

# Honoring Old Glory

By Becky Gallman and Lydia Weber, local residents

The American flag is an important symbol of freedom for the United States. Many public events, such as sporting events, begin with the "Star-Spangled Banner," and millions of children have shown respect by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag at the start of the school day.

The U.S. Flag Code demands that the flag be treated with the "highest level of respect." The rules dictate proper handling, use, and display of the flag, including disposal of a damaged flag. "The flag, 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." (U.S. Flag Code section 8k)

Chapin Women in Service is constantly looking for ways that we can serve others in the Chapin area. Recently, an opportunity presented itself as we learned that our local American Legion Post 193 needed help with folding flags placed into their drop box for the disposal of those that had faded or become frayed.

Several members volunteered to attend a session at the legion to learn the proper folding method, and many members



came early to our Christmas luncheon to fold flags. Legion member and husband of one of our members, Bill Strong, was on hand to assist and educate with the process.

The legion will send the properly folded flags to a Lexington County funeral home to be incinerated following a respectful flag ceremony. The ashes of the flags are then interred with the remains of unclaimed servicemen and women. Many of the flags turned in contain polyester; however, the incinerator, by design, can conduct the process without polluting the environment. Members of CWS will continue to assist with flag folding in the future as the need arises.

CWS is an IRS and state-recognized charity. Members enjoy the bond of friendship and look for ways to use their time and resources to assist with needs in the Chapin area. For more information about the group, send an email to [chapinwomeninservice@gmail.com](mailto:chapinwomeninservice@gmail.com)

**For trivia fans:** What do you call a person who studies flags, their history, meanings, and symbolisms? A Vexillologist!

Contact [aprilrobinson@bestversionmedia.com](mailto:aprilrobinson@bestversionmedia.com) to spread your community service projects among your Chapin neighbors.



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