



THE  
VPI  
RING  
1969



## ***FOREWORD***

To design the greatest V. P. I. Class ring has been the goal of the Ring Committee.

With pride, we present a ring designed to be the best for the best — *The Class of 1969*.

## TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 1969

Many months ago, an idea was born—an idea to make the 1969 Class Ring the finest that has ever been created and produced for any class at Virginia Tech, or for that matter, the finest class ring ever produced for any university.

At Virginia Tech, a class ring is more than a class ring; it is a vital part of what we know as the "Virginia Tech way of life." A few moments of conversation with almost any Tech student will soon reveal the pride and tradition associated with his, or her, ring. When work began on the Class of '69 ring, those who were responsible for designing and creating it fully realized the excellent work done by preceding classes; and, typical of the spirit at Virginia Tech, they set out to make our ring — the Class of 1969 — the finest ring ever produced. However, they did more than dream up high-sounding, flowery phrases to describe our ring as the best ever. They went to work quickly and put in long hours of dedicated effort so that each member of the Class could truly wear the best ring humanly possible to produce.

The work of the Ring Committee was undoubtedly a most important part in the creation of our class ring, but even after the ring was designed and all of the ideas were neatly put into picture form, there was one more ingredient necessary to give our ring life. The Class of 1969 needed a company to manufacture our ring — a company that cared and, like each of us, wanted to produce the finest ring possible. We found that company in John Roberts of Norman, Oklahoma. Here we found a group of dedicated individuals who shared our enthusiasm about giving every member of the class a ring which he can wear proudly for a lifetime.

We hope you will believe, as we do, that the tradition of the Virginia Tech Class Ring will shine ever brighter, thanks to the ring worn by members of the Class of 1969.

*Mark Musick*

Mark Musick,  
Class President

*Michael Giguere*

Mike Giguere,  
Ring Committee Chairman

*"Excellent Things are Rare"*  
Plato

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## THE NINETEEN HUNDRED AND SIXTY-NINE CLASS RING

MICHAEL JOSEPH FIGUERE  
*Chairman, Ring Committee*

Unity is the theme of the 1969 ring which is steeped in tradition, yet bold and modern in design.

Encircling the stone is Virginia Polytechnic Institute, boldly proclaiming for all the many years of hard work spent earning our "visual diploma." The edge of the bezel is formed by polished 69's separated to stand out, and, at the same time, setting off the school's name and the stone.

The two interlocking rings used as a divider signify the joining of the two student bodies into a unified Student Government, adding to the overall theme of the ring—unity.

On the University side of the ring, the sweeping curve of the unified numerals "1969" at the top, and the curve of the closure bearing the famous Tech motto "Ut Prosim," frames the modern design for the distinctive symbols of Virginia Tech.

The eye is immediately drawn to the University shield in its new, boldly sculptured, three-dimensional position, which gives depth and power to the overall design. The shield is divided into four quadrants, one containing the state seal, and the other



three symbols representing the three original colleges of the University — Engineering, Agriculture, and Arts and Sciences.

The shield is topped by the lamp of knowledge with an outstretched hand above, symbolizing each student's quest for knowledge while at the University. This shield represents Virginia Tech at its greatest in past, present, and future, and stands for everything we know as "Tech" — from winning football games to eight o'clock Saturday morning tests.



To the left of the numerals, the design flows from the Virginia State Flag, symbolizing our history as Virginia's only land-grant college, down to the Confederate Flag, representing not only our Southern tradition and heritage but also our fighting school spirit and enthusiasm.

The sabre, always a symbol of strength, stands at the University side of the ring, near the dynamic Eagle. Traditionally guarding honor and dignity, the sabre is enhanced by the cord, which in line with the sabre's handle sweeps toward the V. P. I. seal with dramatic effect. Thus, with this emblem, the military corps of the school is honored and the balance of the ring and our University is emphasized.



The Eagle, which traditionally appears on V. P. I. rings, majestically sweeps through the 1969 design, and encompasses the historic symbols of our University. With its strong, aggressive posture, the Eagle is thoroughly modern, both because of its striking location in the design and because of its long, flowing wings.



