



By-Laws, Veterans of Foreign Wars Riders
Group Unit
Cole Miers Riders

Cole Miers VFW Post 3619

Deridder, Louisiana

31 May 2018

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1. CHARTER Granted 30 March 2018

1.1. The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Riders Charter statement is a standalone document as approved by the VFW and it reads as follows:

Statement of Policy

VFW National Bylaws, Sec. 709

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States shall not be responsible for the negligent or wrongful acts or omissions nor the contractual obligations or debts of any Post, County Council, District or Department nor for the negligent or wrongful acts or omissions or contractual obligations or debts of any activity, clubroom, holding company or unit sponsored, conducted or operated by, for or on behalf of any Post, County Council, District or Department. Any activity, clubroom, holding company or unit sponsored, conducted or operated by, for or in behalf of a Post, County Council, District or Department shall be at all times under the direct control of such Post, County Council, District or Department and all funds derived there from shall be at all times under the direct control of such Post, County Council, District or Department.

All money, property or assets of any kind or nature, as well as all books and records, owned, held or used by any activity, clubroom, holding company or unit sponsored, conducted or operated by, for or on behalf of a Post, County Council, District or Department shall be the property of such Post, County Council, District or Department and must be placed in the care and custody of the respective Quartermaster. Such money, property, assets, books and records shall be subject to the same rules and under the same procedure as any other Post, County Council, District or Department money, property, assets, books and records.

1.2. The VFW Riders Charter can only be changed, modified, or revoked by the VFW general membership by $\frac{2}{3}$ Vote at a regular or special meeting.

1.3 Department: To maintain Charter The VFW Riders Group must have at least two Members in good standing with both the VFW and The VFW Riders Group.

2. BY-LAWS.

2.1. The Post 3619 VFW Riders Group (VFWRG) is a committee made up of VFW members, VFW Auxiliary members and VFW supporters in good standing organized under VFW Post 3619, who enjoy motorcycle riding and support Veteran

services.

2.2. We are a family-oriented VFW Riders Group. Distinction of class, nationality, or gender will not be tolerated within or by our organization. Our members act in good faith with other members and uphold the traditions of the VFW. We self-govern under the supervision of our local post, Cole Miers VFW Post 3619, and we follow the by-laws of VFW Post 3619 and the VFW. We support the Armed Forces of the United States and the Commander in Chief of the United States.

2.3. Our members come from all lifestyles, and they or their family members have served honorably in the Armed Forces of the United States in various conflicts.

2.4. The State Commander may suspend the activities of any VFWRG for the good of the organization.

2.5. In order to dissolve a post/district Rider Group, the post/district must have a 2/3 vote on the post/district floor at a regular meeting. If dissolved, all VFWRG designated funds will revert to the post/district general fund, and all former VFWRG members will be advised not to wear Post 3619 VFWRG distinctive clothing.

3. PURPOSE.

The purpose of the VFWRG is to support the VFW and the VFW National Home by promoting public awareness of its programs through community service and participation in Veteran's service events in our community. We will promote Veteran's service with an active membership and provide a positive model for motorcyclists and veterans alike.

4. GOALS.

4.1. Develop and maintain a strong active membership.

4.2. Promote the values of the VFW.

4.3. Promote vibrant service to our nation's veterans through VFW programs.

- 4.4. Promote a positive public image of the VFW and motorcyclists.
- 4.5. Promote the value of community service.
- 4.6. Promote and encourage motorcycle safety programs and awareness.
- 4.7. Develop an active and diversified list of activities designed to encourage maximum member participation and enjoyment of the VFW and the VFWRG and support VFW Post 3619 Service Programs.

5. ORGANIZATION.

- 5.1. The VFW Riders are composed of a body of general members and an oversight committee.
- 5.2. The VFW Riders Committee will be comprised of the President: Elected, Vice President: Elected, Secretary: Appointed, Treasurer: Ex-Officio (VFW Post 3619 Quartermaster), Sergeant at Arms: Elected, Chaplain: Appointed, Road Captain: Elected, Tailgunner: Appointed by the current Road Captain).

6. VFW RIDERS COMMITTEE OFFICERS.

- 6.1. VFW Riders Committee Members are elected/appointed by the Cole-Miers Post 3619 Riders annually in April. No Cole-Miers Post 3619 Rider will self-appoint him or herself to a committee position.
- 6.2. The President, Vice President and Road Captain must have a minimum of two years safe vehicle and motorcycle operator's experience for the two years prior to taking the position.
- 6.3. **If a VFW Riders Committee Member misses two consecutive meetings unexcused, the Vice President will contact the absent elected person about the absences.**
- 6.4. **If a VFW Riders Committee Member misses three consecutive meetings unexcused, their position may be considered vacated, and with the advice and consent of the VFW Riders Committee, a replacement is appointed or elected to fill the position**
- 6.5. A VFW Riders Committee Member may be removed from the VFW Riders

Committee only by the VFW Post 3619 Commander after a 2/3 vote of "No Confidence" by the VFWRG Committee.

