

THE POINT

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC.

Chapter 172

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The First VVA Chapter in the State of Maryland - The Gold Standard

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Grunt Shirt Requirements

The Officers and Board recently updated the grunt shirt requirements in Chapter 172's Special Rules of Order. Hopefully this will clear up any confusion on how to get a shirt. Of course, if there are any questions, please feel free to contact one of the Officers or Board Members. Thank You.....Chip Bosley, Grunt Shirt Committee Chair

PURPOSE: The purpose of the grunt shirt is to reward individuals who participate in Chapter Functions.

NUMBER OF POINTS REQUIRED: Seven (7) points are required for each individual.

PARTICIPATION: There will be a sign up sheet at each function; each volunteer will have the responsibility to sign his/her name. The chair of the function will coordinate personnel for the event.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR CREDIT: The committee chair for the function will be responsible for turning in the list of names to the office staff within 1 week of event.

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS: Chapter Officers and Directors earn one (1) point for each meeting attended.

CHAPTER COMMITTEES: If an individual is on one of the Committees and the committee is functional and working, and the individual is active on the committee, the individual earns one (1) point. No credit will be given to Social preparation outside of the chapter. All events of two days or more will be given 1 point for each day with 2 or more hours volunteered. Color Guard members will receive 1 point for each event. Museum staff will receive 1 point for 2 or more hours worked in a day. (Only 1 person can work at a time to receive the point)

PERIOD OF POINT EARNING: The point system will run from April 1 to March 31 of each year.

SHIRT SELECTION: The Grunt Shirt Committee will select the style and color of the shirt and submit a sample to BOD for approval.

VVA EMBLEM/LOGO: The emblem/logo on the grunt shirt shall be designated as follows, Life Member Logo, Regular Member Logo, and for non-VVA members, I Support Logo.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES: The President or Grunt Shirt Committee will have the discretion to award points for special circumstances or actions.

ELECTED STATE COUNCIL DELEGATES: Attendance of 50% of functions that are required of the delegate and alternate and actively working and participating the delegate or alternate that represents that delegate earns one (1) point.

Revised 01/2014

SUBSTANCE ABUSE HELP

If you are a veteran or know a veteran that is struggling with substance abuse and wants a way out, there is help for you. We have information on programs that can help. Stop by the chapter or call for info. If you need immediate help for alcohol call 301-722-6110 or for narcotics call 800-777-1515. You are not alone.

Now is the Winter of Our Discontent

Winter waxes long and the cold penetrates everything. As we get older, winters get longer and colder and this one has been a classic. But as we must, we move on, so here it is your first official announcement of the upcoming Chapter Elections. At the last chapter meeting President Bobby Cook charged the Nominations Committee to fill a slate for election of all chapter positions.

Elections will be held at the April 3rd membership meeting. You must submit your name for candidacy by days end on the 5th of March, 2014, otherwise, you will have to run from the floor on election night. All elective officers and board positions are open to challenge along with 4 delegates to the Maryland State Council and 4 alternate delegates to the Maryland State Council, and 2 members of the Nominating Committee.

Complaints

As I look out my window at the 86 feet of snow, it gives me time to pause and consider some of the bitches I have heard from members lately.

I was at the funeral home recently wishing to pay my respects to the family members of the deceased. Now those of you know me know that I have problems standing for long periods of time. So anyhow, I was in the receiving line with 50 or 60 other mourners, but the line was not moving; I mean nothing, zero...So I check up front and low and behold there are two women monopolizing the widow. I mean they were trading recipes and talking about Aunt Ruth and so on and so forth. Look, give your condolences and move on. "Sorry for your loss, I'll call you next week." That's all it takes. Nobody cares if you are the special friend.

Don't like the food served at the Chapter do something about it. Volunteer to help, bring in something delicious. Many of you already do this. I'm just passing the word along.

If you go to a Super Bowl party and you don't want to watch the game, don't sit at the bar with the real football enthusiasts....

I am just rambling on...I really have nothing to say...I just had to announce the elections. However, don't you think it interesting that the state of Maryland wants to restrict our guns but, let us have marijuana? Now you have to stop and think (not me of course) what have you had the most fun with, guns or pot? If somebody is going to rob you and they have a gun and you have a "fatty" this could be an opportunity not just to prevent a robbery and steer somebody away from a life of crime but maybe even make a friend.

Service Officers at Chapter

Disabled Service Officers will be at the Chapter Thursday, March 13th from 9:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Please bring a copy of your Military Discharge, DD214 or other service records, VA claim number if one was issued and any correspondence or rating decision information. Due to the number of veterans coming, it is necessary to call the chapter and set up an appointment time at 301-777-7001.

At a glance

- VA wants all Veterans to get care that improves their health and well being.
- If you are enrolled in VA health care, you don't need to take additional steps to meet the health care law coverage standards.
- The health care law does not change VA health benefits or Veterans' out-of-pocket costs.
- If you are not enrolled in VA health care, you can apply at any time.



March Madness Sale at Chapter



	<u>Reg. Price</u>	<u>Sale</u>
Hats	\$18.00	\$12.00
Made in U.S.A. Hats	\$22.00	\$16.00
Coffee Mugs	\$12.00	\$ 9.00
Garden Flags	\$14.00	\$10.00

All Tee Shirts 25% Off
New Selection of Clearance marked to sell!!!!



From the Sky Pilot.....

The Color Green



St Patrick was born in Britain in the 4th century AD. It is believed that as a young man, Patrick was kidnapped and taken into slavery to Ireland. He claimed that his escape from Ireland and his eventual return to Britain was based upon God's instructions, given to him in a dream. After his return to Britain, he began to study for the Catholic priesthood. Later in life, as a Catholic bishop, Patrick said that he was called to return to Ireland to win over the Irish who held a belief in many Gods. It is believed that he used the shamrock to illustrate the doctrine of the trinity.

Although originally being associated with the color blue, gradually green became the representative color for St Patrick's Day. It is believed the color green has been associated with the celebration due to the color of the shamrock and the green vegetation found in Ireland.

The symbolic use of the color green is not limited to the St Patrick's Day holiday. In the Bible the color green is often associated with a state of blessing from Almighty God.

Psalm 52:8-9 is one example of this usage...

vs. 8 "But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God: I trust in the mercy of God for ever and ever".

vs. 9 "I will praise thee forever, because thou hast done it; and I will wait on thy name; for it is good before thy saints". Here David is recognizing the blessed conditions of his life. He describes being blessed greatly as being "like a green olive tree". Here, "green" is symbolically describing his flourishing **life**. As a green tree is filled with health and life; so too, David was thriving having both his physical and, especially, his spiritual needs supplied by His God.

As we see the "wearing of the green" on this St Patrick's Day, let all of us be reminded of our blessed life based upon God's mercy toward us and be thankful for all He has given us.



*May the road rise up to meet you.
 May the wind be always at your back.
 May the sun shine warm upon your face,
 the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again,
 may God hold you in the palm of His hand.
 Traditional Gaelic Blessing*

Chaplain, Rodger Long