

United States Flag Policy and Protocol of the Town of West Bridgewater

POLICY:

It is the policy of the Board of Selectmen as representing the Town of West Bridgewater, and the official policies, opinions, and sympathies of the government of the Town, to adhere to both the Flag Policy and Protocol as described herein and the Massachusetts General Laws (Chapter 2, section 6A) with respect to flying flags at half-staff at buildings and grounds under its jurisdiction. The flag shall be flown at half-staff only in recognition and/or sympathy of individuals or causes that affect the whole of the Town of West Bridgewater.

This is not to say that individuals or causes not specifically cited in either the Flag Policy and Protocol or the M.G.L. cannot be honored by the lowering of the flags at municipal buildings and/or grounds, but only that such lowering should not exceed the ordinary periods prescribed by law and custom for individuals or causes of comparable rank. The recognition or sympathies of counties, cities, towns, schools, universities, or any other public or corporate entity can be signified by the chief executive officers of those entities by lowering the flags on any building or properties under their jurisdiction.

The Chairman of the Board of Selectmen is authorized (as stated in the Massachusetts' Bureau of State Office Buildings Policy Manual) to direct that such flags be flown at half-staff upon the death of a prominent local official, or on occasions other than those specified which they consider proper as long as they are consistent with the policy set forth herein.

The U.S. Flag will be flown at half-staff on Peace Officers' Memorial Day, Memorial Day, Patriot's Day, and Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

PROCEDURE:

The decision to fly flags at half-staff falls to the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, unless it is ordered by the Governor of the Commonwealth or the President of the United States. The Chairman may elect to fly flags at half-staff as a sign of respect or sympathy for persons or causes other than those listed in the Flag Policy and Protocol or the M.G.L., so long as the period of lowering is consistent with the intent of the policy and laws.

In the event that more than one death or other cause occur at the same time, the period of the flags being lowered will not exceed the normal endpoint of the longest of the overlapping periods. The periods are not added together.

In the event that the flag of a foreign nation or any other state or organization is requested to be flown during a period when the United States and Massachusetts flags are at half-staff, those flags must also be flown at half-staff.

(PROCEDURE cont'd)

On Death of:	Duration of Flag displayed at Half Staff
President or Former President	30 days from the date of death
Vice President Chief Justice Retired Chief Justice of the U.S. Speaker of the House	10 days from date of death
Associate Justice of Supreme Court Cabinet Member Former Vice President President of the Senate Majority Leader of the House Minority Leader of the House	From the day of death until Interment
U.S. Senator from Massachusetts U.S. Representative representing West Bridgewater Governor of Massachusetts	From the day of death until Interment
Current Selectman West Bridgewater Police Officer West Bridgewater Firefighter	From the day of death until Interment
Retired Fire or Police Chief Military personnel killed in the line of duty	On the day of Interment
Former Selectman	On the day of Interment
Any West Bridgewater citizen currently employed by the town, or elected to or serving on a board, commission or committee	On the day of Interment

Adopted this 9th day of June, 2013

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Eldon F. Moreira, Chairman

Jerry D. Lawrence, Clerk

Nancy J. Maloney, Member