

Proper Etiquette for Retiring “The United States Flag”

As Demonstrated by Daniel D. Fernandez VFW Post 9676

Los Lunas, New Mexico



When the United States flag becomes worn, torn, faded or badly soiled, it is time to replace it with a new flag, and the old flag should be “retired” with all the dignity and respect befitting our Nation’s flag. The traditional method of retirement is to incinerate the flag and properly dispose of the ashes. On Saturday, June 3, 2017, the Daniel D. Fernandez VFW Post 9676, assisted by Cub Scouts from Los Lunas Pack 360 constructed this

pit. On Saturday, June 10, 2017 Post 9676 and the Cub Scouts held their first annual Flag Retirement Ceremony at the Los Lunas VFW Post. The very first step in the Flag Retirement Ceremony is to properly fold the first flag and prepare it for retirement. The photo on the left is of VFW Post 9676 member Tony Griego, and Chet Pino, the post’s Senior Vice-Commander, folding the first U.S. flag for proper retirement.



Chet Pino, then salutes Commander James Garley and hands over the first U.S. Flag to be retired.

Daniel D. Fernandez VFW Post 9676 Commander James Garley holds the flag close to his heart



as Chet Pino, Marcus Lujan, and all Post members salutes the flag while reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, along with everyone in the

audience. In a very solemn way the Post Commander drops the first flag into the fire pit. David “Hoss” Otero, the Post Chaplin, then played “Taps” on the bugle as the first U.S. flag is retired by fire. Then the Cub Scouts along with their leader, Mark Marry, and other community members assist in retiring almost 500 U.S. flags, 24 New Mexico State flags, 10 POW flags and one Marine Corp flag.



VFW Post 9676 invites community members to join them and the Cub Scout next year to properly dispose of any flags that require retirement. We thank all community members who attended our first annual Flag Retirement Ceremony.