The dominant features of our Eagle stress the relationship of past glory to future goals, symbolize the dynamic power of a well-educated man, and suggest the determination to soar higher and further forward.

Both the Eagle and Sabre are linked, as they should be, by the bold "Ut Prosim" and "VPI" proclaiming the proud heritage of Virginia Tech—whenever the need may be — "That I may serve."

On the college or curriculum side of the ring, the symbols are fashioned to repeat and balance

the flow of the design on the university side.

The modern American Flag is placed on this side of the ring to balance the traditional Virginia and Confederate Flags. The flag furls out and then flows behind the "1969" to symbolize how closely we are linked with the ideals and spirit of patriotism that the flag symbolizes.

Tempering the military saber is the torch of knowledge and peace. The design of the torch has changed with the advanced style of the ring, but its traditional symbolism is directed specifically to our class through the use of a unique, stylized sixty-nine as the flame. The flame flashes from a Corinthian-style



base, which again signifies the educational and intellectual heritage of V. P. I.

Directly below the unity date is the proud "fightin' gobbler," in an heraldic position over the focal point of this shank: the individual curriculum shield. The gobbler symbolizes the fighting spirit that has never left "Tech" and is framed in a wreath of laurel leaves symbolizing victory.



The shield itself is molded in a concave style and represents to the individual his own personal accomplishments within his college which will some day be the basis of his life.

Below the college seal are two figures from the war memorial — Service and Honor. The figures are superimposed on a globe which is encompassed by a six-pointed star. The two figures of Service and Honor represent the two finest qualities that are embodied in the Class of '69.



The six-pointed star represents the six colleges of our University reaching around the globe and denotes not only the internationality of our class but also the world-wide ramifications of Tech and Tech graduates and the influence and knowledge spread by V. I. P.'s six colleges.

Directly to the right of the Unity Date and flowing boldly along the entire Uni-



versity Side is the Virginia Tech Banner. This element represents that the world is in a constant state of political, economic, and technical change which requires a dynamic university with colleges whose students can satisfy the demands of a scholastically starving world. With the University's plans for major expansion for the future, the Virginia Tech Standard represents this transitional aspect of V. P. I.

Near the palm side of the ring and following its curve is the stylized "VPI" on the university side and the founding date "1872" on the other, stylistically completing the bold and modern design of our unique ring.



## THE COMPANY

A drive down a pleasant residential street in Norman, Oklahoma, brings you to John Roberts Manufacturing Plant. Not easily recognizable as a factory, it nestles in rolling hills, landscaped with oaks and smooth green lawns.

The one-story white building, often mistaken for a country club, is the headquarters of an industrial operation which is growing daily.

The growth of John Roberts is the product of a dream of John and Robert Vaughn that started in 1954, when they began making college rings in their small jewelry store across the street from the University of Oklahoma.

Today, John Roberts makes rings for some six hundred colleges and universities; and the 1969 V. P. I. order, the Olympic games of the ring industry, is the proudest order we will handle during this year.

We started with the drive to make the 1969 Ring the finest ring ever created for Virginia Tech.

To achieve this aim, Bob Henderson, the creative design director of John Roberts, and the V. P. I. Ring Committee labored long and hard to create a design that would continue the tradition of V. P. I. with the forward-thinking new look of the Institute and the 1969 Class.

Dale Deain, John Roberts' Vice President of the Tool and Modeling Department, has personally taken this masterpiece of design and created steel sculptures so that the design has now become a three-dimensional jewel of beauty and precision.

Each ring will be hand-chased and polished. Each ring is made in one piece with no seams or joints, and each ring will be hand-engraved by Dale Deain with your name and home town and state or curriculum.

The finest effort on John Roberts' part is none too good for the V. P. I. Class of 1969.





## RING SELECTION

### Gold

The Gold used in your 1969 V. P. I. ring is pre-alloyed by Hoover and Strong of Buffalo, New York, to the rigid specifications set forth by the John Roberts Manufacturing Company. The gold is then finally alloyed in our modern plant, and because of the special formula required you will receive a ring that is perfect in gold color and a ring that will give you a lifetime of wear and satisfaction.

