MISSION

Our mission is to support and defend those who have defended our country and our freedoms. Our focus is to help veteran care facilities provide a warm meal, clothing, shelter, and guidance, or simply to say "Thank You." and "Welcome Home."

What We Are

We are an Association of Combat Veterans from all branches of the United States Armed Forces who ride motorcycles as a hobby. Our membership is comprised of Full Members (those with verified combat service) and Support Members (those who have non-combat military service, and have a sincere dedication to helping veterans). Many members continue to serve in our Armed Forces, with several serving in combat areas now.
What We Do

- We sponsor and/or participate in many motorcycle-related charity events each year, and as a non-profit organization, donate to various veteran care facilities and veteran charities.
- To promote interest in various forms of motorcycle activity associated with Veterans.
- To create and maintain camaraderie among Combat Veterans from all U.S. Branches of Service and its allies.
- To support Veteran Organizations.
- To raise awareness for the plight of POWs, MIAs and their families.
- To conduct Association functions and activities in a manner befitting the members of the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association and as well as the association’s Auxiliary Members.
- To encourage a better understanding of motorcycle riders as a constructive sport among members of the public, press, and law enforcement agencies.
What We Are Not

We ARE NOT a Motorcycle Club or Motorcycle Gang.

We DO NOT have colors.

We DO NOT prospect. Nor do we actively recruit.

We DO NOT claim territory.

We ARE NOT, nor do we claim to be a **motorcycle club**.
History

In 1999, the Combat Vets Motorcycle Club was introduced to the internet. Up until the first part of 2001 many were led to believe it was a true and established motorcycle organization. Through many turns of events it was found out that CVMC was an internet scam to bilk money from Combat Veterans. In the early months of 2001 many of the members found this scam out and alerted one another, 45 members decided to form a Combat Veterans Association. The birth of the CVMA appeared as a non profit Association approximately May 1st 2001. The 2 main things that brought them together were motorcycle riding & being Veterans from Combat zones.

The original 45 members adopted a patch to wear, indicating that they are the original founding fathers of the CVMA. In May of 2001, the CVMA adopted the CVMA/VFW patch. This was done with the VFW's ok as all CVMA members were or became VFW members and entitled to wear the VFW patch. Over the next year and a half, the CVMA was well accepted at Post and Division levels with in the VFW. Many meetings, conversations, and letters over this period with the VFW National BOD always sounded positive but with no results of developing a relationship.
In December 2002, the CVMA membership voted to move on towards the Association it was to become. VFW membership was no longer required, opening the CVMA up to all Combat Veterans who rode motorcycles. 15 December 2002, it was voted that the CVMA would wear a combination of the CVMA background and the old skull logo as a one piece patch. Membership requirements for being a new member were; Combat Veteran and rode a motorcycle as a hobby. The patch is worn by full members only.
MY VEST IS FULL OF PATCHES BOTH OLD AND NEW. REPRESENTING PLACES I’VE BEEN AND THINGS I DO.

MOST ON THE FRONT AND LAYERED IN A STACK, BUT NONE SAY MORE THAN THE PATCH ON MY BACK. I EARNED IT IN BATTLE AS A COMBAT VET, IT SERVES AS A CONSTANT REMINDER TO NEVER FORGET.

THE FIRST THING YOU’LL NOTICE IS THE SKULL AND SPADE, A REMINDER THAT THE DEBT OF WAR IS NEVER PAID.

EVERY COLOR HAS A MEANING AND STORY TO TELL, AND EVERY STORY HAS A MEANING WE KNOW ALL TOO WELL.

TO SHOW UNITY AS WARRIORS WE USE THE MILITARY GOLD, FOR EVERY BRANCH OF SERVICE BOTH NEW AND OLD.

RED REPRESENTS THE BLOOD THAT MY BROTHER SHAVE BLED, NOT ALL KNOWN BY ME, BUT A TEAR FOR EACH I'VE SHED.

WITH HEAVY HEARTS WE DISPLAY THE SYMBOLIC COLOR BLACK, FOR THE MISSING, THE PRISONERS AND THOSE WHO NEVER MADE IT BACK.

YES, I KNOW IT'S JUST A PATCH MADE OF CLOTH AND THREAD, BUT BECAUSE OF WHAT IT MEANS I'LL RESPECT UNTIL THE DAY I'M DEAD!
Motorcycle Club 101

Respect

A MC demands respect for one reason. To recognize the deep level of personal commitment and self discipline that a man has to demonstrate and sustain in order to wear the club’s colors (patch). Realize that a club's "Colors" are closely guarded and the membership process is long and difficult. This respect is born out of recognition of dedication and accomplishment.