6.6. The responsibilities of the VFW Riders Committee are as follows:

6.6.1. The VFW Riders Committee meets at the discretion of the President.

6.6.2. Considers and drafts organization policy and guidance to be presented to the VFW Riders general membership for discussion and resolution.

6.6.3. The VFW Riders Committee is limited to \$200.00 discretionary monthly, as authorized by the Commander, in both spending and purchasing with VFW Post funds. If over \$200.00, they must obtain prior approval by a VFW Post 3619 vote at a general membership meeting.

6.6.4. Other organizational members may be invited to the VFW Riders Committee meetings to discuss special interest topics.

6.6.5. Funds raised by the VFW Riders Group including dues will be dispersed at the discretion of the Committee.

6.7. President: Elected

6.7.1. Must be a member in good standing of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and a member of the sponsoring unit, VFW Post 3619.

6.7.2. The duties of the President are as follows:

6.7.2.A. Presiding officer of all VFWRG meetings. The President will act as a liaison between the VFWRG and the sponsoring unit and community organizations. The President will request, from the VFWRG, approval for all events and expenditures of VFWRG dedicated funds. The President will give a monthly report of the unit's activities.

6.7.2.B. The President keeps the Riders organized.

6.7.2.C. The President ensures that VFW Rider business is carried out efficiently, effectively and honorably.

6.7.2.D. The President oversees the audit and use of all organizational

funds, those raised by the organization, as well as those funded by our sponsoring post, VFW Post 3619.

6.7.2.E. If needed, the President, with the approval of the VFW Riders Committee, appoints a subcommittee Chairperson for special projects/functions.

6.7.2.E. Commander has a tie breaking vote.

6.8. Vice President Elected:

6.8.1. Must be a member in good standing of the Veterans of Foreign Wars or Auxiliary Amendment 6.8.1 / 6.8.3 Passed 10/26 and a member of the sponsoring unit, VFW Post 3619.

6.8.2. The duties of the Vice President are as follows:

6.8.2.A. Will perform the duties as presiding officer in absence of the President. Assist in the planning of VFWRG events. Coordinates the flow of information provided to VFWRG members and advises the President of concerns of VFWRG members.

6.8.2.B. The Vice President is responsible for recruiting, advertising and public affairs of the VFWRG.

6.8.2.C. The Vice President performs other duties as assigned by the President.

6.8.3. In the event that the President resigns or is removed prior to the completion of his term in office, with the Vice President being an Auxiliary Member, The Vice President will only assume the office of President Pro-tempore until a special election can be held at regular or special meeting, called for the purpose of nominating and elected a new eligible President.

6.9. Secretary: Appointed:

6.9.1. Must be a member in good standing of the Veterans of Foreign Wars or

Auxiliary.

6.9.2. The duties of the Secretary are as follows:

6.9.2.A. Responsible for keeping all VFWRG written reports, records and correspondences between organizations.

6.9.2.B. Will maintain all applications and Waiver of Liability forms.

6.9.2.C. Will call role at VFWRG meetings and is responsible for recording the meeting minutes and disseminating the minutes to all VFWRG members.

6.9.2.D. Will maintain a calendar of events for the VFWRG.

6.9.2.E. Will notify all members of special meeting times and dates other than the normally scheduled meetings.

6.9.2.F. Will maintain the Bylaws of the VFWRG noting any changes as voted on and approved by the VFWRG Committee.

6.9.2.G. Will handle all organizational correspondence.

6.9.2.H. The Secretary performs other duties as assigned by the President.

6.9.2.I. The Secretary is responsible for providing all pertinent and required information to the VFW Post 3619 Historian for historical documentation.

6.9.2.J. The Secretary maintains a current list of organization members, addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses.

6.9.2.K. The Secretary also maintains all membership applications, Consent, Waiver and Release from Liability forms, and Emergency Notification Information forms.

6.9.2.L. In coordination with Post 3619 Secretary, creates certificates of appreciation for businesses, organizations, and individuals that provide support for Post 3619 VFWRG events.

6.10. Treasurer: Ex-Officio:

6.10.1. Held by the sponsoring unit Quartermaster or their authorized

representative in accordance with VFW Bylaws,

6.10.2. The duties of the Treasurer are as follows:

6.10.2.A. Maintains financial records of the VFWRG.

6.10.2.B. Collects monies from all fundraising events and coordinates deposits & disbursement of funds. Funds will be disbursed for the purpose they were intended only, and designated for by the VFWRG.

6.10.2.C. Shall give a detailed report of all receipts and disbursement of funds at all VFWRG meetings.

6.10.2.D. Shall provide a financial report to the sponsoring unit upon request.

6.10.2.E. Is responsible for collecting funds for the members back patch \$40 and maintaining all the VFWRG patches that are un-issued as well as a record of the patches each member has in their possession.

6.10.2.F. Collects all VFWRG dues from the VFWRG members, Annual dues shall be set at \$25.00, Collected in April of each year.

