



INFORMATION FOR VETERANS

ON

RENDERING HONORS TO THE FLAG AND TO THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

It is now appropriate for Veterans who are NOT IN UNIFORM to render a hand salute during the hoisting, lowering, or passing of the United States Flag, and during the playing of the National Anthem.

With regard to hoisting, lowering or passing of the United States Flag, the National Defense Authorization Act of 2008 amended Title 4 of the United States Code as follows:

*“ ... all persons present in uniform should render the military salute. **Members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute.** All other persons present should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand over the heart, or if applicable, remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Citizens of other countries present should stand at attention. All such conduct toward the flag in a moving column should be rendered at the moment the flag passes.”*

In recognition that rendering honors while playing the National Anthem was unintentionally omitted from the prior year legislation, the National Defense Authorization Act of 2009 amended Section 301(b)(1) of Title 36 of the United States Code in the following manner:

- (A) individuals in uniform should give the military salute at the first note of the anthem and maintain that position until the last note;*
- (B) **members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute in the manner provided for individuals in uniform;** and*
- (C) all other persons present should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand over the heart, and men not in uniform, if applicable, should remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart;*