The MC strives for respect for this reason. This is true as it pertains to those outside of the motorcycle community. This part of society is larger, and therefore represents a larger market for fundraising activities that the MC might undertake. Cultivating a relationship with these people is important and to be perceived by them as "Biker Scum" is not advantageous to the Club. They will therefore conduct themselves as upstanding citizens in every way...

"Good neighbors" so to speak.
Motorcycle Club 101

Club Colors

The public does not draw a distinction between different club colors. In many cases, they simply can't tell the difference. If one club causes a problem, the offending club's identity is usually either confused or ignored and the heat comes down on all clubs and motorcycle riders.

The public does not make any distinctions between a MC and an RC (*Riding Club), therefore EVERYONE needs to be aware that no matter whether they are in an MC and RC or an Independent rider, their actions reflect on all in the motorcycle community. The MC clubs tend to police themselves to avoid such incidents.
Motorcycle Club 101

Participation

A Club member will not discuss any club business whether it's about membership numbers, club goings on, or any member's personal information with anyone outside of the club. They understand that they are a MC member 24/7, regardless if they are wearing their colors. Everything they say or do in public can affect the club. They also understand that if they get out of line, that they are subject to be counseled for their own good and for that of the club.

Wearing a patch is more than getting together for good times. It also means getting together for the other times too. It's committing themselves to a lifestyle in which they do not look for how their brothers can help them, but for ways that they can be of help to their brothers.
Motorcycle Club 101

Protocol Basics

- MC members are people too. They have jobs, families, normal everyday problems, and concerns just like anyone else. Just like with any group, you will find both good and bad.
- Protocol and Respect are the rules when dealing with a MC member.
- If you are FORMALY introduced to a MC member, make sure either the person doing the introduction (or you) make sure they know you are a member of the CVMA. If you are also a Chapter officer, what position you hold. Under no circumstances do you interrupt to correct a mistake while that person is introducing you or while they are talking. Wait till the introduction is done & politely introduce yourself correctly. i.e.....

**Howie Taylor  CVMA, Sgt At Arms, Chapter 12-1.**
Motorcycle Club 101

Protocol Basics

- Greet the MC member as you would meet anyone else and wait until the offer is made to shake hands. **DO NOT** be offended or make a big deal if they do not offer to shake your hand. Many times they want to get to know about you and your Association a little better before they will offer to shake your hand.

- Never lie. You can politely refuse to answer a question by saying something as, "That seems like association business, and I should refer that to one of my Chapter officers to ensure that you get the correct information." Be prepared to answer questions about what your Association is about.

- Women in a leadership position or as a member of a MC, while not totally unheard of, is very rare. Most MC’s would also rather deal with a man if there is business to conduct. Most realize what our association is about & will for the most part accept a woman as an officer, and a woman officer will most likely be allowed to attend any meeting. Whether or not they will deal directly with a woman officer or not depends on the individual MC. There is no set rule for this and they will let you know if it's ok with them or not. Most MC’s do not care to deal with the National officers. They would prefer to deal with the local representatives.
Motorcycle Club 101

Protocol Basics

- If anyone knows a MC member, don't throw the MC Member’s name/nickname/MC's name around like you're a great buddy of theirs (even if you are). MC’s consider that major disrespect towards their MC.
- Watch where you are when speaking about them, and never say anything about them in public because you never know which person could be one of them, or a "support member". MC members do not always wear their colors. By the time the story gets back to the Dominant club in our area, it will have been changed many times over and could be blown up way out of proportion.
- Anything said about them between MC members is MC business ONLY. If comments, even those said in a joking manner were to get out, problems could start. Discussion outside the privacy of the chapter can start rumors which could cause a lot of problems for not only this chapter but also for other chapters in and out of the state.
- If for some reason you have to say something while in public about a MC, take the person you're talking to aside, alone, and say ONLY what you need to say to get your meaning across.
Motorcycle Club 101

*Protocol Basics*

-*Watch where you wear your patch, it's just common sense to stay in numbers when wearing your patch. If you are unsure of the areas or places normally frequented by MC’s, ask your Chapter Officers. If you are planning a trip and are concerned, talk to a Chapter officer and ask if they can find something out by contacting the officers in the areas you will be in.*

- "SHOW THEM RESPECT." That's *A #1* with them! (and worth repeating).

- If you already know a MC member don't just walk up to him and interrupt when they are with MC members. Wait till he acknowledges you first and *NEVER* touch them or put your arm around them like a buddy. Don't put your hand out to shake theirs. Wait for them to extend their hand first. If for some reason you're not acknowledged at all, then just keep walking.