Amendment 6.10.2.F Passed 8/2021 or a Life membership may be purchased for \$250.00, after being a Member in good standing for at least 2 years.

6.11. Road Captain: Elected

6.11.1. Open to any member in good standing of the VFWRG that meets criteria as ride leader, capable of executing rides and functions pertaining to the VFWRG.

6.11.2. The duties of the Road Captain are as follows:

6.11.2.A. Responsible for route planning and if needed the coordination of support vehicles for events. When on an event, they are the ranking officer if the President and Vice-President are not present and therefore leads the VFWRG formation on the ride.

6.11.2.B. If the President is on the ride, the Road Captain rides at the front of the group with the President. The Road Captain will give a pre-ride safety briefing to all participants on the event including Support

Vehicle drivers and passengers.

6.11.2.C. The Road Captain will capture and record event mileage and hours of all participants involved in VFWRG riding events and provide data to the Secretary.

6.11.2.D. Road Captain will be responsible for maintaining a SOP Document/Book for Group rides pertaining to our TTP for Formations, Hand & Arm signals, Blocking procedures, Break downs, and After Ride Reviews, ect.

This document will be provided to new members prior to acceptance to the VFWRG.

6.12. Chaplain: Appointed

6.12.1. Open to any member in good standing of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary or participant of VFWRG.

6.12.2. Duties: Provides spiritual guidance to VFWRG members.

6.13. Sergeant at Arms: Elected Amendment Passed 4/2020

6.13.1. Must be a member in good standing of the Veterans of Foreign Wars or Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary.

6.13.2. Duties: Makes certain to uphold rules of the VFWRG and keeps order at all meetings and events. Reports action of its members, who do not conform to rules of VFWRG or its sponsoring unit to the President.

6.13.3. Shall be the custodian of the Organizational Guidon

6.13.4. Conduct Meetings in absence of President/Vice President.

6.14. TailGunner: Appointed (by current Road Captain)

6.14.1. Typically 2 Appointed, Open to any member in good standing of the VFWRG that meets criteria as junior ride leaders, capable of executing rides and functions pertaining to the VFWRG.

6.14.2. The duties of the Tailgunner are as follows:

6.14.2.A The Tail Gunners assists the Road Captain on all runs. They

ride at the very rear of the motorcycle formation and enforce all safety rules of the ride.

6.14.2.B If any member in the ride should have mechanical difficulties or crashes for any reason, the Tail Gunner assists them in making repairs to the bike or if need be, calls a tow truck to pick it up.

6.14.2.C The Tail Gunner is second in command to the Road Captain on Rides and assumes his responsibilities on a run if he is not available. A Tail Gunner provides eyes in the rear of the formation and usually carries a first aid kit in case it is needed on a run.

6.14.2.D He is responsible for carrying a tool kit in order to perform any mechanical repairs on motorcycles while on the road. He rides in an area so that motorists can see the formation of the entire Riders Group and is observant of rider's conduct or road hazards that need reporting to the Road Captain when it is safe to do so.

6.14.2.E When the group is on a run and is getting ready to make a lane change, the TailGunner changes lanes first, then the Road Captain in the front, followed by the group. This keeps the group in its formation and allows them all to change lanes safely and together so motorists do not split the group up.

6.15. Subcommittees:

6.15.1. As needed, the President, with the approval of the VFW Riders Committee, appoints a subcommittee chairperson(s) for special projects/functions.

6.15.1.A. The subcommittee chairperson appoints subcommittee members as needed. The President & Treasurer are members of all subcommittees by virtue of Position.

6.15.1.B. The subcommittee chairperson is responsible for recording and reporting the minutes of all subcommittee meetings.

6.15.1.C. The subcommittees plan, organize, and conduct business

only related to the special project or function for which the subcommittee was formed.

7. MEETINGS: Cole-Miers Post 3619 VFWRG will hold a regularly scheduled meeting on the last Tuesday of each month @1830.

7.1 SPECIAL MEETING

7.1A. A Special meeting may be called by the President or by a recognized quorum of VFWRG Members given 48 hours notice to members and a special agenda is specified.

8. UNIFORM

8.1 VFWRG Back Patch

8.1.A. All VFWRG Back Patches shall be approved by the Commander-in-Chief and consistent with the requirements of the VFW.

8.1.B. At no time will the VFWRG utilize a 3-Piece Patch design, nor display patches identifying the group as a "MC". In addition, the use of rockers, or appearance thereof is deemed unacceptable.

8.1.C. The VFWRG Back Patch may be worn by all VFWRG members and participants in good standing when approval is obtained consistent with the requirements of the VFW. Each Back Patch may contain the VFW logo, emblem, name, or other protected mark (or VFW Auxiliary logo for Auxiliary members, if so adopted.) All invited participants wearing the back patch utilizing the VFW logo must carry the designation "supporter" within or just below the patch.

8.1.D. VFWRG approved Back Patches will be the only large patch to be worn on the back of jackets or vests to identify a unit.

