



U.A. Resolution #12
Requiring All On-Campus Flags to be Flown at Half-Staff in Honor of
Those Lost to COVID-19
[02/16/2021]

Sponsored by: Jacob Feit, Undergraduate Student Representative

1 **Abstract:** This resolution calls on University officials to lower all flags on Cornell’s campuses to
2 “half-staff” in honor of those who lost their lives at the hands of the “severe acute respiratory
3 syndrome coronavirus 2” (SARS-CoV-2) pandemic.
4

5 **Whereas,** the human species is facing a deadly crisis of tremendous magnitude, causing
6 immeasurable pain, sorrow, and
7

8 **Whereas,** by the commencement of Cornell’s 2021 spring semester (02/08/2021), the SARS-
9 CoV-2 pandemic had claimed the lives of over two-million individuals worldwide, including
10 nearly five-hundred thousand Americans, and
11

12 **Whereas,** low-income communities, communities of color, and indigenous peoples have
13 statistically shouldered the greatest burden of loss, suffering, and pain during the
14 aforementioned on-going pandemic, and
15

16 **Whereas,** Cornell University’s community is composed of individuals from nearly every corner
17 of the world affected by this on-going pandemic, and
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19 **Whereas,** the United States Department of Veterans Affairs recommends flying the American
20 flag at half-staff “when the whole nation is in mourning,” and
21

22 **Whereas,** New York State Governor, Andrew Cuomo, ordered all flags flown on New York State
23 buildings to be flown at half-staff in honor of the victims of the aforementioned, on-going
24 pandemic, and
25

26 **Whereas,** “the term ‘half-staff’ means the position of the flag when [the flag] is one-half the
27 distance between the top and bottom of the staff,”¹
28

29 **Be it therefore resolved,** each on-campus flag, including but not limited to American flags
30 and Cornell University flags, shall be “hoisted to the peak for an instant and then lowered to the
31 half-staff position.”²

¹ 4 U.S.C. § 7 (2020)

² *Id.*