

Sample Flag Retirement Ceremony

Flag Retirement Person 1

[Stress that everyone remain absolutely still, and absolutely silent]

- The Flag of the United States of America is the symbol of our nation
- For more than _____ years [*# years since 1776*], it has been the banner of hope and freedom for America
- It is the symbol of a country that has grown from a little group of 13 colonies, to a united nation of 50 states
- Men and women have followed the Flag into battle with unwavering courage
- They have looked upon the Flag as a symbol of national unity
- The Flag is more than just a red, white, and blue cloth shaped into a design
- It is blue because of the true loyalty of its defenders
- It is white to symbolize liberty – our land of the free
- It is red because of all those who have died in the service of our country
- The stars are symbols of the efforts of those striving for a united America

Flag Retirement Person 2

- This flag has flown proudly over our town, but it is now worn beyond repair
- The Flag Code says that 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.
- This does not mean that we burn the Flag in anger.
- We are only releasing its spirit, so that it can continue to serve us in our thoughts.
- *[Place flag in fire and have 15-20 seconds of silence]*
- This Flag is now just a memory, but it will be back with colors that are fresh and bright.
- When it climbs to the top of the flagpole, it will wave at you and remember the love and respect that you have shown here this evening.

Flag Retirement Person 3

- We will now place our piece of the Flag in the fire so that it can burn fully and freely.
- When I direct you, please silently go to the fire and put your piece in
- *[Everyone does so when directed; have a parent accompany small children]*

[After everyone has participated]

- I saved some special pieces of the Flag that we retired tonight.
- I am now going to give each of one piece, so that you will remember the ceremony that you took part in.

[After pieces have been handed out]

- Would you all now stand, make the Scout Salute, and join me in the Pledge of Allegiance.