8.1.E. The VFWRG Back Patch and other related articles of clothing incorporating the VFW logo, emblem, name, or other protected mark must be worn in a manner consistent with the VFW requirements.

8.1.F. The VFWRG reserves the right to revoke authorization granted to a VFWRG member or participant, to wear or display any VFW logo, emblem, name, or other protected mark.

9. DRESS

9.1 The VFWRG is a representation of the VFW, and as such, members shall dress in a manner that promotes a positive image of the VFW, particularly when operating in group activities or interacting with the community.

9.2. No patches with profanity, depicting acts of a sexual nature, or otherwise not within the keeping of the standards set forth by the VFW will be worn.

10. GENERAL CONDUCT

10.1. VFWRG members and participants will conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the values and mission of the VFWRG and of the VFW.

10.2. VFWRG members and participants may be dismissed from a meeting or activity/ride because of inappropriate behavior.

10.3. VFWRG members and participants are responsible for the actions of their guests at a VFWRG event. Actions of a guest of the member or participant can be grounds for dismissal of the guest and/or the VFWRG member and participant at the event.

11. REPORTING

11.1 VFWRG's shall make a monthly report to its sponsoring unit.

11.2 VFWRG's will report annually to National VFWRG Advisory Committee:

11.2.A. A full accounting of VFWRG members and participants to include VFW Members, VFW Auxiliary Members, invited participants and activity (which should include the number of VFWRG events, mileage, and hours). An accounting of funds raised and disbursed by the VFWRG for the year.

12. WAIVERS AND LIABILITY

12.1. All VFWRG members and participants will complete a yearly membership application. This application will include verbiage outlining a release of liability which will be signed by the individual, or guardian thereto. The yearly application will include language indicating the member carries liability insurance for themselves if a rider, which also implies that their passengers are covered by the minimum state, city, and or local requirements. Those individuals not meeting the criteria to sign a yearly waiver as a legal adult will be required to have a parent/legal guardian sign for that individual.

The application and release will include, to the fullest extent permitted by law, language that requires the VFWRG to indemnify and hold the Post, District, County Council, Department, and National VFW, and the officers and employees of each, harmless from any and all claims arising from or in connection with (i) the conduct or management of the VFWRG; (ii) any act, omission, or negligence of the VFWRG or any VFWRG member or participant; (iii) any accident, injury, or

damage whatsoever occurring during or related to any VFWRG event. This application and release shall be retained by the sponsoring unit for seven (7) years.

12.2. Ride activities by the sponsoring unit will be required to have liability release waivers for each participant outside of the VFWRG, regardless of age or status, if those individuals will be participating in or on a motor vehicle for the event.

12.3. Waivers and liability release forms will comply with the National Policy as well as guidelines from the American Motorcycle Association (AMA).

12.4. Sponsoring units will be required to have proof of general liability insurance to protect such units and must name, as additional insureds, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and the Department in which the sponsoring unit is located.

13. GENERAL RULES

13.1. Roberts Rule of Order and Procedures govern all VFW Riders meetings.

13.2. A quorum shall consist of five voting members in good standing, present at a regular or special meeting.

13.3. The President shall have the authority to make day-to-day decisions concerning the operations of the organization and report those decisions to the general membership of the Riders Group.

13.4. The VFWRG shall not discriminate against any person based on race, religion, gender, class or sexual orientation.

13.5 Fundraising Per Post Bylaws:

The VFWRG is a SubGroup of VFW Post 3619 and by prior $\frac{2}{3}$ Vote of the Membership floor at a regular meeting to adopt or amend a Post Bylaw has been authorized to conduct fundraising as announced on fliers during scheduled meetings or in the minutes to support VFW National Programs and the members of the VFWRG.

14. ADMITTANCE INTO THE VFW RIDERS.

14.1. Upon completing a membership application, a person interested in joining the VFW Riders becomes an applicant.

14.2. An applicant is placed in a pending membership status until completion of the following:

14.2.A. The applicant must possess a valid motorcycle license.

14.2.B. The applicant must be properly insured.

14.2.C. The applicant must attend one organization meeting in a 3 month period.

14.2.D. The applicant must receive a briefing, & copy of the SOP on organization riding rules by the Road Captain.

14.2.E. The applicant must be a member in good standing of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Auxiliaries or be approved as a Supporter.

14.2.F. The applicant must attend an organizational ride of sufficient length for the Road Captain to assess the applicant's motorcycling abilities.

14.2.G. The applicant must observe all VFW Riders rules and regulations while attending organizational meetings.

14.2.H. The applicant must abide by all VFW Riders' Organization riding rules while riding with members.

14.2.I. The applicant is responsible for purchasing his or her Vest.

14.2.J. Must sign a waiver of liability and Emergency Notification form on being admitted into the VFW Riders, to be kept on file for the lifetime of the membership and updated annually.

14.2.K. Possess a Motorcycle of at least 500CC capable of maintaining the fastest posted speed limit in the state of 75 mph.

