



American Legion Honor Guard of East Texas appreciates being invited to perform military honors at the funeral of your loved one. We wanted to share a little bit of history of performing honors at a military funeral. This is something that can be passed on to kids and grandkids to know the meaning of why the armed forces of the United States of America serves and fights for our freedom that we have in the United States Constitution.

Meaning of the Flag Draped Coffin



All Americans should be given this lesson. Those who think that America is an arrogant nation should reconsider that thought. Our founding fathers used GOD's word and teachings to establish our Great Nation and it is time for Americans to get reeducated about our Nation' history.

The 21 Gun Salute alias Rifle Volley is performed at military funerals. The 21 is significant because it is the sum of the year of our Nation's independence 1776. The rifle shot is symbolic of all the warriors and heroes that have gone before us to fight to protect and preserve the freedoms that we have in the US Constitution.



The honor guard pays meticulous attention to correctly fold our Nation's flag 13 times. You probably thought it was to symbolize the original 13 colonies, but each fold has a specific meaning.

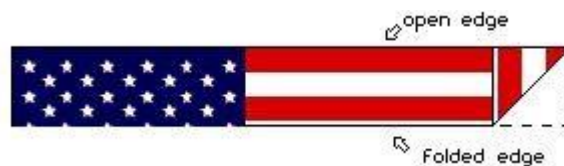
The 1st Fold of our flag is a symbol of life.



The 2nd Fold is a symbol of our belief in eternal life.



The 3rd Fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing our ranks who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of our country to attain peace throughout the world.



The 4th Fold represents our weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in times of war, for His divine guidance.

The 5th Fold is a tribute to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our Country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right, but it is still our Country, right or wrong."

The 6th Fold is for where our hearts lie. It is with our heart that we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation, under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.

The 7th Fold is a tribute to our Armed Forces, for, it is through them that we protect our country and our flag against all her enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of our republic.

The 8th Fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day.

The 9th Fold is a tribute to womanhood and Mothers. For it has been through their faith, their love, their loyalty, and their devotion, that the character of the men and women who have made this country great, has been molded.

The 10th Fold is a tribute to the father, for he to has given his sons and daughters for the defense of our country since they were first born.

The 11th Fold represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon, and glorifies in the Hebrews eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The 12th Fold represents an emblem of eternity, and glorifies in the Christians' eyes, God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

The 13th Fold, or when the flag is completely folded, the stars are in the uppermost, reminding us of our nations motto, "In God We Trust"



After the flag is completely folded, and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat. This reminds us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington, and the Sailors and Marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones. These were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States. This preserves for us the rights, privileges and freedoms we enjoy today. There are some traditions and ways of doing things that have deep meaning. In the future, you will see flags folded and now you will know why. Share this with the children you love and all others who love the symbol of "Liberty and Freedom".