



## Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Massachusetts [www.salmass.org](http://www.salmass.org)



### Flying Flags for Heroes Start-up Guide for Squadrons

#### A. Do you currently have grave marker flags?



If the answer is yes, then you are one step ahead. Go to step **C**.



If the answer is no,



Contact your city/town Veterans Service Officer "VSO" for the locale that the cemetery is located and ask if they have grave marker flags for that cemetery and how many. The VSO will guide or advise you on how to proceed. In many instances in Massachusetts, there may be an American Legion Post or another group that is designated to flag that specific cemetery.



If you do not know where your local cemetery is located, try visiting the site [FindaGrave.com](http://FindaGrave.com) and enter your city/town, county, state in the cemetery search bar.

#### B. You should not have to purchase the flags due to [Massachusetts General Law Chapter 115, Section 9](#) The city/town VSO will advise on any issues requiring procurement of the flags. In those rare instances where flags require purchase, the cemetery 12" X 18" American stick flags flags can be purchased online at a reasonable cost. Click [HERE](#) to get large quantities of flags from at a great price from [American Flags 4 Less](#). Another source is [American Legion Flag and Emblem Sales](#). It is recommended that you speak with your city/town VSO before purchasing flags.

#### C. Contact your local cemetery and ask if they will allow your group to come and honor veterans at their facility. Do not limit yourself to only one cemetery. You will find that there is a veteran that has been laid to rest in every cemetery.



Download the [sample letter](#) to request information from the cemetery. Change the words in red to match your information and save/print.



Ask them what their requirements are if any.



Coordinate a date that works best for you and your local cemetery. Flag placement on graves does not only have to be for Memorial Day or Veterans Day. Pick a day that works best. Our veterans can and should be honored anytime.



Ask how many veterans are interred there, so you know how many flags you will need.



Always plan on having extra flags, you don't want to come up short.

#### D. Are you interested in requesting a representative? If our schedule allows, we would love to come participate with you in honoring our Nation's Heroes.

- E. Fill out the invitation form [HERE](#) and we will contact you.
- F. Fill out the event registration form [HERE](#) to update us on your event.
- G. Think about holding a BBQ/event after your visit to your local cemetery. Turn this into an event to get the community to come together.
- H. Talk about your event with everyone. Here are some examples:
- ▶ Put an Ad in your local paper.
  - ▶ Contact your local radio station.
  - ▶ Contact your local news station.
  - ▶ Post flyers in public places.
  - ▶ Contact local youth groups such as the Boys Scouts, Girls Scouts, local church.
  - ▶ Tell your friends and family.
  - ▶ Post on social media and tag the FFFH page.
- I. On the day of your event:
- ▶ Be sure to thank everyone for coming out to support our Nation's Heroes.
  - ▶ Have someone take lots of pictures so you can share your event with the world. We would love for you to [UPLOAD](#) your photos to the FFFH website. You can also post your photos on your social media and tag FFFH.
  - ▶ On this website, make sure you let us know how many flags you placed. If you placed 1 flag, we still want to know. Our goal is to honor 1 million veterans and every flag placed counts. [TELL US](#)
- J. Talk with your volunteers, ask them if they would like to do it again. Don't forget to let us know.
- K. Share the total number of flags placed and photos taken.**
- L. Feel free to reach out to us. We are here to help make your event as successful as possible. Send us an email at: [flyingflagsforheroes@yahoo.com](mailto:flyingflagsforheroes@yahoo.com) and/or to [commander@salmass.org](mailto:commander@salmass.org)