15. VFW RIDER SUPPORTERS

15.1. VFW Rider Supporters are authorized in Post 3619 VFW Riders Group (VFWRG). Such supporter classification does not constitute membership in the VFW or any of its auxiliaries nor come with the promise of any material,

financial, or political benefit to the Post 3619 VFWRG, its members or committees; nor to any other member at any other organizational level within the VFW; nor there be any similar gains for the honoree through the conferring of "Supporter" status; but is intended to provide recognition to those who show strong support to the VFWRG programs and events.

15.1.A. VFW Riders Supporters will wear organizational Colors for all VFW Riders activities.

15.1.B. The colors are the property of the individual VFW Rider Supporter, if the member becomes unable to ride/own a motorcycle, but he/she continues to participate in organizational events they may continue to wear the Organizational Colors.

15.1.C. Organizational Colors are to be provided to the VFW Riders Supporter by the Sponsoring Unit. The Treasurer is the point of contact to obtain the Organizational Colors.

15.1.D. VFW Riders Supporters will follow the patch placement instructions in paragraph 12.

15.2. To be a Post 3619 VFWRG Supporter, the person will be invited to participate by the VFWRG Committee. Prospective supporters who plan to participate by operating a motorcycle must, without exception, present to the Road Captain & Secretary proof of insurance, proof of license, and complete the waiver to hold harmless. Any supporter who will be a passenger on a motorcycle must also complete the waiver to hold harmless. The Ride Chair will turn in all Supporter names to the Post 3619 Adjutant, who will maintain a list of all VFWRG unit supporters.

15.3. Rider Supporters can be from any location. They do not gain any physical privileges from being a Rider Supporter, to include automatic entry into a canteen (such as a Men's Auxiliary member has). They could, however, be admitted to a canteen as a guest of an actual rider (who must be a comrade/sister/brother). They do not receive a Vote in VFWRG meetings unless holding a position on the VFWRG Committee, but do have the right to

speak and have the floor.

15.4. All Supporters eligible for membership in the VFW or one of its Auxiliaries must become members in good standing, and then become an actual VFWRG member.

16. ORGANIZATIONAL COLORS.

16.1. VFW Riders Members will wear organizational Colors for all VFW Riders activities.

16.2. The colors are the property of the individual VFW Rider, if the member becomes unable to ride/own a motorcycle, but he/she continues to participate in organizational events they may continue to wear the Organizational Colors.

16.3 Organizational Colors are defined as: Vest W/Back Patch or Soft Colors shirt with Patch Logo.

17. NAME TAGS / IDENTIFICATION TAGS.

VFW Post 3619 is named after two local WWI veterans who were killed in action on the same day, almost 100 years ago prior to the start of Cole-Miers Riders, though assigned to different units. Cpl. Murphy J. Cole was assigned to Company H, 23rd Infantry, 2nd Infantry Division. He died as the result of a direct hit by an artillery round on July 18, 1918. His body was not recovered. Cpl. Frank Miers was assigned to Company E, 28th Infantry, 1st Infantry Division. He died while advancing against the enemy and was initially buried in France before being returned home in 1921.

17.1. All name tags/identification tags will be standardized in size (4x1.25") with a Black background, Black Border and Gold Text with U.S. Army Stencil Font; and will be worn on a vest in accordance with paragraph 18. (All Name Tapes, Flags, and Duty Tags currently Purchased through Tropicoolaccents.com)

17.1.A. All designated *C.M. Riders First 18* members will be issued an identification tag in black lettering and gold border with white background

distinguishing them as a *First 18* Member.

Both CPL Cole and CPL Miers were both KIA on the 18th of July of 1918 shall Denote the sacrifice and selfless service of our First 18 Rider Group Members in Honor of our Sponsoring Posts Namesake and these Amazing Men who made the Ultimate Sacrifice.

17.1.B. All members not designated as the *First 18* member will not be issued a *First 18* identification tag; however, their name tags/identification tags will also be in gold lettering and black border with black background.

17.2. Members can wear name tags/identification tags for the following:

17.2.A. *C.M. Riders First 18* identification tag.

17.2.B. US Flag Reversed W/ VFW Riders identification tag

17.2.C. Duty position identification tag.

17.2.D. Nametag (road name/nickname).

17.2.E. Post, District, Department Positions (Denoted as; 3619 SR VICE CMDR, DIST. 5 QM, State CMDR)

18. RIDER VESTS

History shows that the Cross of Malta, the emblem of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, is 1,000 years old. Nearly ten centuries ago, the Maltese Cross was made the symbol of fighting men who were united by a solemn pledge of comradeship to fight for freedom and to aid the sick and the needy. Those ancient obligations are still symbolized by the Cross of Malta today for two million former servicemen who are the VFW. The Cross of Malta is the symbol of their battles in time of war and of their campaign to defend the God-given rights of human beings in time of peace. The Cross of Malta symbolizes the compassion, or sympathy, of those men and women for the needy. It is the sign of services, which our contemporary veterans render to help make living better for everyone.

