



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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MEDIA RELEASE

From: Michael Terry
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Re: HCSO Provides New Option for Proper Disposal of Worn U.S. Flags

Date: February 7, 2019

In partnership with the National Association of Counties and the National Flag Foundation, the Hernando County Sheriff's Office has installed a flag retirement box, at no cost to the county, in the lobby of its main office located at 18900 Cortez Boulevard, Brooksville. Flags should be folded respectfully before being placed in the box.

The United States Flag Code prescribes flag etiquette — everything from flying it near other flags to instructions on how to raise and lower it. "The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem of display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning," says the code.

Members of the Boy Scouts will be responsible for the proper disposal of the worn flags.

"Although an American Flag is nothing more than cloth, it represents everything America stands for, including our indivisibility and our freedom to pursue happiness," Sheriff Al Nienhuis said. "It also represents the sacrifices, large and small, made by millions of Americans who built and protected our great country for well over 200 years. Proper disposal, via this convenient drop box, is the least we can do to honor those sacrifices."

"We are pleased to provide these flag retirement boxes. Helping residents properly dispose of worn U.S. flags is consistent with our commitment to public service and community engagement," said NACo Executive Director Matthew Chase.