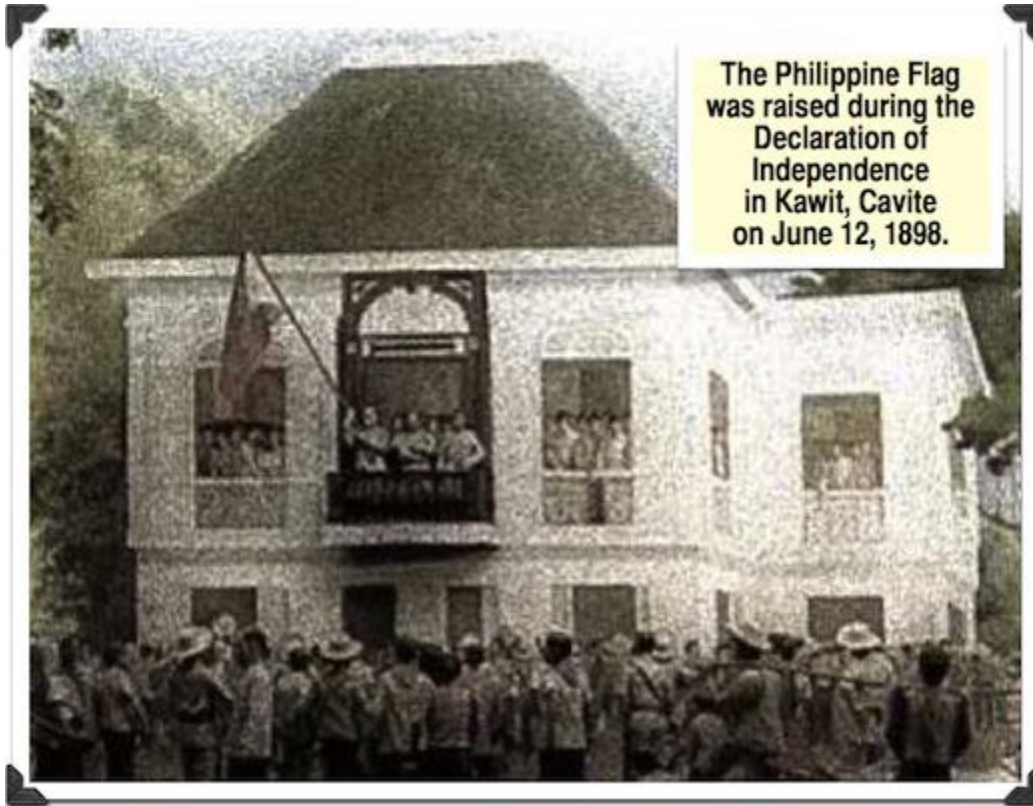


It was in Hong Kong where the present Flag was devised and adopted by the *Junta Patriotica* (Patriotic Council) composed of the exiled leaders under the leadership of General Aguinaldo. The Flag was made by Dona Marcela de Agoncillo [5] with the help of Mrs. Delfina Herbosa de Natividad [6] and Lorenza Agoncillo [7] who were among the Filipino exiles in Hong Kong.

In designing this new Flag many considerations were taken into account: (1) the well-known white equilateral triangle of the Katipunan; (2) the general characteristics of the first Philippine Flag; (3) the general outline of the Cuban flag as anticipated by General Gregorio del Pilar; and (4) the three five-pointed stars to represent symbolically the three geographical divisions of the Philippines — Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.

