

THE VIETNAM VETERANS IN CANADA INSIGNIA

The final design for the insignia chosen to identify the Vietnam Veterans in Canada combines a number of elements which are familiar to most Canadians and Americans.

Canada's national symbol, the red maple leaf, dominates the design. It retains its natural outline rather than the stylized form associated with government organizations and modern official warrants. The maple leaf is encircled by a band combining a variety of symbols which are representative of the Vietnam veteran, Canada, the United States of America, and service in South East Asia. The yellow, red, and green ribbon of the Vietnam Service Medal occupies the lower center area of the surrounding band. The inclusion of the VSM in the design serves notice that the voting members of the Vietnam Veterans in Canada are individuals who have been awarded this specific decoration. Much of the band around the maple leaf is taken up by a bamboo thicket extending upward and outward. The apex of the bamboo would extend below the area of the VSM and many of the individual (though not all) bamboo elements would form a "V". The presentation of the thicket in this way is symbolic not only of the outcomes of many confrontations on the battlefield, but of our victories in many subsequent trials, and of the WIC's pledge to help other veterans make their way "home".

The top center of the band is taken up with a field of blue opening the bamboo thicket to a constellation of twelve five pointed stars. They represent the provinces and territories of Canada. A thirteenth five pointed star is within the thicket. It represents the missing in South East Asia. The thirteenth star illustrates the desire of

the WIC for a complete accounting of those veterans listed as MIA. The constellation of thirteen stars is a well established symbol always associated with the United States of America and in this insignia establishes linkage between the Vietnam Veterans in Canada, and the United States of America. The linkage is also evidenced by the eagle which occupies the upper-center of the blue portion of the design. The bald eagle, the official symbol of the U.S., is taken from the colors of the 13th United States Infantry. This eagle is a traditional and authentic representation of the American symbol and there is an historical connection between the 13th U.S. Infantry and Canada. The 13th fought at Plattsburg and Queenston Heights in the War of 1812 at times with distinction, at times with discretion. The 13th U.S. Infantry was also one of the many Northern units in which thousands of Canadian volunteers served during the War between the States. The 13th's colors are now kept at the military museum at West Point.

A ribbon with the inscription "VIETNAM VETERANS IN CANADA" is placed beneath the primary elements of the WIC logo. The use of "IN" as opposed to "OF" or "FROM" reflects the diversity of the organization. As adopted in its charter, the WIC intends to meet the needs of all who served in Vietnam under the auspices of the Military Assistance Advisory Group and the Military Assistance Command and now reside IN Canada.

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