Yellow Gold in both 10K and 14K will be the hardest alloy available. The John Roberts Green Gold and White Gold are satisfactory, but we recommend Yellow Gold for the ultimate in durability.

### Background Finishes

The background finish or antiquing, as it is sometimes referred to, is applied to each ring by an electroplating process. There are many finishes to choose from, and they will be shown in the Special Class of 1969 Ring Display at the V. P. I. Library; but for your class, we have developed a new finish — V. P. I. "LTD." The finish is a proven lasting finish combined with a pleasant shade of coloring that will enhance a ring of yellow gold, white gold, or green gold.

The hardness of this finish and the lasting ability of this finish is the finest ever developed, and we heartily recommend V. P. I. "LTD."

### Stones

All stones used in the V. P. I. rings are hand selected for uniform color and are precision gauged to the exact millimeter width, length, and thickness. Most synthetic stones we offer are manufactured in West Germany, and our exporters consistently send us the most perfect stones obtainable from this center of the world's synthetic stone market. Genuine stones, such as diamonds, opals, and black onyx, are premium selected, and we know that the stones offered to you are absolutely the finest obtainable anywhere.

A faceted-top stone is not as durable as a buff-top stone. However, some people prefer a faceted-top stone because of the extra light reflection which is generated by the facet cutting on the top of the stone. This type stone, however, requires better care, as a faceted-top stone will chip easier than a buff (smooth) top stone. For maximum wearability, we recommend you choose the buff-top stone; however, the faceted-top stones are available. A complete stone selection will be shown in the library display. All transparent stones will have a faceted back which gives maximum light refraction and reflection. Opaque stones, such as onyx, do not have a faceted back.

Certain genuine stones, such as an opal, are very soft and will require special care.

The Mohs scale of hardness is used to rate the different stones. A diamond, which is of course the hardest stone, is rated at ten, and the lower the rating, the softer the stone. The following stones are available in the 1969 Class Ring, and their approximate rating on the Mohs scale of hardness is given also.

Synthetic Garnet	9
Synthetic Sapphire	9
Synthetic Ruby	9
Synthetic Alexandrite	8
Synthetic Aquamarine	8
Synthetic Eirinite	8
Synthetic Kunzite	8
Synthetic Peridot	8
Synthetic Spinel	8
Synthetic Topaz	8
Synthetic Uralite	8
Synthetic Zircon	8
Synthetic Tourmaline	7
Genuine Bloodstone	7
Genuine Onyx	5
Genuine Sardonyx	5
Genuine Opal	3



## ORDERING

Ordering your 1969 V. P. I. ring involves many choices. Carefully and accurately fill in the practice order form to be sure your ring is exactly as you want it.

Determine your selection from the library display which shows all rings available for the Class of 1969 and all special finishes, plus the complete stone selection.

The John Roberts ordering team will be on campus the week of November 13 through November 17 to take your orders. The team will also be on campus January 23 through January 27 for the second and final ordering session.

The order form requires no carbon and must be filled in with ball point pen. Press firmly and please print. You should fill in all sections of the order blank with the exception of your FINGER SIZE which will be taken by one of our representatives. The only other item necessary will be your \$10.00 deposit, payable at the time you place your order. You may pay in full at time of ordering. Checks should be made payable to John Roberts Manufacturing Company.

Should you wish to place an order for a dinner ring, a separate order blank has been included in the ring packet for this purpose. A special order form is also supplied for the ordering of the Women's Official Ring, and additional order forms may be obtained from our representatives.

All Class Officers and all Members of the Ring Committee will be wearing ring samples. The following list gives a complete description of the ring worn by each Class Officer and Ring Committee Member.