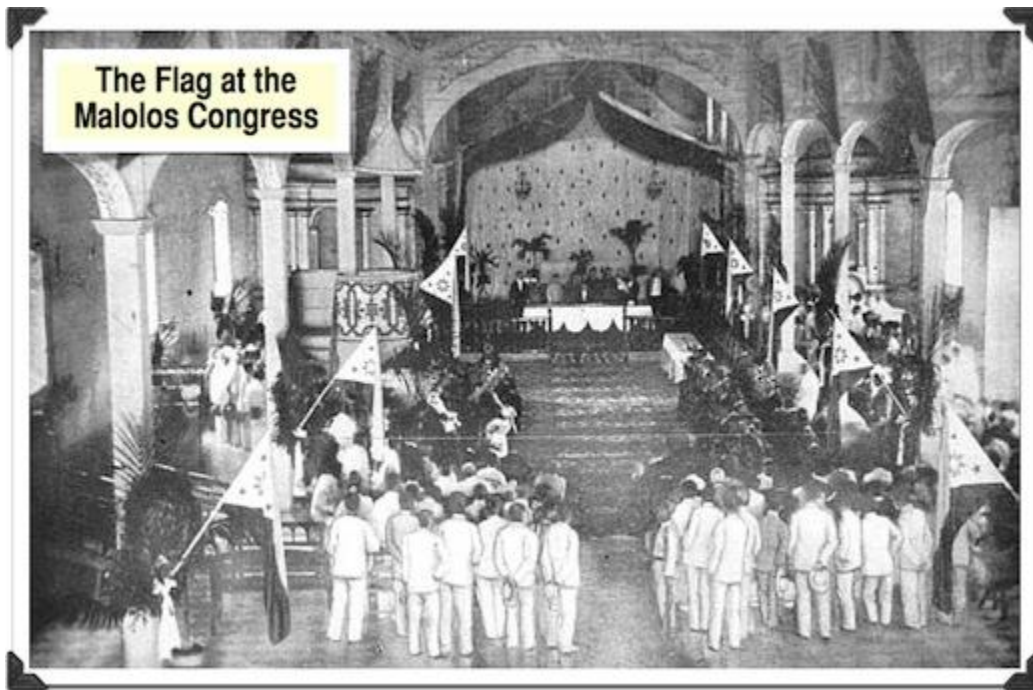
Stirring Events Witnessed by Our Flag

It was this Flag that General Aguinaldo hoisted in commemoration of the victory of the Filipinos against the Spaniards in the first battle that took place in the second part of the Philippine Revolution on May 28, 1898, at Alapan, a barrio between Imus and Kawit, where two hundred seventy Spaniards were captured.

