



District 8 - Florida **International Order of the Blue Gavel**

Yachting Customs and Courtesies

Flag Pole Ceremonies/Retreat Ceremony - Venice Yacht Club

The retreat ceremony serves a twofold purpose. It signals the end of the official duty day and serves as a ceremony for paying respect to the flag. The Commodore, Blue Gavel, or designated Sergeant at Arms, may determine the time and day of the Venice Yacht Club Sundown Retreat Ceremony.

1. To preserve the integrity and intent of the ceremony, please wear complete Club uniform as described by the leader of this ceremony. If no uniform is described it will be the summer uniform with Blue Gavel and Flag Officers wearing yacht club hat. Other participants are encouraged wear all white.
2. Assembly of the participating members will be in the hallway outside the General Manager's Office. Order of assembly will be Blue Gavel members in order of seniority, VYC Flag officers, Board of Directors followed by participating members. Participants will then proceed outside the south entrance to the club and make their way to the dockside sidewalk where they will pause. The cannon is fired from the roof and the music "Call to the Colors" is played. Once the music starts playing the procession will walk side by side to the eastern end of the flagpole walkway (Commodores Walk). The procession will divide at the flagpole and stand in a circle at the outer rim of the circular portion of the flagpole sidewalk (multiple lines if necessary). The officers will stand at the head and the designated Color Guard will take position in front of the flagpole.
3. The Sergeant at Arms will give the command "Parade Rest". All participating members will stand "at ease".
4. The Commodore or designated spokesperson will welcome all present, make any comments and read a short article on the American Flag or patriotic article of choice.
5. The Chaplain or designated person will give the invocation.
6. The cannon is fired from the roof.
7. "Retreat" is played (bugle or recording).
8. The Sergeant at Arms will give the Command "Attention"; participants will give a hand salute.
9. The National Anthem is played. The command "To the Colors" [American Flag] is given by the Sergeant at Arms and the Color Guard slowly lowers the Flag.
10. The Sergeant at Arms gives the Command 'Two' [complete hand salute] and the Flag is then folded (no red showing) and presented to the Commodore.
11. The Commodore announces the end of the Ceremony and the Sergeant at Arms commands "Dismissed".

Starting from the West side of the assembly, the most senior participants will lead the assembly side by side back to the General Manager's office, reversing the route taken to get to the flagpole.