



Moose International Valued Veterans Recommended Annual Ceremony Format

WELCOME

- Welcome to the Moose International Valued Veterans { **Annual Fall recognition ceremony** }.
- Moose Lodges across North America are celebrating with similar events to bring honor, recognition and, ultimately, support to our own Moose Valued Veterans.
- Introduction of any attending Moose Dignitaries.
- Introduction of the **Chaplain who offers a prayer**.
- After prayer, welcoming officer introduces dignitary / whoever is presiding over duration of ceremony.

OPENING COMMENTS (from Moose Dignitary)

- Tonight, we recognize all veterans, but we offer special recognition to those Moose veterans who have self-identified in their membership records as veterans between { **October 1st – September 30th** }.
- If you are a Moose veteran and have not yet been identified as a veteran, please be sure to leave your name and Moose membership ID number on the sign-up sheet and we will send that information to Moose International for you so that you can receive your special recognition in the next annual recognition ceremony.

Presentation of Collective Offering to all Moose VVs i.e. **Wall of Honor** mural & veteran photos, or **Quilt of Valor**.... Saying "*Veterans thank you for your service.*"

Will everyone please rise – for the Presentation of the Colors / National Anthem / You may all be seated.

Introduction of Veterans, offering acknowledgment by each branch:

- The United States **Army**, please stand
- United States **Navy**, please stand
- United States **Marine Corp**, please stand
- United States **Airforce**, please stand
- United States **Coast Guard**

Individual Veteran Recognition – Pins & Certificates (Call each up to podium, name by name)

Special Recognition to Valued Veterans who have gone above and beyond to serve humanity in civilian life, particularly through Moose Heart of the Community initiatives (State what they did, ask them to stand to be recognized).

*****“THE VALUED VETERAN OF THE YEAR” is recognized*****

- > This person was nominated by the general membership, and voted upon by a committee comprised of lodge officers and lodge community service committees and chairmen.
- > This person is the epitome of Moose Valued Veterans continuing to serve humanity in their community through the Moose.
- > This person was chosen for his/her noble work in serving _____ (Charity) (list things they did).
- > We would like to recognize (NAME) _____ as the Valued Veteran of the Year.
- > As an added thank you, (NAME of V.V.O.Y. _____) will receive (i.e. *designated parking space for a year* _____) to remind them over the next year just how much we appreciate all they have done to serve humanity both in the military and now in their civilian life through the Moose.

Acknowledgement of Specific Challenges that Veterans Face (Examples listed below)

- **Common challenges** (PTSD, self-medicate with alcohol or drugs, escape with suicide)
- **Site Statistics** – *Each year.... Each day....* _____ # of veterans
- **We want to help**; we’ve identified resources to assist you with the following:
 - If you need help accessing benefits please let _____ know.
 - If you need help with **legal matters** please let _____ know.
 - If you need help with **finances or housing** please let _____ know.
 - If you need help with **PTSD** please let someone know, don’t suffer alone _____.
 - If you need help with finding employment, please let _____ know.
 - If you want information on forming a lodge **VV Activity Group**, please see a lodge officer who can secure the correct paperwork from Moose International.

Play a Closing Video Honoring Veterans (Veteran-honoring videos can be found at www.YouTube.com).

This concludes our annual Fall annual recognition ceremony.

The next Fall recognition ceremony will be next year around November, in which all veterans identified **between { October 1st – September 30th }** will be recognized.

Whether or not you were recognized tonight, or perhaps you still need to become registered with Moose International and will be recognized at our next annual ceremony we, and Moose International, thank you ALL for your noble service and for your continued service to humanity through Moose community service.