

1994-2000



2000-2005



2005-Present

## THE LEGACY OF THE CVAMC

The **C**ombat **V**eterans of **A**merica **M**otorcycle **C**lub was established in the fall of 1994 at the Dale City Veterans of Foreign War (VFW) Post 1503.

The founders of the CVAMC were all full members of the VFW, and have since moved onto to other phases of their lives. Each of the Charter Members of the CVAMC left behind memories and traditions that still carry on today.

The CVAMC started out as a few VFW members who shared the same passion in motorcycling and were all combat veterans. This group of riders formed a club with a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. They collected dues, held meetings, and rode in honor of all the ones who could no longer ride. They wore the VFW "Cross of Malta" as the center of their colors. The Club Colors- a single patch with a top and bottom rocker and the VFW emblem in the center – was worn on the back of a blue jean vest. Their military service, combat experience, love of motorcycles, and a desire to honor all of the ones who could no longer ride was the common bond that drew them all together. They were always together and it seemed as though they did everything together. In 1997 a single isolated incident by a former member of the CVAMC caused legal problems for the VFW and began to plague the CVAMC with negativity from the members of the VFW. This negativity temporarily ruined the reputation and good standing of the CVAMC within the VFW. Several of the members of the CVAMC decided to turn in their colors, to save the CVAMC from future troubles with the VFW. In 1997, a complete change of club officers and attitudes began to change the makeup of the CVAMC membership and it wasn't until 1999 that the CVAMC began to gain the trust of the VFW once again. The mission, goals, and objectives of the CVAMC today remain unchanged from the vision of our predecessors in 1994 and is reflected in our mission statement.



Starting in late 1998, a new era of combat veterans began embracing the VFW as a forum to share their common values and experiences with the Veterans of the earlier conflicts. Due to generational differences and the changes to the U.S. Armed forces in a post-Vietnam era, some of these new VFW members assimilated and formed bonds with older VFW members, and others did not. The ones who still felt left out decided to join the CVAMC and support its cause. It wasn't long before this new

breed of veterans started recruiting members of similar age and experiences. This is when the direction of the CVAMC began to shift.

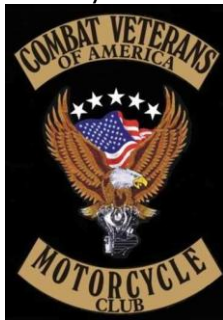
The VFW National Headquarters was informed that there was a Motorcycle Club in Virginia, wearing the VFW Cross of Malta as a center patch on their colors. Because, the VFW does not endorse, and never officially approved the wearing of VFW emblems as a part of Motorcycle Club Colors, the CVAMC was ordered by the National VFW (via the Post Commander) to remove the Cross of Malta patch from their Colors. This decision forced the CVAMC to quickly design a new center patch.

Flying a patch with a top and bottom rocker with nothing in the center, was not good and did not look good for the Club. The Eagle and Flag design was developed by a few select members of the club, voted on by the membership, and was adopted as the new center patch from 2000-2005. The club remained a single patch club.



Once the CVAMC took on it's new identity it began attracting even more members, the VFW and the community began to see a positive more productive and community-related organization. Even though the National VFW does not officially endorse Veterans Motorcycle Clubs, the Local VFW, Post 1503 does support the CVAMC, it's cause and it's overall mission. Because of this, the CVAMC was authorized the use of all facilities within the VFW, as members of the VFW. Therefore, the members began to take more active role in the VFW by volunteering for functions in and around the VFW, such as BINGO, Wings nights, Christmas Baskets, Hospital Visits..ect.. A couple of the CVAMC officers have also held officer billets on the VFW Board of Directors.

In 2003, with a new Board of Directors in place, a motion hit the floor to adopt a new style of Club Colors, with a completely new (3 piece patch) design on a black leather vest. After 18 months of drawing, designing, voting, and eventually the actual making of the patches. The hard work was coming to an end. In 2004 after months of back and forth with the Patent Lawyer, the CVAMC finally came to an agreement on the design and the Colors were officially recognized as being Trade Marked and protected by Law. *The top and bottom rockers are the club name, the Eagle represents American freedom, the five, 5 point stars represent each of the branches of military service, they are protecting the American flag, and American freedom. The eagle is holding a replica of the knuckle head style engine that was used in the first motorcycles ridden by US servicemen in war.* In 2006 The CVAMC was officially recognized by the IRS and the State Corporation Commission as a 501C Not For Profit Organization.



Currently, the CVAMC maintains a small operating budget and it's primary mission is to support Veterans Related Causes. The membership ranges from Active Duty Service men and Women, retirees, DOD Civilians, and regular citizens who believe in our cause and want to be accepted as someone who wants to support Veterans related Issues. The CVAMC's membership includes service in every U.S. war and conflict from World War II to the current War on Terror in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Horn of Africa, and other places around the world.

In early 2007 after making several visits to Virginia and riding with the CVAMC, a retired Marine Corps Veteran from Havelock NC came to a CVAMC meeting in Virginia and requested to start a Chapter in North Carolina. In December of 2007 the Eastern North Carolina (ENC) Chapter was officially recognized and Chartered as the first "sub-chapter" of the CVAMC, with 6 members. Today, the ENC Chapter's membership is above 20. Every year, a joint annual meeting, pilgrimage, and Brotherhood get-together of CVAMC members take place during the annual Rolling Thunder weekend.