

9/25/06 - (11)

John Murray

From: Dore' Hunter
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2006 11:01 AM
To: Board of Selectmen; Manager Department
Cc: jim@ettwein.com
Subject: Fwd: Lowering flag to half staff for veteran's funerals
Attachments: Lowering flag to half staff for veteran's funerals

Walter & Don,

Might we please have the Legion's request for municipal half staff flag recognition of deceased veterans placed on the 9/25 Selectman's Agenda?

Regards,
Dore' Hunter
Selectman & VSO, Town of Acton, MA
Telephone: 978-263-0882
Email: dorehunter@aol.com

John Murray

From: Jim Ettwein [jim@ettwein.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2006 5:14 PM
To: Dore' Hunter
Subject: Lowering flag to half staff for veteran's funerals



Edwards-Quimby American Legion Post No. 284
Acton, MA

September 19, 2006

Dore,

I'd like to enlist your help with a problem that we've been having recently. I think the resolution should be simple but I'm not sure.

In every other town that I've checked with the town has flown the flag at half staff whenever a veteran is being buried or has a funeral in the town. The problem is that there doesn't seem to be a smooth process, or even a defined method to request this service for our veterans as they are finally laid to rest. Sometimes the town seems almost indifferent to this honor.

If there isn't a town policy covering this, then we'd like to request that such a policy be implemented. We owe all our veterans a strong debt of gratitude for their service and this is a final "thank you" and sign of reverence that means so much to their surviving families.

I know from talking to Dick Krug that Concord has setup a process whereby the funeral director simply calls the duty fire captain the day before so that they'll take care of the flag the next morning. We are looking for the flag to be flown at half staff for the period from dawn to noon on the day that a veteran is interred.

We're very serious about making certain that our veterans receive this important final recognition. Can you advise us on the next steps to take? We're wondering if we should show up at a BOS meeting and discuss it when citizen's concerns are recognized. Or, is there a better, simpler process that we should follow? This seems like something that the VSO should be able to take care of for us, but we're not sure of the process to follow.

One last note, we don't really want to make this such a formal process that there are forms, etc. to fill out and process. I trust in our funeral directors and our veterans that this will be requested only when truly called for.

Please let me know your thoughts.

Jim Ettwein

9/21/2006