



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Honoring those who served U.S.



**WELCOME TO THE 69TH
ANNUAL FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS' AFFAIRS
TRAINING PROGRAM
AND COUNTY VETERAN
SERVICE OFFICER
ASSOCIATION Spring 2018
CONFERENCE**

Welcome!

**Our Veteran
Service Officers
Hard at work in
the community.**

Okaloosa County



Martin County



Martin County



Gadsden County



Gadsden County



Gadsden County



Escambia County





FDVA



FDVA



FDVA



Manatee County



Manatee County



Manatee County



Manatee County



Manatee County



Did you know?

Do you know the meaning of our flags and emblems?



“Old Glory”





CELEBRATING

AMERICA'S
FREEDOMS

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20420

The Seal of the Department of Veterans Affairs

The eagle holds the cord to perpetuate the memory of all slain Americans and their sacrifices. The golden cord symbolizes those who have fallen in defense of this country.



The five stars represent Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard. The flags represent the span of America's history from 13 colonies to present 50 states.



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“Old Glory”

- The name “Old Glory” was first applied to the U.S. flag by a young sea captain who lived in Salem, Mass. On his twenty-first birthday, March 17, 1824, Capt. William Driver was presented a beautiful flag by his mother and a group of local young ladies. Driver was delighted with the gift. He exclaimed, “I name her ‘Old Glory.’” Then Old Glory accompanied the captain on his many voyages.
- Captain Driver quit the sea in 1837 and settled in Nashville, Tenn. On patriotic days, he displayed Old Glory proudly from a rope extending from his house to a tree across the street. After Tennessee seceded from the Union in 1861, Captain Driver hid Old Glory by sewing the flag inside a comforter. When Union soldiers entered Nashville on February 25, 1862, Driver removed Old Glory from its hiding place, carried the flag to the state capitol building, and proudly raised it for all to see.
- Shortly before his death, the old sea captain placed a small bundle into the arms of his daughter. He said to her, “Mary Jane, this is my ship flag, Old Glory. It has been my constant companion. I love it as a mother loves her child. Cherish it as I have cherished it.”
- The flag remained as a precious heirloom in the Driver family until 1922. Then it was sent to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., where it is carefully preserved under glass today.



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CELEBRATING AMERICA'S FREEDOMS

The POW/MIA Flag



In 1971, Mrs. Michael Hoff, the wife of a U.S. military officer listed as missing in action during the Vietnam War, developed the idea for a national flag to remind every American of the U.S. servicemembers whose fates were never accounted for during the war.



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CELEBRATING AMERICA'S FREEDOMS

The POW/MIA Flag cont.

The black and white image of a gaunt silhouette, a strand of barbed wire and an ominous watchtower was designed by Newt Heisley, a former World War II pilot. Some claim the silhouette is a profile of Heisley's son, who contracted hepatitis while training to go to Vietnam. The virus ravaged his body, leaving his features hallow and emaciated. They suggest that while staring at his son's sunken features, Heisley saw the stark image of American servicemembers held captive under harsh conditions. Using a pencil, he sketched his son's profile, creating the basis for a symbol that would come to have a powerful impact on the national conscience.



CELEBRATING

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The POW/MIA Flag cont.

By the end of the Vietnam War, more than 2,500 servicemembers were listed by the Department of Defense as Prisoner of War (POW) or Missing in Action (MIA). In 1979, as families of the missing pressed for full accountability, Congress and the president proclaimed the first National POW/MIA Recognition Day to acknowledge the families' concerns and symbolize the steadfast resolve of the American people to never forget the men and women who gave up their freedom protecting ours. Three years later, in 1982, the POW/MIA flag became the only flag other than the Stars and Stripes to fly over the White House in Washington, D.C. On August 10, 1990, Congress passed U.S. Public Law 101-355, designating the POW/MIA flag: