

# Vietnam Veterans of America

Chapter 324 - PO Box 18631 - Milwaukee, WI 53218

In Service to America



## Meeting Notice

No meeting in November

Elks Lodge

5555 W. Good Hope Rd.

Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.

Chapter Meeting 7 - 8 p.m.

Future Meetings TBA

Chapter web page: [www.vietnamvetschapter324.com](http://www.vietnamvetschapter324.com)

National web page: [www.vva.org](http://www.vva.org)

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John is listed in the phone book - good luck finding one

## NO MEETINGS TILL FURTHER NOTICE

### Fees at national parks waived for veterans, Gold Star families

Leo Shane III, Military Times, Oct. 28, 2020

Starting in November, veterans and Gold Star families will be able to visit national parks and other public lands for free, under a new initiative from the Department of the Interior announced.

Active-duty service members and their families are already granted free access to those sites under existing department rules. The new announcement broadens that benefit to more than 20 million more individuals in recognition of their service and sacrifice.

In a statement, Interior Secretary David Bernhardt said the move gives all veterans "free access to the iconic and treasured lands they fought to protect." The policy goes into effect starting on Veterans Day, Nov. 11.

Bernhardt and other federal officials made the announcement during a ceremony at the Iowa Gold Star Museum, which focuses on the history of the state's veterans and their

families.

"Our veterans and Gold Star Families have made incredible sacrifices to defend our freedoms and our homeland," Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, said in a statement. "Ensuring that they are able to enjoy all of the natural wonders of the country that they've served is one small way of saying thank you."

The policy includes admittance to well-known sites like Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming, Mount Rushmore in South Dakota, Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona and Shenandoah National Park in Virginia.

Interior officials did not provide cost estimates for the move, but said that the policy change will affect about 2,000 public locations across the country. Fees for the sites can range from a few dollars per person to nearly \$100 for some weekly and annual passes.

# Covid-19 Testing – Cold? Flu? COVID? Here’s How to Tell

Nextgov, University of Michigan, October 26, 2020

How can you tell if you have a cold, the flu, or COVID-19? An expert offers advice for those worried sick about their symptoms. You wake up one morning feeling under the weather. While in previous years you may have chalked up a sore throat or body aches to a run-of-the-mill cold or flu, this year’s COVID-19 pandemic adds a new element of concern to getting sick. “There is significant overlap between symptoms of influenza and COVID,” says Laraine Washer, medical director of infection prevention and epidemiology at Michigan Medicine. “Both can present with fevers, chills, cough, muscle/body aches, fatigue, and headache.” Here, Washer offers advice to follow during this unique cold and flu season.

## Know the Symptoms

- Cold symptoms are mild and the common cold tends not to be associated with fever or headache.
- Congestion/runny nose is common for the common cold and would be uncommon to be the only symptom for influenza. Congestion/runny nose can be a symptom of a COVID infection and might be the only symptom in mild cases.
- Flu symptoms are often of rapid onset. COVID symptoms can be of rapid or more gradual onset.
- One symptom that is more unique to a COVID infection is the loss of taste or smell, Washer says.

## Should you get a test?

Washer says that in many settings, the only way to tell the difference between COVID and influenza is by testing. “The differentiation can be very important as there are isolation requirements to prevent transmission of COVID and antivirals that can be used for influenza,” she explains. If you have fever/chills, new cough or new shortness of breath, you should stay home and arrange to be tested for COVID. If you have two or more of the following symptoms:

- Headache,
- New muscle aches,
- New upper respiratory symptoms (congestions, runny nose, sore throat),
- New loss of taste or smell, new nausea/vomiting/diarrhea,
- Or new rash,

you should consider COVID testing. If you have had a known close contact exposure to someone with COVID, you should be tested even if you have one mild symptom. There is a low threshold for COVID testing given risk of transmission to others. Once influenza season begins, your doctor may also wish to test you for flu.

## Should you call the doctor?

If you have any chronic medical conditions or are over the age of 65, you are at higher risk of getting a severe COVID infection and should call your doctor. Call your doctor for a fever that does not go down with fever reducing medicine (do not use aspirin as it is contraindicated in influenza) or any severe symptoms or symptoms that get worse over time.

## Should you go to the emergency room?

Go the emergency department if you have chest pain or pressure, confusion, difficulty breathing or blue discoloration to your lips or face.

Some good news is that social distancing and wearing masks may mean a milder flu season. “Flu and other respiratory illnesses were reduced in the Southern Hemisphere, whose flu season typically stretches from May to November,” says Washer. Getting a flu shot this year is particularly important to reduce the potential for a twin pandemic of influenza and COVID, which could further overwhelm the healthcare system. “Continue to social distance, avoid large gatherings, and wear your mask! And get and use a thermometer,” says Washer.



**KNOW YOUR BENEFITS**

★ ★ ★

Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors are available online at [www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits\\_book.asp](http://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book.asp)

VA U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

## NOVEMBER COMES

November comes on to me like a C-130  
slinking into Dover Air Force base  
laden with tin caskets  
draped in red, white, and blue

I know, I know  
I should just  
let it be

Okay.  
I can still do this:  
push my shopping cart down  
the local IGA's aisles  
pick up cheese and wines and crackers  
while avoiding aluminum cans  
like the plague  
pay the cashier  
smile at the bagger  
push the cart out into the parking lot  
neatly place everything I just bought

into the dumpster out back

light up a smoke  
relax

Sure, sure,  
you want me to join in  
on your celebrations  
bless our bounty  
accept your thanks  
for my service  
as if I were some Pilgrim  
come home to receive your grace

It is November, you say, and we set aside  
a day just for you to wrap up war  
with the dissonance of fife and drum  
and bagpipes blaring down main street

as if we can all finally dance  
to the same tune

Sorry about that

My dancing days are long gone  
I'd rather skate across the pond alone

I have more faith in ice  
Doug Rollins, November 8

### For Veterans Day: The Rules of Combat

1. Friendly fire – isn't.
2. Recoilless rifles – aren't.
3. Suppressive fires – won't.
4. You are not Superman; Marines and fighter pilots take note.
5. A sucking chest wound is Nature's way of telling you to slow down.
6. If it's stupid but it works, it isn't stupid.
7. Try to look unimportant; the enemy may be low on ammo.
8. If at first you don't succeed, call in an air strike.
9. If you are forward of your position, your artillery will fall short.
10. Never share a foxhole with anyone braver than yourself.
11. Never go to bed with anyone crazier than yourself.
12. Never forget that your weapon was made by the lowest bidder.
13. If your attack is going really well, it's an ambush.
14. The enemy diversion you're ignoring is their main attack.
15. The enemy invariably attacks on two occasions: a. When they're ready. b. When you're not.
16. No OPLAN ever survives initial contact.
17. There is no such thing as a perfect plan.
18. Five-second fuses always burn three seconds.

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19. There is no such thing as an atheist in a foxhole.
20. A retreating enemy is probably just falling back and regrouping.
21. The important things are always simple.
22. The simple are always hard.
23. The easy way is always mined.
24. Teamwork is essential; it gives the enemy other people to shoot at.
25. Never draw fire; it irritates everyone around you.
26. If you are short of everything but the enemy, you are in the combat zone.
27. When you have secured the area, make sure the enemy knows it too.
28. Incoming fire has the right of way.
29. No combat ready unit has ever passed inspection.
30. No inspection ready unit has ever passed combat.
31. If the enemy is within range, so are you.
32. The only thing more accurate than incoming enemy fire is incoming friendly fire.
33. Things which must be shipped together as a set, aren't.
34. Things that must work together, can't be carried to the field that way.
35. Radios will fail as soon as you need fire support.
36. Radar tends to fail at night and in bad weather, and especially during both.
37. Anything you do can get you killed, including nothing.
38. Make it too tough for the enemy to get in, and you won't be able to get out.
39. Tracers work both ways.
40. If you take more than your fair share of objectives, you will have more than your fair share of objectives to take.
41. When both sides are convinced they're about to lose, they're both right.
42. Professional soldiers are predictable, but the world is full of dangerous amateurs.
43. Military Intelligence is an oxymoron.
44. Fortify your front; you'll get your rear shot up.
45. Weather ain't neutral.
46. If you can't remember, the Claymore is pointed towards you.
47. Air defense motto: shoot 'em down; sort 'em out on the ground.
48. The Cavalry doesn't always come to the rescue.
49. Napalm is an area support weapon.
50. Mines are equal opportunity weapons.
51. B-52s are the ultimate close support weapon.
52. Sniper's motto: reach out and touch someone.
53. Killing for peace is like screwing for virginity.
54. The one item you need is always in short supply.
55. Interchangeable parts aren't.
56. It's not the one with your name on it; it's the one addressed "to whom it may concern" you've got to think about.
57. When in doubt, empty your magazine.
58. The side with the simplest uniforms wins.
59. Combat will occur on the ground between two adjoining maps.
60. If the Platoon Sergeant can see you, so can the enemy.
61. Never stand when you can sit, never sit when you can lie down, never stay awake when you can sleep.
62. A bad ride is better than a good walk.
63. The most dangerous thing in the world is a Second Lieutenant with a map and a compass.
64. Exceptions prove the rule and destroy the battle plan.
65. Everything always works in your HQ, everything always fails in the Colonel's HQ.

