

## CITY OF NORTH PORT MEDIA RELEASE

TODAY'S DATE: May 14, 2009

RELEASE DATE: IMMEDIATE

SUBJECT: City partners with Veteran's of Foreign Wars for proper flag disposal

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The City of North Port Solid Waste Division is partnering with the Veteran's of Foreign Wars (VFW) to provide residents proper disposal for the flag of the United States.

The flag should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning. Residents who are disposing of worn flags now have the following options:

- Put flag in a plastic bag and place on the automated garbage container lid on the scheduled collection day. City Solid Waste Division crews will collect the flags and take them to the VFW.
- Drop the flag off anytime in the VFW special flag mailbox located at 4860 Trott Circle, North Port, FL.

The VFW will perform a ceremony and dispose of all flags properly.

“We have Veterans on staff concerned that people are just putting flags in the garbage,” explained Solid Waste Manager Monica Bramble. “Through this partnership between the City of North Port Solid Waste Division and the North Port VFW, citizens can be made aware of how to properly and conveniently dispose of U.S. flags.”

With Memorial Day around the corner, resident may be replacing and displaying a U.S. flag. The VFW provides flag education on their web site, [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org). One item to note is that on Memorial Day the U.S. flag is flown at half-staff until noon and then raised.

“Flags and flag education are important elements of the VFW's Citizenship Education program,” said VFW Commander Pat McArdle. “As a living symbol, the flag of the United States should be handled with the utmost respect. Making it easier for citizens to do this helps us all.”

For more information, contact a City Public Works Department customer service representative at (941) 240-8050.

Erin Bryce, Community Outreach Manager

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