

Delano Pack 273 American Flag Retirement Ceremony

“Pack 273 - ATTENTION! “

“No disrespect should ever be shown to the flag of the United States of America.”

“This symbol of our nation, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.”

Scout Color Guard enters in silence, carrying the unfurled flag, presenting it to the pack.

We have an old friend here who has fulfilled his duty to our country. He has become worn and tattered and we have gathered here this day to retire him with honor.”

(The flags colors are to be separated by the color guard during the reading of the following:)

“I AM YOUR FLAG”

I was born on June 14, 1777

I am more than cloth shaped into a design.

I am the refuge of the world's oppressed people.

I am the silent sentinel of Freedom.

I am the emblem of the greatest sovereign nation on earth.

I am the inspiration for which American Patriots gave their lives and fortunes.

I have led your brothers & sisters, sons & daughters, fathers & mothers, and friends & relations in the defense of freedoms from Valley Forge to the blistering desert of the Arabian Peninsula.

I have walked in silence with each of your honored dead to their final resting place beneath the silent white crosses, row upon row. “

“I have flown through peace and war, strife and prosperity, and amidst it all I have been respected.”

“Old Glory is my nickname; proudly I wave on high. Honor me. respect me, defend me with your lives and fortunes. Never let my enemies tear me down from my lofty position lest I never return. Keep alight the fires of patriotism, strive earnestly for the spirit of democracy. Worship Eternal God and keep his commandments, and I shall remain the bulwark of peace and freedom for all people.

FOR I AM YOUR FLAG!” (Stop here until the colors are completely separated. Then continue:)

“My red stripes stand for all of the men and women who have died in the service of our country, both as members of the armed forces and as everyday citizens. Let us retire the Red Stripes--Salute! “

(burn the **RED** stripes)

Two.

“My white stripes signify the purity in all of our hearts. They also represent the honor that each of us should show in all that we do in our everyday lives. Let us retire the White Stripes --Salute! “

(burn the **WHITE** stripes)

Two.

“My blue field is indicative of God's heaven under which we live. My stars, clustered together, unify 50 States as one for God and Country. Let us retire the Blue Field with Stars.--Salute! “

(burn the **BLUE** Field with Stars)

Two.

Color Guard files out in silence.

“We shouldn't be sad about the retirement of our friend. We are not burning him in anger, we are only releasing his spirit so that he can continue to serve us in our thoughts.”

“If Multiple flags are to be retired then continue, having separated the additional flag's colors in advance:

“Here we have many more old friends who have fulfilled their duty to our country. They too have become worn and tattered and we have gathered here this day to also retire them with honor.”

“Now I would invite each of you to take a few pieces of cloth from the box being passed around and ask that each of you in turn respectfully place them one at a time upon the fire. You may pause for a moment to reflect upon what the flag means to each of you before making way for the next person.”

Created by creative compilation of the works of many anonymous authors by B. Spencer - Pack 3273, Delano, MN Crow River District, BSA Northern Star Council in January 2010.