



From the Office of Secretary of State

John A. Gale

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Gale urges patriotism and flag flying on Fourth of July

LINCOLN – “There’s no better way to acknowledge the pride we feel for our state and for our country, than to fly our U.S. flags on the Fourth of July,” said Secretary of State John Gale. “It is a key symbol that unites us as a nation, and is an everlasting reminder of the many sacrifices made to create our nation in the American Revolution and to protect and defend our freedoms over 239 years.”

Gale urged citizens to safely enjoy their holiday with family, friends, and neighbors whether at ballgames, community picnics, parades or fireworks displays. “Don’t forget,” Gale said, “to give a heart-felt thanks to those who won and those who today defend those freedoms.”

Nebraskans who wish to honor fellow citizens, groups or occasions in a unique and memorable way, can have a flag flown over the State Capitol, courtesy of a program managed by Secretary Gale.

Every year, hundreds of people take advantage of the flag flying program, coordinated through the Secretary of State’s office. It is a free service. The only requirements are that a flag must be provided to the office along with information about when, why, and for whom the flag should be flown.

Gale said many of the flags flown each year are in recognition of military service.

“It’s quite amazing the variety of requests that we receive annually. Besides military service, flags are flown to celebrate birthdays, marriages, anniversaries or

the honoring of a co-worker's retirement. We also received a request this year to honor a young man for becoming an Eagle Scout. I'm sure that having a flag flown commemorating that accomplishment was very special for him."

Beyond the individual meanings associated with flying a flag over the Capitol, Gale stressed that all Nebraskans should feel a sense of pride when flying the U.S. flag outside their homes and businesses.

"Displaying the flag is an expression of our civic pride and our commitment to freedom and human rights in the world. Independence Day is a perfect day to reflect on those values."

Those who are interested in having a flag flown over the State Capitol can call Anna Castro at 402-471-4070 for additional information. Flags are flown Monday through Friday with the exception of holidays. Each flag is accompanied by a keepsake certificate signed by Gale detailing the date and purpose of the flight.

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