

STAFF PHOTO BY BRIAN MITCHELL

Flying the flag: Kerri Sarb's customers at Harvey's Old Village Deli in Plymouth always know where she's at, thanks to the American flag attached to her wheelchair. Kerri's husband, Dan, is in the background.

First Flag Day

Flag Day was first celebrated in 1877, the centennial of the U.S. flag's existence. After that, many citizens and organizations advocated the adoption of a national day of commemoration. It was not until 1949 that President Harry Truman signed legislation making Flag Day a day of national observance.

Source: www.flagday.org

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This battle, an assault on an American weapons storehouse by the British, resulted in more than 200 British soldiers dead and some 700 taken prisoner. Only 40 Americans died and 30 were wounded.

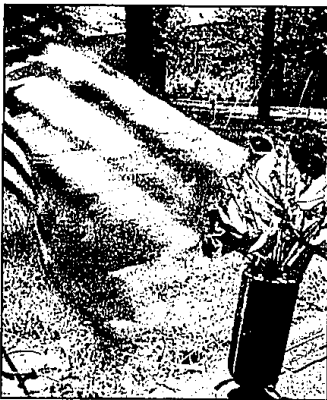
"I had a lady come in who bought one (a Bennington) who was proposed to on the Fourth of July and married on the Fourth of July," she added.

Wensley has a personal stake in patriotism. Under the glass counter displaying flag merchandise is a framed picture of her brother, George Edward Smith, who died in Belgium Feb. 12, 1945, of wounds received on the

battlefield. Also displayed is the letter Wensley's sister received from the U.S. Army informing her of her brother's death. The letter arrived May 2, 1945, just six days before VE Day, which marked the end of the war in Europe.

She flies a flag at home, too. "It means freedom and liberty, and it stands for all the people who gave their lives for that cause," she said.

Sources: Betsy Ross, www.ushistory.org/betsy/ and Vermont History, www.vtrhistory.com/history/benbatle



Keeping watch: An American flag flies over a grave site at a Cadillac Memorial Gardens - West in Westland.

Flag etiquette

- The flag should display only from sunrise to sunset on buildings and stationary flagstaves in the open. However, when a patriotic effect is desired, the flag may be displayed 24 hours a day if properly illuminated during the hours of darkness.
- The flag should not be displayed on days when the weather is inclement, except when an all-weather flag is displayed.
- The flag should never be displayed with the union down, except as a signal of dire distress in instances of extreme danger to life or property.
- The flag should never touch anything beneath it, such as the ground, floor, water or merchandise.
- The flag should never be carried flat or horizontally, but always aloft and free.
- The flag should never be fastened, displayed, used, or stored in such a manner as to permit it to be easily torn, soiled or damaged in any way.
- The flag should never be used as wearing apparel, bedding or drapery. It should never be fastened, drawn back nor up in folds, but always allowed to fall free. Bunting of blue, white and red — always arranged with the blue above, the white in the middle and the red below — should be used for covering a speaker's desk, draping the front of the platform, and for decoration in general.
- The flag should never be used as a covering for a ceiling.
- The flag should never have placed upon any part upon it, nor attached to it, any mark, insignia, letter, word, figure, design, picture, or drawing of any nature.
- The flag should never be used as a receptacle for receiving, holding, carrying, or delivering anything.
- The flag should never be used for advertising purposes in any manner whatsoever. It should not be embroidered on such articles as cushions or handkerchiefs, or printed or impressed on paper napkins or boxes or anything that is designed for temporary use and discard. Advertising signs should not be fastened to a staff or halyard from which the flag is flown.
- No part of the flag should ever be used as a costume or athletic uniform. However, a flag patch may be affixed to the uniform of military personnel, firemen, policemen, and members of patriotic organizations. The lapel pin, being a replica, should be worn on the left lapel near the heart.
- When the flag is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, it should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.

Source: www.geocities.com/Heartland/2328/flag1.htm

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