18.1. All VFW Riders are authorized to wear a vest at the wearer's expense.

18.2. Organizational Colors will be worn on the back of the vest, and purchased by the RG Member through the Sponsoring Post.

18.3. The primary patches that may be worn on the back of the vest are Department of Defense authorized unit patches

18.3.A. Members Rank at Retirement or Discharge. (Lower Right Flank)

18.3.B. Combat Action ribbon or Badge. and/or Special Qualification Identifiers(Ranger, Sapper, SF, Recon, ECT)
(Above Organizational Colors; Subdued Preferred)

18.3.C. 100% Vet Patch (Lower Left Corner as not to be confused with any 1% patch

18.3.D. Small, and Tasteful Morale Patches that don't contain profanity or Nudity.

18.4. On the front of the vest, a [reversed or Combat U.S. Flag](#) will be worn on the upper Right breast of the vest, with VFR Riders Signifying we are Combat Veterans.

18.4.A. Combat or Service Medals/ Ribbons may be worn directly below the U.S. Flag, followed by Identification tags and they will be worn in the following precedence:

18.4.A.1. VFW Riders identification tag. Right Side.

18.4.A.2. C.M. Riders First 18 identification tag (if authorized). Right Side.

18.4.A.3. A nametag (nickname) may be worn on the Left breast of the vest. Below POW/MIA Patch.

18.4.B. Duty position identification tag. Duty position tags may only be worn in this fashion by the incumbent.

Amendment 18.4.B1 Passed 8/2021: Past Duty Positions held may be sewn on & worn ONLY on the inside of your Vest.

18.4.C. Post, District, Department Positions (Denoted as; 3619 SR VICE CMDR, DIST. 5 QM, State CMDR)

18.4.D. **2.5"x3" Pow/[MIA Patch](#)** upper Left Corner of Vest.

18.4.E. Overseas Deployment or In Memoriam Patches(as designed) can be placed on the Lower Right of the vest and Rear Left Flank.

18.4.F. Ride Patches may go anywhere as long as it looks organized.

18.5. Other patches can be worn on the front and back of the vest, which do not interfere with the patches listed above. Other patches must be in good order and taste and do not distract from the good order and discipline of the VFW Riders.

19. MEETING AGENDA.

| | |
|---|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;">Composition/Attendees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presiding: President • Riders Committee Vice President Ride Captain Secretary Treasurer • Special Guest(s) | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Inputs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes of Last Meeting • Introduction of New Topics • Short Range Calendar • Long Range Calendar • Membership Report • Financial Report |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Agenda</u></p> <p>Opening of Meeting-President Pledge-President Minutes from last meeting-Secretary Overview of the Inputs/Outputs-President Introduction of New Topics-President Short Range/Calendar (1 Month)-President Long Range/Calendar (3 Months)-President Upcoming Ride/Event Coordination-President Membership Report Vice President Financial Report-Treasurer Open Floor Discussion-President Closing of Meeting-President</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Outputs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To Be Decided Prior To Each Meeting |

20. VFW RIDERS EVENT SUPPORT REPORT.

20.1. The President must report the Riders activities once each year. Documentation of the Riders efforts is the thing that ensures the VFW's reputation and our not-for-profit status. Information required is shown below:

| DATE | EVENT | # OF RIDERS | MILES | TOTAL MILES | HOURS | TOTAL HOURS | EXPENSES | FUNDS RAISED | FUNDS DONATED |
|------|-------|-------------|-------|-------------|-------|-------------|----------|--------------|---------------|
|------|-------|-------------|-------|-------------|-------|-------------|----------|--------------|---------------|

20.2. The above information is submitted monthly by the Secretary to the Post Community Service Chairman or Reported by the individual Member.

20.3. The Post Community Service Chairman is required to submit a monthly report to State and Annual Report to National. **VFW Members may report VFWRG Activity at the [Department Website](#), Members Only Section (Login is Member Number/ Password is Last name all lowercase) Program Reporting, Select VFW Riders and Program activity type.**

21. LIABILITY WAIVER.

21.1. The waiver absolves the VFWRG Organization, VFW Post 3619, and the VFW of all and/or any liability claims of damage and/or injury.

21.2. All members will sign a Liability Waiver when they join and update it annually as needed.

21.3. All guests must sign a waiver before all rides.

22. DEFINITIONS.

22.1. An announced motorcycle function is defined as a motorcycle function that has been announced to all organization members and at least three members of the VFW Riders are present and wearing Organizational Colors.

22.2. A *C.M. Riders 1st 18* members are defined as one of the First 18 Riding members that joined the VFW Riders of VFW Post 3619 and participated in the establishment of the new VFW Riders chapter.

22.3. A guest is defined as a person or persons accompanying the VFW Riders on an event and that person(s) is not a member of the organization.