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66. The enemy never watches until you make a mistake.
67. One enemy soldier is never enough, but two is entirely too many.
68. A clean (and dry) uniform is a magnet for mud and rain.
69. The worse the weather, the more you are required to be out in it.
70. Whenever you have plenty of ammo, you never miss. Whenever you are low on ammo, you can't hit the broad side of a barn.
71. The more a weapon costs, the farther you will have to send it away to be repaired.
72. The complexity of a weapon is inversely proportional to the IQ of the weapon's operator.
73. Field experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.
74. No matter which way you have to march, it's always uphill.
75. If enough data is collected, a board of inquiry can prove anything.
76. For every action, there is an equal and opposite criticism.
77. Air strikes always overshoot the target, artillery always falls short.
78. When reviewing the radio frequencies that you just wrote down, the most important ones are always illegible.
79. Those who hesitate under fire usually do not end up KIA or WIA.
80. The tough part about being a leader is that the troops don't know what they want, but they know for certain what they don't want.
81. To steal information from a person is called plagiarism. To steal information from the enemy is called gathering intelligence.
82. The weapon that usually jams when you need it the most is the M240B.
83. The perfect officer for the job will transfer in the day after that billet is filled by someone else.
84. When you have sufficient supplies & ammo, the enemy takes 2 weeks to attack. When you are low on supplies & ammo the enemy decides to attack that night.
85. The newest and least experienced soldier will usually be awarded the Medal of Honor.
86. A Purple Heart just proves that were you smart enough to think of a plan, stupid enough to try it, and lucky enough to survive.
87. Beer Math → 2 beers times 37 men equals 49 cases.
88. Body count Math → 3 guerrillas plus 1 probable plus 2 pigs equals 37 enemies killed in action.
89. The bursting radius of a hand grenade is always one foot greater than your jumping range.
90. All-weather close air support doesn't work in bad weather.
91. The crucial round is a dud.
92. There is no such place as a convenient foxhole.
93. Don't ever be the first, don't ever be the last and don't ever volunteer to do anything.
94. If your positions are firmly set and you are prepared to take the enemy assault on, he will bypass you.
95. If your ambush is properly set, the enemy won't walk into it.
96. If your flank march is going well, the enemy expects you to outflank him.
97. Density of fire increases proportionally to the curiousness of the target.
98. Odd objects attract fire – never lurk behind one.
99. Odd objects attract fire. You are odd.
100. The more stupid the leader is, the more important missions he is ordered to carry out.
101. The self-importance of a superior is inversely proportional to his position in the hierarchy (as is his deviousness and mischievousness).
102. There is always a way, and it usually doesn't work.
103. Success occurs when no one is looking, failure occurs when the General is watching.
104. The enemy never monitors your radio frequency until you broadcast on an unsecured channel.
105. Whenever you drop your equipment in a fire-fight, your ammo and grenades always fall the farthest away, and your canteen always lands at your feet.
106. As soon as you are served hot chow in the field, it rains.
107. Never tell the Platoon Sergeant you have nothing to do.



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Anyone can join! Membership Options:

Life Membership for all veterans \$50:

VVA is only offering LIFE memberships at \$50. If you have been getting a 1 year membership for \$20 you will need to pay \$50 at your next renew or be dropped from the VVA. If you paid \$50 at your last renewal you will become a LIFE member automatically without any further payment. NEW members will only have the \$50 LIFE membership when they join. (with a DD214 submitted).

Anyone Else:

- Associate Member - 1 year \$20 • Associate Member 3 year \$50 • Associate Life Member \$250
- Associate Life Member Installment Plan (\$50 Deposit; \$25 per month for 8 Months)

Please Print

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Membership # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to help Chapter 324 by donating \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to VVA324 and mail with this completed application to:  
VVA Chapter 324 - Membership, PO Box 18631, Milwaukee, WI 53218