

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN M. SHORT, OF WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA.

FLAG-SUPPORTING DEVICE.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN M. SHORT, a citizen of the United States of America, and resident of Wheeling, county of Ohio, and State of West Virginia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Flag-Supporting Devices, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates broadly to flag supports, and more specifically to a support or holder for flags, pennants, and the like.

The primary object of the invention is to provide, in association with a flagstaff, a support or holder whereby a flag is at all times supported in a partially outspread position preventing complete sagging or collapse thereof and whereby the winding of the flag about the staff is positively prevented.

A further object is to provide a simple and inexpensive device which at all times supports the flag in partially extended position in which a comparatively slight breeze will suffice to maintain the unsupported portion thereof fully spread or extended and which will not seriously interfere with the natural rippling of the flag in the breeze.

With these and other objects in view, the invention resides in the features of construction which will hereinafter be fully described, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, in which—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of a flag and flagstaff, the latter of small or hand-carried size, illustrating the invention applied thereto.

Figure 2 is a perspective view of the invention, detached;

Figure 3 is a view of the invention modified to adapt it for use with flags which are employed on staffs or poles of large size and which are raised and lowered by means of halyards, fragmentary portions of the flag and the pole being shown; and—

Figure 4 is a section on line 4—4, Fig. 3.

Referring, first, to Figs. 1 and 2, the reference character 1 designates a flag, and 2 a staff for said flag, said staff being of the ordinary portable type which is commonly surmounted by a detachable ornamental head or cap 3. Loosely embracing the staff 2 adjacent to its upper end, or more or less closely below the cap 3, is a loop or ring 4 formed intermediate the ends of the flagholder or support which constitutes the

main or essential part of the present invention. Said holder is preferably formed of a single length of wire and comprises an upright length or member 5, a horizontal length or member 6, and an inclined member 7. Said member 7 constitutes a brace for the horizontal member 6, extending from the outer end of the latter to the member 5 and being attached to the member 5 at a suitable intermediate point in its length.

The loop or ring 4 is located at a point intermediate, or at the angle between, the members 5 and 6, and extends horizontally from said member 5 in a direction opposite the member 6. Two similar loops 8 and 9 are formed on the member 5, the former at the extreme lower end of said member and the latter at a point substantially midway between the loops 4 and 8. Said loops 4, 8 and 9 are disposed in vertically aligned relation and are designed to loosely embrace the flagstaff 2, the latter having thereon at a suitable point a collar 10 or equivalent device constituting a support upon which the lowermost loop 8 rests for supporting the flag holder.

The flag 1 has grommets or eyelets located at suitable points in its inner end and its upper edge, one such eyelet, designated 11, being located in the corner of the flag at or adjacent to the angle between said rear end and said upper edge and being adapted for receiving a cord, tape or ribbon, as 12, whereby said corner is attached to the upper loop 4 of the holder. Another eyelet 13 is located in the upper edge of the flag for receiving a cord or ribbon 14 whereby attachment is made with the outer end of the holder member 6, an eye 15 for facilitating such attachment being preferably provided by forming a coil in the wire of said holder at the angle between said member 6 and the inclined brace member 7. A third eyelet 16 is located in the lower inner corner of the flag, and a ribbon 17 passed through said eyelet serves to attach said corner to the lowermost loop 8. One or more additional eyelets, as 18, are provided in the inner end of the flag and are attached by cords or ribbons to adjacent portions of the wire holder for securing the flag in place.

The braced horizontal member or arm 6 of the holder, which preferably has a length approximating one-half that of the flag,

5 serves to positively support a substantial length of the rear end portion of the flag in horizontal position so that the complete collapse thereof to an inactive hanging position is prevented and so that a relatively light breeze of air will serve to extend and produce ripples in the flag for fully displaying the latter.

10 Due to the fact that the loops of the wire hanger loosely embrace the flagstaff, said hanger is free to rotate on said staff and, consequently, winding of the flag about the staff is effectually prevented.

15 In the modified form of flag support shown in Figs. 3 and 4, designed for supporting the flags of large size employed on poles or masts and adapted to be raised and lowered by means of halyards, a relatively heavy wire or rod is employed in the flag holder. Formed at the angle between the upright member 5^a and the horizontal member 6^a of said holder is an upright loop or ring 4^a to which is attached an end of the halyard 19. Said halyard is passed from 20 said loop 4^a upward through and thence depends from an eye or ring 20 which occupies a stationary position on the mast 1^a. Instead of forming loops 8 and 9 in the upright member 5^a, said member may have rigidly attached thereto at suitable points a plurality of U-shaped guides 21 adapted to partially embrace the mast 2^a and which are freely slidable upon the latter in raising and lowering the flag holder.

35 What is claimed is—

1. The combination with a flag, of a support therefor composed of a single length of wire shaped to form an upright member, a member extending horizontally from the upper end of said upright member, and a downwardly and rearwardly inclined member whereby said horizontal member is braced, said upright member being arranged for mounting in rotatable relation to a flagstaff and having the inner end of the flag attached thereto, the horizontal member having its outer end attached to and supporting the flag at a point in the midlength of the upper edge of the latter, an eye-forming loop being 45 formed intermediate the horizontal and inclined members, and the inclined member having its lower end attached to the upright member intermediate the ends of the latter.

55 2. The combination with a flag and its staff, of a flag support comprising an up-

right member carried in rotatable relation to said staff and having the inner end of the flag attached thereto, said member carrying staff embracing devices, a member carried by 60 and extending horizontally from the upper end portion of said upright member in overhanging relation to the flag, a loop formed intermediate said members for the attachment of a halyard, said horizontal member 65 terminating and being attached to the flag at a point in the midlength of the latter whereby said flag is supported in a partially extended position in which the forward end is free to ripple in the breeze. 70

3. A flag support composed of wire shaped to form an upright member, a horizontal member and an inclined member, said upright member having a plurality of horizontally disposed loops formed therein 75 throughout its length and being adapted to have the inner end of a flag attached thereto, said horizontal member extending from the upper end portion of said upright member and terminating in an eye which is so located that a midlength portion of the upper edge of the flag may be attached thereto, and said inclined member forming a brace for said horizontal member, the same being extended downward and rearward from the 80 outer end of said horizontal member and being supported at a point intermediate the ends of the upright member. 85

4. A flag support comprising a wire shaped to form an upright member having a plurality of horizontally disposed loops formed therein throughout its length, said member being adapted to have the inner end of a flag attached hereto, a member extending horizontally from the upper end portion 90 of said upright member and terminating in an eye, said horizontal member having a length materially less than that of the flag, said eye being adapted for having a midlength portion of the upper edge of the flag 95 attached thereto, a brace inclined downward and rearward from the outer end of said horizontal member to said upright member at a point intermediate the ends of the latter. 100 105

In testimony whereof, I affix my signature in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

JOHN M. SHORT.

Witnesses:

G. O. SMITH,
H. E. DUNLAP.