23. AMENDMENTS.

6.13. Sergeant at Arms: From Appointed to Elected Amendment Passed 4/2020

18.4.B1 Passed 8/2021: Past Duty Positions held may be sewn on & worn ONLY on the inside of your Vest.

6.10.2.F Passed 8/2021 or a Life membership may be purchased for \$250.00.

6.8.1. Must be a member in good standing of the Veterans of Foreign Wars or Auxiliary Amendment 6.8.1 / 6.8.3 Passed 10/26 and a member of the sponsoring unit, VFW Post 3619

24. FORMS.

24.1. VFWRG Activity Report found at Appendix 1.

24.2. VFWRG Application found at Appendix 2.

24.3 VFWRG Liability Release Form found at Appendix 3.

APPROVAL, ADOPTION, and ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.

The undersigned verifies that this document is in accordance with the latest VFW National Riders Groups Statement of Policy effective 20 December 2017. This document was approved by at least a quorum of Veterans of Foreign Wars Riders & Cole Miers VFW Post 3619 members. Thus, this document takes effect upon the date of the last signature.

President

Printed Name

Date

Vice President

Printed Name

Date

APPENDIX 2 VFWRG APPLICATION

**Veterans of Foreign Wars
MOTORCYCLE RIDERS (MCR)**
MEMBERSHIP (PARTICIPANT) APPLICATION

PREREQUISITE
You must be the legally registered owner of a street-legal motorcycle (operator's license in your state of residence, and maintain proper levels of volunteering on behalf of the group in an active supporting role.
You must be a member in good standing of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) of the United States.

RIDERS GROUP INFORMATION
SELECT ONLY ONE
 POST DISTRICT DEPARTMENT _____

APPLICATION TYPE
SELECT ONLY ONE
 RIDER (OPERATOR) PASSENGER NON-RIDING

PERSONAL INFORMATION

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| NAME (PLEASE PRINT) _____ | STREET _____ |
| PHONE _____ | CITY _____ |
| EMAIL ADDRESS _____ | DATE OF BIRTH _____ |

VFW or VFW AUXILIARY MEMBER, MEMBERSHIP # _____
 LIFE MEMBER ANNUAL MEMBER Expires _____

INVITED PARTICIPANT _____
SPONSOR (VFW or AUXILIARY MEMBER)

*****THIS IS A RELEASE OF LIABILITY FOR THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS (VFW) OF THE UNITED STATES, THE (VFWRG) UNIT SPONSORED BY ANY POST, DISTRICT, OR DEPARTMENT OF THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS (VFW) OF THE UNITED STATES, AND AGENTS (HEREINAFTER, THE "RELEASED PARTIES") SHALL NOT BE LIABLE OR RESPONSIBLE TO MY PROPERTY OCCURRING DURING ANY VFW OR VFWRG UNIT ACTIVITIES AND RESIDENTIAL DUTIES OF THE RELEASED PARTIES, EVEN WHERE THE DAMAGE OR INJURY IS CAUSED BY VFWRG MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS PARTICIPATE VOLUNTARILY AND AT THEIR OWN RISK AND DAMAGE ARISING OUT OF THE CONDUCT OF SUCH ACTIVITIES. I RELEASE AND HOLD HARMLESS THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS (VFW) OF THE UNITED STATES, THE (VFWRG) UNIT SPONSORED BY ANY POST, DISTRICT, OR DEPARTMENT OF THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS (VFW) OF THE UNITED STATES, AND AGENTS (HEREINAFTER, THE "RELEASED PARTIES") FROM AND AGAINST ALL LIABILITY, DAMAGES, LOSSES, AND EXPENSES, INCLUDING REASONABLE ATTORNEY'S FEES, THAT I AGREE NOT TO SUE OR BRING ANY LEGAL ACTION AGAINST THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS (VFW) OF THE UNITED STATES, THE (VFWRG) UNIT SPONSORED BY ANY POST, DISTRICT, OR DEPARTMENT OF THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS (VFW) OF THE UNITED STATES, AND AGENTS (HEREINAFTER, THE "RELEASED PARTIES") RESULTING DAMAGE TO MYSELF OR MY PROPERTY ARISING FROM MY PARTICIPATION IN THEIR RIDER GROUP DUTIES IN SPONSORING, PLANNING OR CONDUCTING ANY VFW OR VFWRG UNIT ACTIVITIES.**

WAIVER OF RIGHTS UNDER STATE STATUTE

I further agree to waive all benefits flowing from any state statute that would be applicable to me by signing this Release. I certify that I have read this Release and fully understand its terms and conditions. I agree to be bound by the terms and conditions of this Release and the "RELEASED PARTIES".

