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Memorandum regarding proper respect to be paid to the flag, March 19, 1917

George McL. Presson
Maine National Guard

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MEMORANDUM:
STATE OF MAINE
The Adjutant General's Office
Augusta, March 19, 1917.

Personal marks of respect to be paid to the flag and what you should do when the National Anthem is being played.

Many inquiries have been made at the Adjutant General's office as to the proper respect to be paid towards the flag and the playing of the National anthem.

The following is taken from War Department Regulations:

When the flag is carried on parade by a body of troops or a civic society, every one should uncover holding the hat opposite the left shoulder with the right hand. If uncovered they should salute with the right hand. The salute should be commenced when the flag arrives within six paces and should be ended when it has passed six paces beyond the person saluting.

Whenever the National anthem is played at any place all should rise and face towards the music. Civilians should place the hat opposite the left shoulder with the right hand and so remain until the last note of the anthem. If uncovered and without a hat they should salute with the right hand at the first note of the anthem, retaining the position of salute until the last note.

The National anthem when played by any band should be played through without repetition of any part.

The War Department has decided that "The Star Spangled Banner" is the National anthem to the exclusion of other tunes of musical composition known as National airs. Government bands are prohibited from playing our National anthem or the National anthem of any other country as part of a medley.

GEORGE McL. PRESSON,
The Adjutant General.

Every newspaper in State.