



WINNEBAGO COUNTY

— ILLINOIS —

NEWS RELEASE

Date: May 30, 2019

Topic: Flag Day Retirement and Promotion to be held in Winnebago County

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Winnebago County Clerk's Office in partnership with Veterans Memorial Hall will be accepting worn and dilapidated flags for proper retirement, beginning Monday June 10th through Friday, June 14th, the official observance of Flag Day, at the County Clerk's office, located at 404 Elm Street, or at Veteran's Memorial Hall, 211 N Main Street, Rockford. While Flag Day is not an official federal holiday, the week of June 14 is designated as National Flag Week. Every year, the President of the United States issues a proclamation urging citizens to fly the American flag for the duration of that week.

Anyone dropping off a flag for retirement, can receive a free 8" x 12" USA stick flag, while supplies last. "The American flag is a patriotic and important symbol of the United States and should be treated with the utmost respect," stated County Clerk Lori Gummow. "If an American flag can no longer appropriately serve as a symbol of the United States, it should be destroyed in a dignified manner," she added. Anyone with a tattered or damaged flag can drop them off at either location, for proper retirement, and can be entered into a drawing for a new replacement flag.

Scott Lewandowski, Museum Director, collaborates with the local Boy Scouts of America to dispose of all collected flags. "Incinerating the American flag after a proper retirement ceremony is the preferred method to dispose of a flag," he said. Following the observance of

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Memorial Day, some families may have realized their flag is no longer presentable for display, and we wanted to coordinate with the Clerk's Office to offer two convenient locations people can visit downtown and drop off their old flags, he added. Veterans Memorial Hall, the first of its kind in the United States, was dedicated to veterans of all wars, in 1903. In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation that officially established June 14 as Flag Day; in August 1946, National Flag Day was established by an Act of Congress.

The drawing prize will be two beautiful American Flags with embroidered Stars and Stripes (3 ft x 5 ft) that can be prominently displayed or given away. "Flags are as a great gift idea for newlyweds, new neighbors or friends with a patriotic heart," said Clerk Gummow. The drawing will be held on Friday, June 14th, at 1p.m., just in time for the new flag to be displayed for Father's Day weekend, she added. The winners do not need to be present to win.

The Winnebago County Clerk serves as the administrative arm of Winnebago County. The duties and responsibilities of the Clerk's office are divided into Vital Records (birth, death and marriage licenses), Elections, Tax Extension and Redemption, and County Board Record Maintenance. For more information, call 815-319-4250.

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