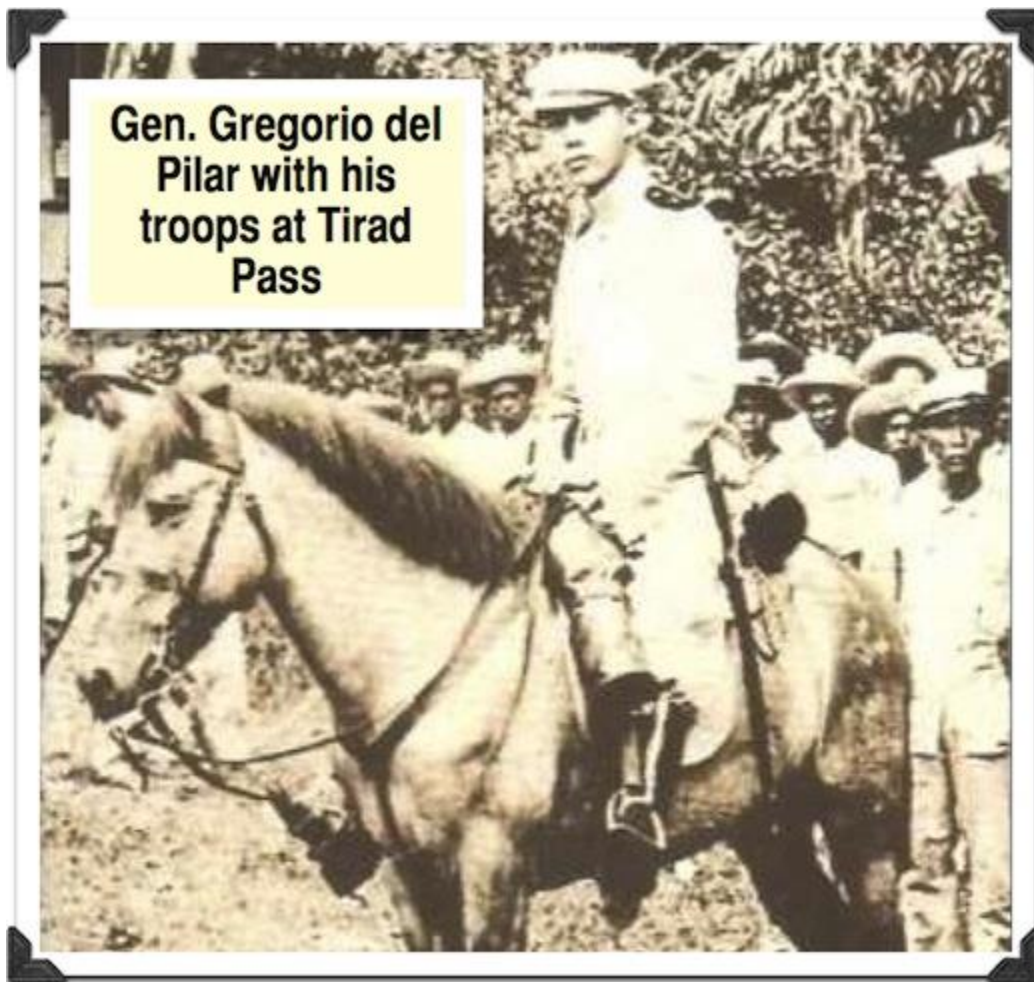


It was this same Flag which was hoisted in Binakayan and Bacoor to commemorate the victory won by the Filipino revolutionary forces against the Spaniards in these places.

It was this same Flag which was hoisted in Kawit as the symbol of the Philippine Republic when General Aguinaldo proclaimed the independence of the Philippines on June 12, 1898. The Philippine National Hymn was played for the first time when this Flag, which was then adopted as the Flag of the Republic, was being unfurled.



This Flag was taken to Malolos and was displayed in the Hall of Congress at the historic Barasoain Church, which was the cradle of the Philippine Constitution. The Flag was in full view during the deliberations on the Malolos Constitution by the deputies of the first Philippine Revolutionary Congress from September 15 to November 29, 1898. It also witnessed the signing of the Malolos Constitution by President Aguinaldo on December 23, 1898. When General Aguinaldo retreated because of the terrific advance of the American forces, his staff took this Flag along with them, but unfortunately lost it somewhere near Tayug, Pangasinan. Another one was made and this was taken along by General Aguinaldo when he began his Odyssey on November 12, 1899. A stronger force faced the Filipino Revolutionary Army, and most of the revolutionary leaders met with serious defeats. General Gregorio del Pilar heroically died at Tirad Pass on December 2, 1899. General Aguinaldo was captured in Palanan, Isabela on March 23, 1901, and he took his oath of allegiance to American sovereignty on April 1, 1901. This was followed by the surrender of other revolutionary generals, including General Lukban in Samar on February 22, 1902, and General Malvar in Batangas. The surrender of General Malvar on April 16, 1902 marked the last phase of the Philippine Revolution, and the Filipino Flag lost its significance as the emblem of the Philippines as a sovereign nation. '



Recalling the crucial moment when the Filipino Flag was turned over to the American authorities in connection with the surrender of General Malvar, Don Teodoro M. Kalaw, former director of the National Library, said:

“I was already a young man when the troops of General Malvar surrendered to the Americans. Among the officers who surrendered was a barrio peasant, with very little instruction, but of a very splendid physique. He was the standard bearer of his battalion. When his turn came to surrender the Flag, he kissed it repeatedly and cried like a child. ‘I have never parted from this before,’ he said, ‘I have had it with me, draped around my body, in those days when we had to flee through the forest and the mountains, hiding from the enemies. At night I slept with it under my pillow; during the day, I guarded it from the rain. I have seen my comrades surrender one by one which gave me no pain; but now that I must give up my Flag, I feel that we are surrendering all.’”

The display of this Flag in the homes of the people throughout the Philippines was naturally popular, but in 1907 its use was prohibited by the government. Not until after twelve years when an act was passed by the Philippine Legislature on October 22, 1919, was it again displayed. Another act passed on March 6, 1920, proclaimed it as the Official Flag of the Government of the Philippines, to be used side by side with, and to be accorded the same honor and respect as the American Flag.

