

Flag Line Protocol

The Flag Line is a chance for the community to see that there **IS** support for someone who offered their all for all of us. We do this as a sign of respect and honor. The Flag Line is one of the most visible things we do and perhaps what we are most known for. We stand TALL AND SILENT.

- **Please, no talking.** If you must, keep it low or leave the Flag Line, especially when family or guests are anywhere within earshot. Please help each other keep an eye out for family or guests in the area.
- Please turn off your cell phones or make them silent while in the Flag Line. If you must make or receive a call, please leave the Flag Line to a distance where your call cannot be overheard by others.
- Do not walk while unrolling the flag or carry a rolled flag. The flag should be unrolled before leaving the flag truck. It is OK to carry more than one unfurled flag.
- Do not walk while rolling up the flag. Carry it unfurled and wait until you reach the flag truck to roll it.
- If you need to leave the Flag Line either have someone else hold your flag, secure the pole in the ground or take it back to the flag truck.
- No use of tobacco (smoke or smokeless) or vapor devices at any time that you have a flag or if you are standing near someone with a flag. If you have to smoke please leave the Flag Line area to a secluded location.
- No unnecessary moving around unless you are leaving the Flag Line. Defining “unnecessary” is...unnecessary.
- Keep the flag pole vertical at all times. Do not dip it or tilt it in any way.
- We do not regulate on which side of your body you hold or stand by your flag. That’s up to you. Sometimes people will come up to you and want to shake your hand. You might keep that in mind.
- If you need a break, please look for a Ride Captain or other person designated to relieve you in the line. If one is not available, leave the line and take your break. This is especially true in hot weather. It is not disrespectful to the service member or the family to leave the Flag Line for this purpose. Designated riders will be coming around with water and asking if riders need breaks but if one is not nearby, take a break if you need one. If the weather is making you uncomfortable or ill, seek assistance from a Ride Captain or fellow rider IMMEDIATELY. No exceptions. Riders, let’s look out for each other!
- If you do not have a flag stand tall and silent between other flag holders.
- When a salute is given by the military please stand tall. If you are in the Flag Line you are considered to be at a position of salute when holding the flag. If you desire to render a salute or wish to place your hand over your heart you may do so at your discretion. We do not police our members on this. If you are in doubt as to when to release your salute or lower your hand from your heart please follow the lead of the military or your Ride Captain.

- If you are in the Flag Line and are not holding a flag please follow the same guidelines.
- When the signal is given to dismiss the Flag Line, continue to hold the flag **vertically** until you reach the flag truck. Only then should you roll up the flag, being careful to not let it touch the ground. Please do not carry more flags that you can carry vertically.
- Please remember that just because our mission may be concluding there may still be family and friends close by and easily within hearing and visual range of what we are saying and doing. While this is a natural time for us to relax and visit with each other we must maintain our decorum. These people are experiencing what is possibly the worst day in their lives and we do not serve them well by letting ourselves get loose in our demeanor at this time. We must maintain our bearing at all times when in the presence of the family and guests.