

September 11 Tenth Year Anniversary American Flag Retirement Ceremony

*Ceremony executed during Morning Colors by the Navy Chief
Selectees of Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base, Texas.*

*The following was read aloud to the service members and civilians
present at the ceremony:*

Our flag is the symbol of our country.

The blue stands for vigilance, perseverance, and justice with which our ancestors fought in the many battles for our country.

The white stands for the purity in all our hearts. It also represents the honor that each of us should show in our everyday lives.

The red stands for all the men and women who have died in their service to our country, both as members of the armed forces and everyday citizens.

Our flag has been carried into every battle in which there has been United States citizens involved, from the American Revolution to the Civil War, to World War I and World War II, the Korean Conflict, Vietnam, to Operation Iraqi and Enduring Freedom in the Middle East.

It was flown over the Marine barracks in Beirut, the USS Cole, the World Trade Center and the Pentagon during cowardly terrorist attacks, its pride showed through the everyday American heroes on Flight 93, over the fields of Pennsylvania.

We should always value the sacrifices that have been made for our Flag and the country in which it represents. Because of this, our elected Congress added into law United States Code Title 4: The flag, when it is in such a condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.

With having said that, we have an old friend that has fulfilled its duty to our country. It has become worn and tattered and we are here today to retire it with honor.

This Flag was last ceremoniously flown 17 July 2011 by Haltom City Fire Department.

Remember as you look at the Flag, it is the symbol of our nation. The stars are symbols of the united efforts and hope in the hearts of the many people striving to keep America great.



FIRST STRIPE: The United States is one nation under God! Americans turned to their faith – to God for help, strength, and comfort. 9/11 is a reminder that we truly are one nation under God.

SECOND STRIPE: Is a reminder that evil exists in the world. We witnessed a conscious and purposeful destruction of innocent and defenseless lives on a large scale. The events of 9/11 further confirmed this.



THIRD STRIPE: Freedom is worth defending. On September 11, 2001, this freedom was threatened, yet as a nation, as a people, and as individuals, we preserve our declaration of independence.

FOURTH STRIPE: Tragedy reveals who we are and what we stand for. The immediate and subsequent reaction to the tragic events on the morning of 9/11 revealed who we truly are as a nation and what we truly stand for.

FIFTH STRIPE: Adversity reinforces our strength as a united country. Observed on that fateful day, and subsequently thereafter, America came together and stood united.

SIXTH STRIPE: America is a diverse nation, with principles and values. Principles are the firmly held beliefs that shape our thoughts and guide our conscious decisions to achieve our value. We are a nation that exhibits compassion, kindness, dignity, and fortitude.

SEVENTH STRIPE: In time of national crisis anyone can emerge as a hero. Individuals like Todd Beamer, a passenger on United Airlines Flight 93, gave his life reacting instinctively taking control to avert a fourth target.

EIGHTH STRIPE: Security of the United States is the responsibility of everyone. It is the duty of every man and woman to join together as a team to preserve the nation's physical integrity and territory; to maintain its economic relations with the rest of the world on reasonable terms; to preserve its nature, institution, and governance from disruption from outside; and to control its borders."

NINTH STRIPE: Family is the building block of a strong society. As the tragic events of 9/11 unfolded, we saw one another turning to our families for safety and well being. 9/11 taught us that every day is indeed a gift and should be enjoyed with our loved ones.

TENTH STRIPE: "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country."

ELEVENTH STRIPE: We recognize the bravery, self-sacrifice, tragedy, shock of loss, and mourning of our Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Policeman, and Fireman.

TWELFTH STRIPE: We will remember every rescuer who died in honor. We will remember every family that lives in grief. We'll remember the fire and ash, the last phone calls, and the funeral of the children.

THIRTEENTH STRIPE: America will never forget the 2,976 souls lost. We shall remain Vigilant in protecting this great nation against enemies foreign and domestic. We are forever United; Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable.

Navy photos by MC2 Bradley Dawson

