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Agency to wave thousands of flags

Kathleen Carlson Gazette news intern

Some Cedar Rapids, Lisbon, Hiawatha, Marion and Anamosa residents will wake up Saturday to a flag in their front yard in honor of Flag Day. Coldwell Banker Hedges real estate agents will go forth in the wee hours of the morning to put small flags in neighborhood front lawns.

About 25 to 30 agents will come out for this sixth annual Flag Day project with their spouses and children, Agent Larry Stevenson said.

"It's kind of fun," Stevenson said, "Not too many people are out at that time, but those who are out jogging or walking will give you a big smile. And people driving by will honk and wave."

Stevenson said the agents try to hit as many streets as possible, but the more than 5,000 flags they will put up run out faster than people might expect.

People really enjoy seeing the flags in their yards, Stevenson said. "When we run out, people sometimes get upset if they don't get one," he said.

Carl Esker, Coldwell president and owner, said they got the idea to put up flags from a sister company in Minnesota.

"We thought it was a wonderful idea and the first year we tried it, it was very well received. It's become a tradition we've been carrying on and ordering more flags every year," Esker said.

After the agents finish putting up the flags, they have a breakfast at 7 a.m. at Bever Park.

This year's flag day project is being dedicated to longtime Coldwell agent Betty Berry, who died recently, Esker said.

The Flag Code, as amended July 7, 1976, specifies the following guidelines for displaying the flag:

It is normally displayed only from sunrise to sunset. If displayed at night, it should be illuminated.

It should be hoisted briskly and lowered ceremoniously. When flown at half-staff, it should first be hoisted to the top for an instant, then lowered halfway. Before lowering at the end of the day, raise it again to its peak.

It is not normally flown in rainy or otherwise inclement weather.

When it is displayed flat against a wall, the union (blue field) should be uppermost and to the viewer's left.

A flag lapel pin should be worn on the left lapel near the heart.

It should never be used as apparel, bedding or drapery, nor should it ever have any mark, insignia or picture placed upon it.

When displayed with flags of states or localities, the U.S. flag should be at the center, and at the highest point of the group. No other flag or pennant should be placed above the flag of the United States. When flags of two or more nations are displayed, they are to be flown from separate staffs of the same height.

It should never touch anything beneath it.

When the flag is no longer in fit condition to be displayed, it should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.

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