The Flag of the Republic of the Philippines

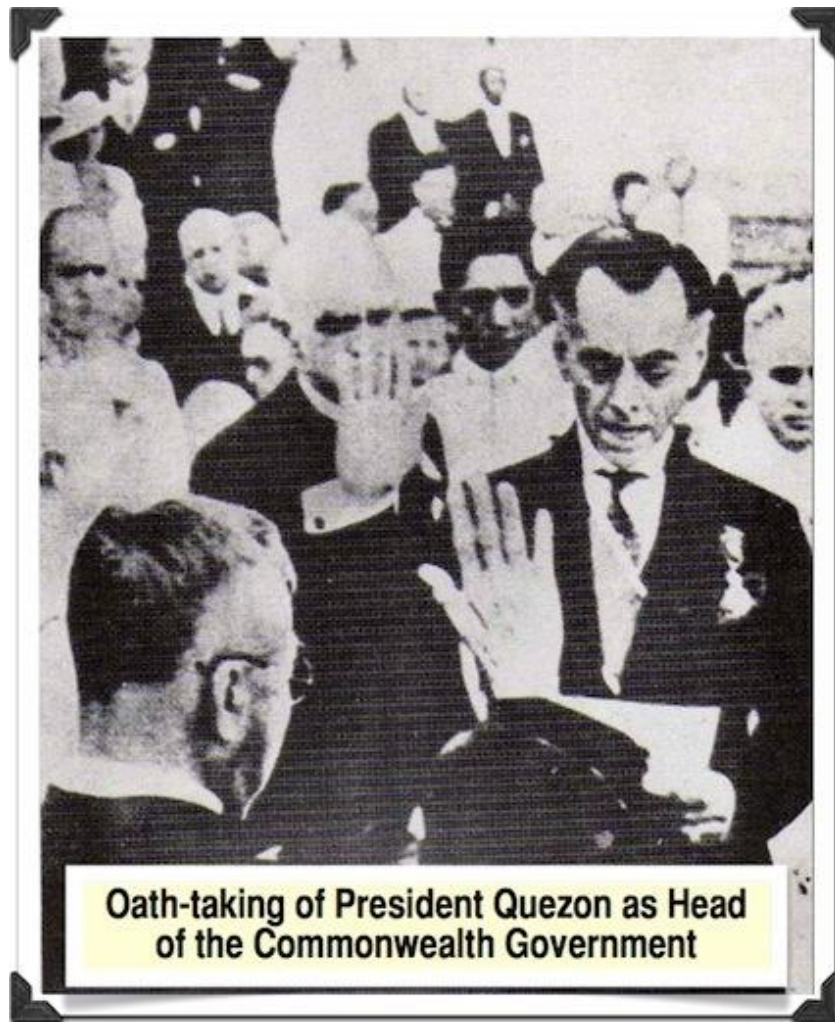


This was the same Flag in which General Antonio Luna was wrapped, in accordance with his will, when he died on June 5, 1899.

This was the same flag which Juan Luna, our world-famous artist, painted for the revolutionary newspaper *La Independencia* on January 2, 1899.

This was the Flag that, through a misunderstanding, witnessed the breaking up of friendly relations between the Filipinos and the Americans on that fateful eve of February 4, 1899 when the war between the two peoples started.

This Flag was the symbol of the second part of the Philippine Revolutionary Government which began from Aguinaldo's arrival in the Philippines from Hong Kong on May 19, 1898, and ended with the surrender of General Malvar on April 16, 1902.



This Flag then merely became a great history and a greater hope. But the dawn does not return till after the night has fully set in and run its course, as the saying goes. Indeed, this Flag witnessed the inauguration on November 15, 1935, at 8:58 in the morning, of the Commonwealth of the Philippines when the U.S. Secretary of War, George H. Dern, declared:

"I hereby announce that the heretofore existing government of the Philippines is now terminated, and that the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines, in entering upon its rights, privileges, powers, and duties as provided under the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Philippines and the laws of the United States of America, is the successor to the heretofore existing Philippine government and to all the rights and obligations thereof."