NAME	STYLE	WEIGHT	GOLD	FINISH	STONE
Mike Giguere	Traditional Closed Back	28 DWT	Green	Medium Green	Blue Star Sapphire
Ed Babcock	Traditional Closed Back	28 DWT	Yellow	VPI Limited	AP0 Engraved on top
Phil Ward	Traditional Closed Back	28 DWT	White	Shaded Regal	Ruby-VI under stone
Steve Jamison	Traditional Closed Back	28 DWT	Green	Medium Green	Blue Spinel-Diamond set in center of stone
Tom Tillar	Traditional Closed Back	28 DWT	Green	Medium Green	Alexandrite-Diamond chip, 3 pt., set in bezel
Pat Tucker	Traditional Closed Back	28 DWT	Yellow	Royal Antique	Blue Zircon-Diamond chip
Mark Musick	Traditional Closed Back	28 DWT	Green	Medium Green	Green Zircon-Grooved cut back, SAK
John Milks	Traditional Closed Back	28 DWT	White	Shaded Regal	Blue Sapphire-ARPSi engraved on top
Bill Pope	Traditional Closed Back	28 DWT	Green	Medium Green	Emerald Spinel-Diamond chip
Jim Kilbourne	Traditional Closed Back	28 DWT	Yellow	VPI Limited	Green Zircon-Old English "K" engraved on top
Charlie Steger	Traditional Propotional Open Back	21 DWT	Yellow	VPI Limited	Genuine Garnet-Old English "S" engraved on top
Greg McGee	Traditional Closed Back	28 DWT	White	Shaded Regal	Blue Sapphire-SAK Engraved on top
Mary Ann Marshall	Women's Official Closed Back	4 DWT	Yellow	Royal Antique	Opal
Barbara Williams	Women's Official Closed Back	4 DWT	Yellow	VPI Limited	Blue Sapphire
Judy Warren	Women's Official Closed Back	4 DWT	Green	VPI Limited	Black Onyx
Wilma Miller	Women's Official Closed Back	4 DWT	White	Royal Ebony	Tourmaline
Dr. James Dean	Traditional Closed Back	28 DWT	White	Shaded Regal	Ruby
Mr. J. J. Owen	Traditional Closed Back	28 DWT	Yellow	Shaded Regal	Aquamarine-German Club emblem

### WOMEN'S DINNER RINGS

NAME	GOLD	STONE
Judy Warren	White	Ultralite
Wilma Miller	White	Aquamarine
Barbara Williams	Yellow	Blue Spinel
Mrs. J. J. Owen	Yellow	Tourmaline

## ***GUARANTEE***

The John Roberts Company guarantees all VPI Rings to be free from defects in workmanship and materials and to be of the quality described on the orders and invoices under which they are sold. Each ring will meet the exact specifications of the individual order.

### **CONDITIONS OF GUARANTEE**

1. The John Roberts Company guarantees complete satisfaction of each individual 1969 class ring. Subject to the ruling of the 1969 Ring Committee, the ring will be repaired or replaced if a student is dissatisfied.
2. Broken stones will be replaced at no cost to the student up to his date of graduation. After that time, John Roberts will charge only stone cost plus \$3.00 for re-setting.
3. The applied finish of the ring is guaranteed for life. Should repolishing become necessary, this operation will be done at a cost of \$3.00.
4. Should a student be missized, the company will manufacture an entirely new ring at no cost to the student and not merely resize the original ring.
5. All encrusting is guaranteed so long as the stone containing it is in satisfactory condition.
6. Send rings for repair to: John Roberts Manufacturing Company, Norman, Oklahoma 73069.

## ***PROPER CARE OF YOUR RING***

Your V. P. I. ring is the finest piece of jewelry you will ever own. The care and craftsmanship which has gone into its manufacture deserves the best of care.

Given proper care, your ring's detail will last forever. Please do not wear your ring while participating in any athletic events or during manual labor.

Remove your ring before washing your hands, as soap will accumulate in the recesses and detract from the detail. Soaps and detergents may also be injurious to the background and finishes. Mercury and acids are harmful to gold; so if you are handling such materials, please remove your ring.

Use a good jewelry cleaner monthly to prevent accumulations of dirt, acids, et cetera, in the recesses of the sides.

Should your ring become damaged while you are still in school, return it to John Roberts, Box 3030, Norman, Oklahoma 73069, and repairs will be made without charge. After graduation, return your ring to John Roberts and a price quotation will be sent to you if a charge is necessary.



