

Bellevue Veterans Club



The “Ruptured Duck” is the symbol of the Bellevue Veterans Club.

It is officially the **National Defense Lapel Button** and was issued to personnel Honorably Discharged from the service. It was not intended for uniform wear but rather on civilian clothes.

Most people thought it looked more like a duck than an eagle and since they were discharged they would *run like a ruptured duck*. Hence it is commonly referred to as **The Ruptured Duck**.

The pin was awarded between September 1939 and December 1946 and was made of gilt brass, except during metal shortages during which it was made of gilt plastic. Service members who received the plastic version were later allowed to trade it in for the brass version.

The pin, which depicted an eagle inside a wreath, served as proof to military police that its wearer was not going absent without leave. In response to the severe clothing shortage at the time, it also allowed its owner to wear his or her uniform for up to thirty days subsequent to their discharge. A cloth form of the insignia also existed: it was sewn onto the outer garment of the discharged individual's uniform. Some veterans wore the pin on their civilian lapels for many years after the war's end.