This same Flag was also witness to the bloody, heroic defense of the Philippines by millions of Filipino and American soldiers against the ruthless attacks of Japanese invaders during the Second World War, which began on December 8, 1941. It was a gallant struggle from start to finish. Many were the occasions when it seemed that the Sun and Stars would fly beneath the Rising Sun instead of with the Stars and Stripes, but the unequalled martyrdom of our soldiers did full honor to its prestige.

Throughout the grim conflict, the Flag of the Philippines was flown upside down, with the red above the blue, in accordance with established national traditions.

Symbolism and Emblematic Design of the Flag

BLUE stands for high political purposes and noble ideals;

WHITE for purity and peace; and

RED for courage, bravery, and heroism – the blood of those who are ready to die for their country.

The gold or yellow color of the sun and stars has not been given any special political meaning. It is chosen as the natural color of these heavenly bodies to show brightness and splendor.

The triangle symbolizes equality and fraternity.

The golden sun stands for liberty, freedom and light.

The eight rays stand for the first eight provinces to declare freedom from Spanish bondage: Manila, Bulacan, Pampanga, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, Laguna, Cavite and Batangas.

The three five-pointed stars represent the three great geographical divisions of the Philippines, namely: Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.

Respect Due the Flag of the Philippines

Our Flag — The Sun and Stars — is the symbol of our country. It is the emblem of our nationhood, of what we have been, of what we are, and of what we hope to be. Because of its significance and symbolism, its use and display should be regulated by approved practices and we should show to it our utmost respect.



As a people we are very careless in the observance of laws of respect due our Flag. Even in our large cities where the people are supposed to be enlightened, National Flags are sometimes used as curtains at the entrance of dance halls and auditoriums and sometimes as draperies over chairs, windows, and railings. In some instances they are used in costumes. Not infrequently, we find this symbol of our nation tied in knots, festooned or hung carelessly over the hoods of automobiles in patriotic parades. These wrong practices do not speak well of us Filipinos and should be discontinued.

You as a good Scout should know about your Flag and should modestly set the proper example.

The Pledge of Allegiance (*Panunumpa sa Watawat*)

Scouts use the standard pledge to the Flag of the Philippines, as follows:

“I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the Philippines and to the Republic for which it stands: one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

(“Ako’y nangangakong magtatapat sa watawat ng Pilipinas at sa Republikang kanyang kinakatawan: isang bansang pinapatnubayan ng Diyos, buo at di-mahahati, na may kalayaan at katarungan para sa lahat.”)

When taking this pledge in ranks, the Scout executes the Scout Sign at the leader's command and holds this through the entire pledge. When taking it as an individual, he also executes the Scout Sign, and holds it through the entire pledge.

When to Salute the Flag

During the ceremony of hoisting or lowering the Flag, all persons present should face the Flag and stand at attention. If they are wearing hats, they should uncover and hold their hats over their hearts. A Scout in uniform should stand at attention and execute the Scout Salute. Silence should be observed and no person should be allowed to walk around while the ceremony is going on.

When the Flag is unfurled and hung in a room, Scout officials and Scouts in uniform should salute the Flag the first time they pass by it.



The salute to the Flag in a moving column is rendered at the moment the Flag is passing by.

When passing the flag, the Scout executes the Scout Salute six paces before reaching the front of the Flag and holds it until six paces past. If in ranks, each minor unit salutes together at the command of its leader.

DOS & DON'TS WITH OUR FLAG

DO make the bringing in of the folded Flag as part of the Flag raising ceremony.	DON'T attach the Flag to the halyard and then let it hang and wait for the ceremony.
DO display the Flag on its own without any superimposition.	DON'T, when displaying the Flag, superimpose letterings or other designs on the Flag.
DO hoist only one Philippine Flag outdoors as a focal symbol during an activity.	DON'T hoist several Philippine Flags outdoors in one activity or institution.
DO use Flags with fringes and tassels for ceremonies and display indoors.	DON'T use a Flag with fringes and tassels for hoisting outdoors.

