

# The National Colors & Salutes

This notification is very lengthy so *please* be patient and non-judgemental. Read it in it's entirety - twice.

First. To all of you; **Thank You** for all that you do.

If I had to choose one word to describe the PGOM, it would be *respect*. Whereas we utilize the National Colors (American Flag) as a tool in our missions, that respect starts with the National Colors. If it were not for that Symbol of our Great Nation and what it represents and stands for, we would not be here today doing what we do.

Our mission is to show respect and shield the families from interruptions.

We are working on a standard for flag lines and as we utilize our nations flag as a tool; a PGOM state regulation concerning Flag etiquette is in the works. This objective will provide a *uniformity* among the ranks to be used throughout the entire state. Once done it will be posted on our web site and become part of our *permanent* records.

At the discretion of the Board Members, State and Asst. State Captains and those in question; this directive is being made public and will become a *permanent* part of PGOM record. ***This decision is to be considered final and will be enforced.***

Before reading the rest of this , Please remember that no disrespect to anyone, nor anything has been or will be done intentionally. This is being executed to provide a complete visual of a single maneuver and includes details that give a clearer picture of the overall situation at hand.

In the last 6 months or so, as many were preparing for our annual PGOM meeting, my worst nightmare was in researching this situation but we moved forward and I took on the

responsibility to address it when I accepted nominations for State Captain.

Some members of the PGOM have been practicing a specific maneuver when standing flag lines that has been deemed completely ***improper conduct*** by the Board of Directors, the State Captain and all 3 Assistant State Captains. It involves a degree of ***disrespect to the National Colors*** (American Flag).

The maneuver in question is a response to the command "PRESENT ARMS" that has been executed utilizing the National Colors by some members of our PGOM. What they have been doing is to move the National Colors from a standard stance of attention with the National Colors at their side to a position directly out stretched in front of them when the command "PRESENT ARMS" is sounded and returning the National Colors back to the standard of attention by placing the National Colors back to their side at the command "ORDER ARM".

Doing this is without doubt, a ***salute*** to the fallen soldier or veteran being performed ***with*** the National Colors. This action and or ***any*** action done utilizing our National Colors at the command of "PRESENT ARMS" is not within any officially documented regulations from proper authorities considered proper protocol. All official documentation we have encountered in our research states that the ***"National Colors never render a salute"***. The ***National Colors receive salutes***.

The command ***"PRESENT ARMS" is a call to salute***. Standard response to that command for all involved would be for civilians to uncover and put their right hand over their heart, military and veterans bearing no flags or rifles to do a military hand salute, military or veterans holding rifles to put rifles up in front of them within prescribed regulations, flag bearers holding any service or organizational flags should dip their flags and finally and ***most importantly the Nations Colors ( American Flag) stays stationary and is held straight up by it's respective bearer***.

Numerous man-hours have been expended in the last 6 months or so in trying to find a legal stand point to allow this maneuver to be executed. We found ***no viable justification*** to permit it. All documentation and discussions with proper resources resulted in this being ***determined wrong and disrespectful solely on the fact that it is being done utilizing the***

***National Colors.***

Those that have continued to perform this after being made aware of ***multiple valid documents*** & having been told to ***stop*** executing this maneuver, effective ***immediately***, have continued with their practice and have also ***shown disrespect towards your Senior Officers*** by refusing to comply. They have also ***demand that this decision be made public*** and be a ***documented*** part of the PGOM records.

After being told, face to face, ***"NO"***, they did comply at the next mission but returned to their old habits and performed a mission 3 days later in which they continued to execute this ***wrongful maneuver 3 times in the same flag line.***

Their continuance on this has been done with ***no valid*** documentation, ***solely on their own authority*** with nothing but the ***"Tattle Tale - They do it, So we will"*** mentality, and that I (State Captain) have ***no authority*** to tell them to ***stop Saluting with the National Colors.***

Although their ***intentions*** are purely ***respectful*** in rendering a final salute of honor to the fallen, the ***end result is a wrongful salute using the National Colors, Our Nations Flag***, to do it with. ***Also keep in mind that we (PGOM) are not a show. This is not about us and we are not there to perform Honors.*** Performing Honors is the duty of the HONOR GUARD and the organization designated to do the 3 volley's and bugling of Taps.

Again, ***the National Colors never render a salute*** (on land). There is one exception applying to Naval Vessels on passing. It does not apply in this situation.

Understand that there is ***no mistake*** that we (PGOM) are utilizing our National Colors as a tool. As such any and all official regulations that pertain to ***proper handling of the National Colors***, do and will ***apply*** when ever any of us are a bearer of the National Colors.

This is ***the final decision*** and has been ***approved*** by all 6 current members of the PGOM Board of Directors, Your State Captain and all 3 Assistant State Captains. ***Now approved and***

*effective immediately*, it is a *permanent* part of PGOM record.

The *now documented* into PGOM record is; *The National Colors will NEVER render a salute and no bearer of the National Colors will render a salute at any time*, at any and all functions of the PGOM. When in a flag line, the *National colors will do nothing*. This means it will *always remain stationary at your side* while you are in a PGOM flag line.

This action of *saluting with the National Colors will no longer be permissible* by any of our PGOM members for any reason.

Further note; if you choose to *Salute* at the command of PRESENT ARMS, feel free to do so by joining *in without bearing a flag* and render the proper salute for civilian and or military/veteran. Note again, It is *wrong to salute with the National Colors and or as a flag bearer with the National Colors in hand*.

None of us are perfect but, PLEASE let's do our best to assure that when we function as *Patriot Guards* that we are seen as nothing but *RESPECTFUL*.

*Lewis (Trooper) Wendt*

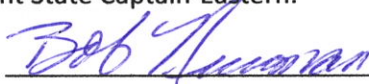
*State Captain*

*Patriot Guard*

*Montana*

BOD President / Assistant State Captain-Eastern:

Bob Newman



Date July 7, 2016



BOD Vice President:

**Denny Lenior**

*Dye Lenior*

*Denny Lenior*

Date

7-6-16

BOD Treasurer:

**Jim Cherney**

*James O. Cherney*

Date

7-4-16

BOD Secretary:

**Darla Cherney**

*Darla K. Cherney*

Date

7/4/16

BOD Member / State Captain:

**Lewis Wendt**

*L. Wendt*

Date

7<sup>th</sup> of July 2016

BOD Member:

**Tom Flynn**

*Tom Flynn*

Date

7-7-16

Assistant State Captain-Central:

**Jack Lewis**

*Jack Lewis*

Date

7-5-16

Assistant State Captain-Western:

**Jeff McClanahan**

*Jeff McClanahan*

Date

7-6-16