- If you need to talk to an officer of a MC the proper way is to go through the their Sgt at Arms or one of the MC members.
Motorcycle Club 101  Protocol Basics

- Remember the CVMA doesn’t wear colors, colors are earned, not bought, and it's just common sense to stay in numbers when wearing your patch.

- If you feel that you do want or need to go to an event, then preferably without wearing any patches identifying that you’re in the CVMA.

- Remember, if you're wearing your CVMA patch, you are considered by everyone to be a representative of the Chapter. If anything were to turn sour, then the whole Chapter would wind up with problems down the road.

- If someone from a MC requests that you remove your vest, don’t argue. The best reply is, "No Problem” and take it off. Then let a Chapter Officer know what MC it was so they can deal with any potential problems. They normally only ask once.
Motorcycle Club 101

**Protocol Basics**

- If an establishment has a sign indicating “No Colors”, even though your patch is not considered “colors”, the vest should be removed out of respect for the other MC’s and the policy of the establishment. While we may just be an Association, it's only respectful to honor the house rules. MC’s that honored the "house rules" would probably be deeply offended that you didn't. Also remember, many establishments choose to have this policy and it applies to all organizations that use any kind of patch.

- **Do not** wear your Patch into any MC’s clubhouse unless you have asked if it's ok to do so or have been invited for a "sit down" with the officers of the MC or been invited as a CVMA Member.

- In regard to women who are with a MC, but not in the club: Old Lady is not a negative or derogatory term, it's just a slang term commonly used. "Property Of" patches are their way of showing support for their man and the MC he's in.
Motorcycle Club 101

Protocol Basics

- A MC member may not, and many times will not, acknowledge your wife or girlfriend, especially upon a first meeting.

- A prospect can usually be identified by the back patch they are wearing. There are many different ways MC’s identify prospects. You want to treat a prospect the same way you would treat a MC member - with respect and courtesy. MC’s will take offense to any outsider using the “Prospect” term. Calling someone "Prospect" if you are not a member of that MC is considered disrespectful.

- Have absolutely no doubt that MC’s are serious and many have been known to physically educate a person who shows disrespect.
Motorcycle Club 101

Protocol Basics

- Be aware of the behavior and attitude other CVMA members who are with you, especially if anyone has been drinking. **If necessary**, take action to avoid problems before they happen. i.e. if someone appears to be getting too angry, loud, and possibly disrespectful; take them aside or go somewhere else until things settle down. If an incident should occur in spite of your efforts and no officers are present, make sure to let your officers know as soon as you can.

- Be aware that problems created in one part of the country by a CVMA member or issues with the chapter in one area have the potential to affect CVMA members in other areas and states.

- Do not call a MC member Brother or Bro. Their Brothers are fellow MC members and those that have earned that term.

- Don't ever touch any part of another MC member's colors, which includes the vest or jacket it's sewn on. That is considered a **SERIOUS** sign of disrespect, which could cause them to aggressively educate the un-informed.
Motorcycle Club 101

Protocol Basics Summary

- We are an Association & not a MC and have no intention of ever trying to become a MC.
- The CVMA Patch is bought & not earned as an MC patch. (FM is earned by being a Combat VET)
- All makes and models of motorcycle (500cc or larger) are welcomed in the CVMA.**
- We are a non-territorial Association.
- We are a neutral Association and do not wear any MC support patches.
- Women Combat Veterans are welcomed and in many cases are chapter officers.
- We are a COC recognized Association.
- Do not offer forum links or web sites, It's better to refer them to a Chapter officer.
- Do NOT brag about how large the local or national membership is.
- Do not volunteer Association information. If they ask a question about the local chapter answer it if you can. If they start asking questions about the number of members, or the National chain of organization refer them to one of the Chapter Officers.
“What patches can I wear”

Event patch is approved for wear.

Items from the CVMA store and other approved local made patches are OK.

Conflict bars from the CVMA store worn below backpatch are OK.
NO top or bottom rockers around CVMA Patch.

All % signs are a **NO**, whether they are diamonds, circles, squares. Front or back.
NO rib or side rockers.

These are ok front or back.

These type (Cube/turned cubes) military unit patches are OK front on back.

Alternatives type patches for 5ID and 1MAR to show unit pride can be worn.

NO 5th ID or 1st Marine diamonds front or back.
Inappropriate

These are inappropriate patches front or back. These really do not represent what the CVMA is all about. Think of yourself at a Veterans funeral or a veteran’s event.