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

RIDER (OPERATOR) ONLY

MOTORCYCLE: _____
MAKE _____ MODEL _____

DRIVER'S LICENSE: _____
NUMBER _____ STATE _____

INSURANCE CARRIER: _____

Print Form

APPENDIX 3 VFWRG RELEASE OF LIABILITY

**Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States
MOTORCYCLE RIDERS GROUPS (VFWRG)
Release and Waiver of Liability and Indemnity Agreement**

The undersigned (on my own behalf and on behalf of my heirs, personal representatives, successors and assigns), for and in consideration of the opportunity to participate in VFWRG activities (hereinafter, **EVENT(S)**) sponsored and/or conducted by the VFW Riders Group and their respective officers, directors, employees and agents, HEREBY RELEASES, WAIVES, DISCHARGES, COVENANTS NOT TO SUE and HOLDS HARMLESS the VFWRG, the VFW Post, District, County Council, Department, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, and the respective officers, directors, management, members, volunteers and employees of each (hereafter, the **"RELEASED PARTIES"**) from any and all claims arising from or in connection with: (i) the conduct or management of the VFWRG or EVENT; (ii) any act, omission, or negligence of the VFWRG or any VFWRG member or participant; (iii) any accident, injury, or damage whatsoever occurring during or related to any EVENT. The undersigned understands and acknowledges that a participant may incur personal or bodily damage while participating in these activities, and assumes all risks inherent in these activities and accepts full and complete responsibility for any and all damages or injury of any kind.

This Release extends to any and all claims I have or later may have against the **"RELEASED PARTIES"** resulting from or arising out of the performance of their duties whether or not such claims result from negligence (except willful neglect) with respect to the EVENT(S) or with respect to the conditions, qualifications, instructions, rules or procedures under which the EVENT(S) are conducted or from any other cause. I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS MEANS THAT I AGREE NOT TO SUE OR BRING ANY CLAIMS WHATSOEVER AGAINST ANY OR ALL OF THE **"RELEASED PARTIES"** FOR ANY INJURY RESULTING TO MYSELF OR MY PROPERTY ARISING FROM, OR IN CONNECTION WITH THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR DUTIES.

I am experienced in and familiar with the operation of motorcycles and fully understand the risks and dangers inherent in motorcycling. I am voluntarily participating in the EVENT(S) and I expressly agree to assume the entire risk of any accidents or personal injury, including death, which I might sustain to my person and property as a result of my participation in the events, and any negligence (except willful neglect) on the part of any or all of the **"RELEASED PARTIES"** in performing their rider group duties.

WAIVER OF RIGHTS UNDER STATE STATUTES
I further agree to waive all benefits flowing from my state statute which would negate or limit the scope of this release and Indemnification Agreement, including but not limited to Section 1542 of the California Civil Code which provides:

"A general release does not extend to the claims which the creditor does not know or suspect to exist in his favor at the time of executing this release, which if known to him must have materially affected his settlement with the debtor."

By signing this Release, I certify that I have read this Release and fully understand it and that I am not relying on any statements or representations made by the **"RELEASED PARTIES."**

THIS IS A RELEASE - READ BEFORE SIGNING

Rider/Passenger (Minors must have a parent/guardian signature attached)

| | | | |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------|
| EVENT | | EVENT LOCATION | |
| CHECK ONE: <input type="checkbox"/> RIDER (OPERATOR) <input type="checkbox"/> PASSENGER | | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PASSENGER (MINOR CHILD) requires parent/guardian signature | | | |
| NAME (PLEASE PRINT) | STREET ADDRESS | | |
| PHONE | CITY | STATE | ZIP CODE |
| SIGNATURE | DATE | EMAIL ADDRESS | |

[Print Form](#)

LAST REVISED_20171220



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

www.vfw.org | info@vfw.org

May 30, 2018

Shane Fowler, President
VFW Riders, Post 3619
1817 Jack Nelson Rd
DeRidder, LA 70634-6547

Dear Shane,

Thank you for registering your VFW Riders Group. The application is in compliance with the VFW Riders Groups National Policy. This policy enforces compliance of Section 709 of the National By-Laws which must be adhered to as well as any rules or regulations adopted by the individual Riders Group.

VFW logos and trademarks are protected under federal statute and sections 803 and 805 of the National By-laws. Please understand that approval to use any VFW related patch is a nonexclusive, nontransferable, limited license that is subject to revocation by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S., with written notification to you. The manufacturing and sale of the patch is handled exclusively through the VFW Store. To order the desired patch, you may contact VFW Store, Customer Service Supervisor, Melodi Dailey at 816-968-1172.

A copy of your approved application and conditional patch design has been retained for our files, another forwarded to your Department Headquarters and VFW Store.

Respectfully,

Zach Schwenk
Associate Director, Administrative Operations
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

Enc: Application
Patch Design
Cc: Department Adjutant
VFW Store

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS

National Headquarters | 406 W. 34th Street | Kansas City, MO 64111 | 1.816.756.3390 | Fax: 816.968.1157
Washington D.C. Office | VFW Memorial Bldg. | 200 Maryland Ave. N.E. | Washington, D.C. 20002 | 1.202.543.2239 | Fax: 202.543.6100

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States
MOTORCYCLE RIDERS GROUPS (VFWRG)

By-Laws, Veterans of Foreign Wars Riders, VFW 3619, DeRidder, Louisiana



