

Matt Arthur
1360 49th Ave
Capitola, CA 95010

November 2, 2022

City of Capitola City Manager
Capitola City Hall
420 Capitola Avenue
Capitola, CA 95010

Dear Mr. Goldstein,

I am writing to formally request the addition of the Armed Forces flag to the approved list of Non-Governmental Flags per the City Flag Policy Number: V-18, issued May 27, 2021.

Armed Forces Day 2023 is a federal holiday observed annually on the third Saturday of May. It is a day dedicated to paying tribute to men and women who currently serve in the United States' armed forces. Additionally, Armed Forces Day 2023 forms part of Armed Forces Week. It should be noted, that because of their unique training schedules, National Guard and Reserve units may celebrate Armed Forces Day/Week over any period in the month of May.

The inception of this Armed Forces Day dates back to 31 August 1949, it was a day dedicated to honor Americans who were currently serving in the five U.S. military branches – the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Air Force and U.S. Coast Guard – following the consolidation of the military services in the United States Department of Defense. It was intended to replace the separate Army-, Navy-, Air Force-, Marine Corps- and Coast Guard Days but, today, the separate holidays are still observed independently.

On 20 May 1950, the holiday was first observed. The theme for that day was “Teamed for Defense” which expressed the unification of all military forces. Armed Force Day 2023 still remains as a day focused on expanding public knowledge and understanding on what type of job was performed within the army, the role of the military within civilian life and as a day of honor for all those serving in military forces.

Traditionally, Armed Forces Day 2023 is viewed as a time of honor. The first Armed Forces Day was celebrated by parades, open houses, receptions and air shows. Today, many events and activities take place and may include: Multi-service military displays in areas open for the public, various educational activities that teach children about the armed forces and large parades and other local celebrations. The United States' longest continuously running Armed Forces Day Parade is held in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Certain types of music are also played at Armed Forces Day 2023 events as a way of showing respect those in the armed forces who died for their country.

Armed Forces Day 2023 is a federal holiday and falls on the third Saturday of May, annually. The date on which the holiday falls on, changes each year but the day remains the same.

- Armed Forces Week May 13, 2023 – May 20, 2023
- Armed Forces Day May 20, 2023.

On behalf of my late grandfather George (Dick) Arthur who served honorably as a United States Marine Officer in the Korean conflict and all of those who served or are currently serving in our armed services, I am requesting the adoption of the Armed Services flag to be flown over the Armed services holiday and Armed Forces Week May 13, 2023 – May 20, 2023

Flag Description: A white banner with each of the 6 armed forces represented (picture attached).

