

June 2020



This is the time of year we need to start looking at our fellow NCOA members to determine who may be eligible to become our newest KNIGHTS. The Knights of the Square Table needs at least 25 new Knights. Be looking at your chapter volunteers and those individuals who always help at conference as members at large. If we don't get a pool of Knights we won't have anyone to draw from for Order of the Sword or Order of Excalibur. Applications for Knights need to be completed by the petitioner and endorsed by two Knights (any level) and they do not have to go through your chapter. They are to be sent to the KST using the NCOA address (Suite 708). Get them in as soon as

possible, they are required to be there no later than 90 days prior to next year's conference. Don't wait until the last minute.

Requirements for new knights are:

1. To be a member in good standing for no less than three years.
2. To be a Life Member of NCOA.
3. To be a member of the International Rat Pack or Loretta (Application in NCOA AWARDS MANUAL).
4. To have to have participated in at least one civic or charitable program.
5. To have received 3 Category II or higher NCOA awards. This is something you will have to ensure the member has received. Go to the NCOA website (www.ncoausa.org), click on MEMBERSHIP AREA and then click on CHAPTER TOOLS. Go to bottom of the page and click on Awards Manual, click on NCOA AWARDS MANUAL, when you get there you can see what awards are needed.
6. To have attended at least one Annual NCOA Business Meeting.

If you know someone who meets these requirements, you will need to find another Knight who is willing to sign the petition that is to be filled out by the petitioner. Note: They do not have to be chapter members and the petition does not need to be submitted through a chapter. The petition must reach the Knights of the Square Table prior to the date established by the Grand Knight as the deadline - 90 days prior to the next conference

You can get the Petition for Knighthood on the NCOA website (<https://ncoausa.org/knights-of-the-square-table/>). Scroll down the page and you will see the petition (Petition for Knighthood), click on the petition and print. Complete the petition and ensure two Knights who know you verify and sign. Needs to be mailed off to NCOA/KST, 9330 Corporate Dr., Ste. 708, Selma, TX 78154.

President Truman's determination to make changes within the military led to the Women's Armed Services Integration Act signed into law June 12, 1948 - also known as Women Veterans Day. With this act, for the first time, women were recognized as full members of the armed forces. This meant they could finally claim the same benefits as their male counterparts, and it also allowed women to make a career in the Army or Navy. Since 2018, June 12 has been recognized as Women Veterans Day. Please tell a Woman Veteran you recognize and appreciate her service and dedication to her country.

Flag Day, June 14, is a day for all Americans to celebrate and show respect for our flag, its designers and makers. Our flag is representative of our independence and our unity as a nation.....one nation, under God, indivisible. Our flag has a proud and glorious history. It was at the lead of every battle fought by Americans. Many people have died protecting it. It even stands proudly on the surface of the moon.

The American Flag is lovingly referred to by other names, including:

- Old Glory
- Stars and Stripes
- The Red, White and Blue -The red, white and blue colors were chosen to represent valor (red), liberty and purity (white), and justice and loyalty (blue).

As Americans, we have every right to be proud of our culture, our nation, and our flag. So raise the flag today and every day with pride!

Properly Display Our Flag

Care and handling of the American flag is steeped in tradition and respect. There is a right way and a wrong way to display the flag. This is called Flag Etiquette. The American flag should be held in the highest of regards. It represents our nation and the many people who gave their lives for our country and our flag. Here are the basics on displaying the American flag:

- The flag is normally flown from sunrise to sunset.
- In the morning, raise the flag briskly. At sunset, lower it slowly. Always, raise and lower it ceremoniously.
- The flag should not be flown at night without a light on it.
- The flag should not be flown in the rain or inclement weather.
- After a tragedy or death, the flag is flown at half-staff for 30 days. It's called "half-staff" on land ,and "half-mast" on a ship.
- When flown vertically on a pole, the stars and blue field, or "union", is at the top and at the end of the pole (away from your house).
- The American flag is always flown at the top of the pole. Your state flag and other flags fly below it.
- The union is always on top. When displayed in print, the stars and blue field are always on the left.
- Never let your flag touch the ground, never...period.
- Fold your flag when storing. Don't just stuff it in a drawer or box.

When your flag is old and has seen better days, it is time to retire it. Old flags should be burned or buried. Please do not throw it in the trash.

Did You Know? There is a very special ceremony for retiring the flag by burning it. It is a ceremony everyone should see. Your local Boy Scout group knows the proper ceremony and performs it on a regular basis. If you have an old flag, give it to them. And, attend the ceremony.

Strength in Unity!

The Voice of the Enlisted

Lady Sunny Wirth, Grand Knight