

STATE OF NEBRASKA

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Nebraskans urged to observe National Flag Day

LINCOLN – Nebraska Secretary of State John Gale is asking Nebraskans to fly their U.S. and Nebraska flags proudly on National Flag Day, June 14.

“This has been a very emotional period for America, with Memorial Day weekend, the dedication of the World War II Memorial in Washington, ceremonies honoring D-Day veterans on the 60th anniversary of the invasion of Normandy, and the death of former President Ronald Reagan and his funeral in Washington.

“Our flags have been flying as an expression of our pride in our veterans and our belief in America, and at half mast in sorrow for our lost soldiers in the Middle East and in honor of President Reagan,” said Gale, who serves as chief protocol officer for Nebraska.

“At a time when we need to keep our national unity strong, our heads high and our courage unwavering, we should express those emotions by flying our flags of the United States and Nebraska from homes and offices on Flag Day,” he said.

National Flag Day observes the establishment of the official U.S. Flag by an act of the Continental Congress on June 14, 1777. The idea of an annual celebration is believed to have originated in 1885 by a Wisconsin schoolteacher.

Gale noted that the U.S. Flag carries a deep spiritual value for America.

“Our national anthem is based on the story of the U.S. Flag flying through the battle at Fort McHenry during the War of 1812 with Great Britain. One of our most revered images is the raising of the American Flag over Iwo Jima by the Marines during World War II after an assault on the island that cost thousands of casualties,” Gale said.

“We say the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag at public ceremonies, meetings and celebrations,” he added. “America loves its flag and the values of freedom, liberty and democracy that it stands for.”

Gale said that people may arrange with his office to have U.S. and Nebraska flags flown atop the west wing of the State Capitol throughout the year in recognition of individuals, accomplishments and occasions.

Interested individuals must provide the flag, deliver it to the secretary of state's office and provide background information. Flags flown over the Capitol are accompanied by a keepsake certificate signed by the secretary of state detailing the date and purpose of the flight. This is a complimentary service provided by the secretary of state.

To arrange for a flag to be flown over the Capitol, contact Dallas Douglass at (402) 471-4070.

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