DO display our Flag with the same size as the flags of other nations.	DON'T display national flags of different sizes.
DO replace the Flag when it becomes faded, tattered, or worn out.	DON'T display a faded, tattered, dirty, or worn-out Flag.
DO let the Flag remain upright when carried during ceremonies.	DON'T dip the Philippine Flag.
DO let the Flag alone when singing the <i>Pambansang Awit</i> .	DON'T hold the Flag to spread it out when singing the <i>Pambansang Awit</i> .
DO sing the <i>Pambansang Awit</i> in a regular march tempo.	DON'T sing the <i>Pambansang Awit</i> in a slow march tempo.
DO lower the Flag at a fixed time before sunset.	DON'T let the Flag remain hoisted after sunset.
DO ceremoniously fold the Flag used to cover the casket of an honored dead and present it to the nearest of kin before burial.	DON'T bury the Flag with the casket of the dead.
DO let the Flag fly alone on its halyard.	DON'T hoist the Flag with another flag attached on the same halyard.
DO let the Flag, in a group display of flags, occupy its place of prominence together with other national flags.	DON'T let the Flag in a group display of flags be mingled together with organization, association, or institution flags.
DO display a Flag and festoon a building with blue, white and red buntings in observing a national holiday and celebrations.	DON'T festoon several Flags on one building in observance of a national holiday or celebration.
DO raise the Flag in half-mast as a sign of mourning by orders of the President and other designated and appropriate government authorities.	DON'T display the Flag in half-mast without proper authority from appropriate government officials.
DO raise a Flag at half-mast to the top before lowering it at sundown.	DON'T lower a Flag from its half-mast position without raising it first to the top.

DISPOSAL CEREMONY FOR WORN-OUT FLAGS



Our Flag Code states that “A National Flag, worn out through wear and tear, should not be thrown on a garbage heap or used as a rag. It should be reverently burned to avoid misuse and/or disrespect thereof. Government offices and educational institutions must not display worn out or tattered flags. They should replace the same immediately.”

The following is a suggested ceremony (after a Flag-lowering ceremony) for the reverent disposal of faded and tattered National Flags.

The ceremony may also be held towards the end of a campfire program when the embers are burning low. If held in conjunction with a camping or other outdoor activity, it must be the last organized activity in the evening.

Units of a municipality or district may also adopt this as a regular feature during the observance of Scouting Month.



Suggested Script for the Ceremony

(If held in conjunction with an Institutional Flag-lowering)

- a. The audience is gathered in U-formation for the Flag-lowering ceremony with the flagpole located at center stage. In front of the flagpole is a small firelay already lighted and with a support where a small grill (about 18" x 18") will be placed. This is where the Flag(s) will be burned. A small table is placed beside the flagpole where the Flag(s) is(are) placed. On the table is also a clay or brass urn for the ashes.
- b. Immediately after the lowering, the Flag is folded and ceremoniously brought outside of the formation and kept in its place.
- c. The emcee announces the start of the ceremony. Some patriotic songs may be sung to set the assembly in the proper mood.
- d. A designated speaker talks briefly on the history of the Philippine Flag which may be interlaced with a display of its evolution.
- e. An appropriate poem or a song may be rendered by a selected Scout.
- f. The Guest Speaker talks on the significance of the ceremony and on, **“What the Flag should mean to all of us.”**
- g. Ceremony Proper:
 - (1) A designated Official, preferably a lady to signify that it was a lady who made our first Flag, stands at a distance from the fire with her side to- wards the guests so that she is clearly visible to the guests and the audience.

(2) A Scout, flanked by three others, picks the (first) worn-out Flag to be disposed of and, marching in slow cadence, brings it to the Official, unfolds it reverently with the three other Scouts and, holding the four corners present it with the white triangle facing the Official and the blue field to her left.

(3) The Official receives the Flag and reverently places them into the fire to burn one after the other. Those in uniform execute the hand salute, standards are dipped while the others place their right hand on their chest. (The same procedure is followed for the other worn-out Flags, if any, although the carrying may be done by other Scouts.)

