



Veterans in Defense of Liberty™

HONOR DUTY COUNTRY

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CODE OF ETHICS AND CONDUCT

Name

As a defining document, this “Code of Ethics and Conduct” outlines the essence of conduct expected of all members. Our conduct relates to our mission to support and defend the constitution; it is the image presented to the public;

First and foremost, it is imperative to understand, and act respectively, that; all members reflect upon the credibility and reputation not only of ViDoL but also upon the entire veteran community and upon our brothers still serving on Active Duty. Today the veteran community and our military enjoys an unprecedented degree of respect and admiration from the American public that we served.

It is therefore the fundamental principle that we, as an educational organization as well as individually, never act or speak in a manner as to tarnish that respect and admiration. Individually and collectively we must subscribe to the highest standards of honor and integrity.

1. I am fully responsible for my own actions and will not (cannot) hold ViDoL, any members, board of Directors or officers thereof, responsible for any consequences occurring out of my actions.
 - I will never act as an aggressor in any situation. This does not preclude my inalienable right of self-defense or rendering defensive aid for another.
 - I will not become verbally confrontational with/or towards another, even when they may be towards me or my brothers/sisters.
 - I will not use offensive, cursive, foul or sexually explicate language in the public eye or ear.
 - I will at all time exercise self-discipline.
 - At any time, I violate this “Code of Ethics and Conduct” I am by that act immediately suspended from ViDoL for the duration of the event.
 - That suspension shall remain in effect until such time as a determination is made by leadership.
2. As a responsible adult, I will handle any inter-organization disagreements with civility and only within the organization.
 - If unable to resolve an interpersonal issue with the other party directly, I will:
 - Refer the issue up the proper chain of command for arbitration.
 - I will abide by the arbitrated decision or resign my position.

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3. **Recognizing that veterans serve as Role Models to many, and understanding we never know who we may be influencing at any given time, I will always use sound judgement and demonstrate exemplary leadership qualities.**
 - I understand that the mere appearance of impropriety is improper.
4. **I will never publicly disparage any fellow brother of ViDoL their Board, officers, leadership or the organization itself.**
 - I shall demonstrate my ongoing commitment to the core values of integrity, decorum, honor, duty, country, responsibility and respect.
5. **I realize that while participating in any event there will be designated “communication officer(s)” and only they are authorized to communicate with the media.**
 - I will not assume any media to be friendlies.
 - I will refer all media questions asked of me to the Comm officer.
6. **I realize, as an active veteran’s organization, the Chain of Command is always in effect.**
 - I will follow the Chain of Command.
 - There will be multiple issues which can be addressed and decided by the majority vote in ViDoL meetings by veteran members. These decisions must be confirmed by the ViDoL Commanding Officer, Executive Officer, or Financial Officer.
 - Associate members have all Rights and Privileges thereto, except for the vote.
 - ✓ Associate members are, as veteran members, bound by this “Code of Ethics and conduct.”
 - Great deference will be given by the command structure to the vote of the meeting.
 - ✓ The command structure of ViDoL after communications with ViDoL’s commander and/or officers, may countermand any decision of the meeting vote.
7. **I recognize that I am a sworn defender of the Constitution of the United States of America, and consequently of the culture which proceeds from it.**
 - “I, _____, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; ...”
8. **I recognize that today we find ourselves in a “Cold Cultural Civil War.” This conflict pits our Constitutional Republic and Nation of Laws against a Socialized form of America.**

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- I recognize as stated by ben Franklin, “[I]t is a common observation here that our cause is the cause of all mankind, and that we are fighting for their liberty in defending our own.”
 - I am acutely aware that any misstep on my part in conduct; will be used by those on the other side of this conflict to demean ViDoL and its members, leadership and the organization itself, in order to lessen the effectiveness of our engagements.
9. I shall conduct myself and work to positively increase the: respect, creditability, and strategic position of ViDoL - to the public, our members, the nation and communities we serve.
10. Membership in Veterans in Defense of Liberty is a privilege not a right. The Board of Directors, Commanding Officer (ExDir), Commander of Liberty Riders of America™ reserves the right to take an action necessary to maintain the good order of ViDoL or LRA.
11. The sole mission of Veterans in Defense of Liberty™ can be summed up, as to continue honoring our oath that did not expire when we hung up the uniform for the last time. It is to support and defend the constitution of the United States of America and champion veteran’s issues.
- We often hear about the need for us to focus on "Veterans' Issues," as if our mission ought to be limited by some outside, though well-intended, mindset that has pigeonholed all veterans and their issues into a neat, little corner of the political spectrum. However, there is a problem with that.

They're all veteran’s issues.

When we veterans raised our hands to support and defend the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic, we did so, not for a piece of paper enshrined in our collective history, but for the society it has established and guided for over 200 years. We veterans have been willing to fight, and die, so that those left at home can be able to benefit from the greatness of our nation and society, precisely because we defend the framework upon which it is all established. Therefore, ANY issue that threatens our society, our way of life, or our cultural identity as a people...they are ALL veterans' issues. We are not a subset of individuals to be identified only on a demographical chart; we are, first and foremost, Americans. As such, and specifically because we have been willing to risk all of self for the greater cause, we naturally have a heightened sense of continued duty to make

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certain that those sacrifices we offered, and those of our brethren who did not come home, were not offered in vain.

12. This mission does not preclude holding frequent events for the camaraderie of the Brotherhood/Sisterhood.
- A vital aspect of our mission is the realization that: There is nothing greater in this world than to associate in a country that you love, with men and women that you love, who you know would still lay down their life for you or our country.
13. This Code of ethics and conduct cannot be all inclusive. It is impossible to list all possible violations. Some of the more serious offenses include but not limited to: criminal activity, carrying illegal or illegally carrying firearms, unprovoked acts of physical violence, engaging in inappropriate verbal abuse, failing to come to the aid of a brother/sister or law enforcement officer in peril. – These activities shall carry concomitant and instantaneous suspension from Veterans in Defense of Liberty.™
- The guiding premise is that all of our action is to be directed with common sense, civility, dignity, and decorum. Should force ever become necessary only that amount of force to stop the threat and control the situation will be tolerated.
 - Watch out for yourself; watch out for your brothers and sisters; refrain from any personal behavior which would bring injury to our organization and/or impair its ability to accomplish our mission.

I affirm that I have read each page of this “Code of Ethics and Conduct,” and that I shall abide by it.

Print Name

Signature

Witness

Date