(4) A pair of Scouts gather the ashes into the urn. While the ashes are being gathered, "Taps" may be sung or sounded.

(5) After the gathering of the ashes, the audience recites "*Ang Panunumpa sa Watawat.*"

(6) The audience then sings "*Pilipinas Kong Mahal*" as a final hymn before the dispersal. The two Scouts march out with the urn to the designated burial place.

(7) The audience disperses quietly by unit.

(8) The ashes are poured into a waiting hole on the ground (at least 1 1/2 feet deep on a place not usually trodden upon).

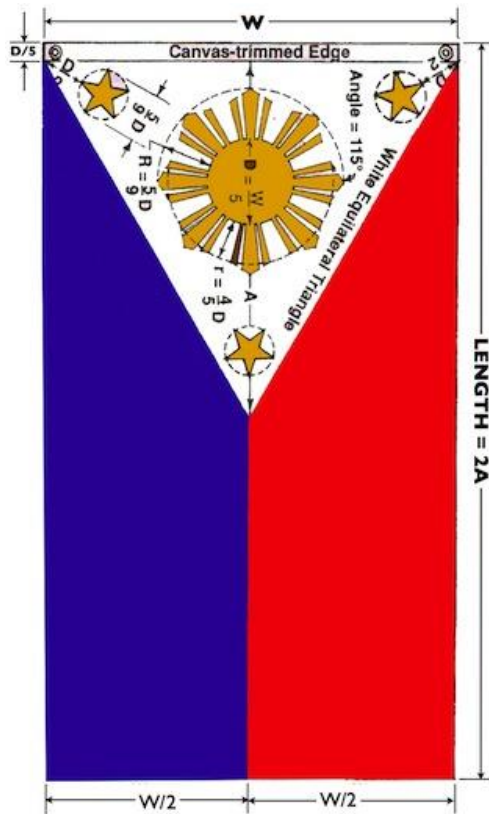
Some suggested songs/recitations: "*Ang Panunumpa sa Watawat,*" "Pledge of Allegiance" song, "*Ang Bayan Ko,*" "*Ako ay Pilipino,*" "*O Pilipinas*" (Ideology), "*Punit na Bandila.*"

Some hints: *If you need something to start the fire, you may use candle scraps or oil. Never use gasoline or kerosene to start the fire.*

FLAG FACTS

According to the Philippines Heraldry Committee, the following are the official dimensions of the Philippine Flag:

1. The length of the Flag is twice the altitude of the equilateral triangle.
2. The width is equal to any side of the triangle.
3. The two stripes are equal in length and width.
4. The diameter of the sun is 1/5 of the width of the Flag. The eight rays around it are equally spaced, with a length equal to 5/9 of the sun's diameter. The minor beams, 1/2 as broad and 4/5 as long, flank each ray.
5. The five-pointed stars are of equal size, with each having one point directed to the vertex of the angle enclosing it. The diameter of the Circle circumscribing each star is equal to 5/9 of the sun's diameter. The diameter of this circle is equal to the distance of the star from the corner.
6. The edge to the left of the triangle is trimmed with canvas approximately 1/5 of the sun's diameter in width.
7. Silk flags are trimmed on three edges with a knotted fringe of yellow silk with a width equal to 1/5 of the sun's diameter.



ENDNOTES

- 1 - Blair and Robertson: The Philippine Islands, 49304-305.
- 2 - V. de Aldana and Serrano, Española en la Oceania, "La Guerra de Jolo"
- 3 - Monte:-0, Historia General de Filipinas, 3:575.
- 4 - These provinces were Manila, Tarlac, Bulacan, Cavite, Pampanga, Nueva Ecija, Batangas and Laguna.
- 5 - Wife of Don Felipe Agoncillo, Minister Plenipotentiary to the United States and the European countries under the Revolutionary Government.
- 6 - Rizal's niece, daughter of his sister Luisa, who was married to a revolutionist, Gen. Salvador Natividad.
- 7 - Daughter of Don Felipe Agoncillo.