



**Dixon-Conderman**  
**Post 2514**  
**New Bern**  
**North Carolina**

**2018 New Member Welcome Package**

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# Commanders' Welcome Letter

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Comrade,

Welcome to the Dixon-Conderman VFW Post 2514, I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome you to our post! Any Active Duty or Veteran who has deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan, The Gulf War, Vietnam, Korea, or one of the many Operations where hazardous duty pay, or a campaign medal was awarded makes you eligible. In addition, we have an Auxiliary that would be available to eligible family members and we would love to have them join us in the fight to support and preserve veterans rights. If this is your first VFW Post or you are a transfer, it is our desire to make this your permanent "Home" as a Veteran.

I would like to invite you to attend a General Membership meeting as soon as you are able. Our General Membership meetings are held at the Post on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month, at 7:00PM. We will ask you for a brief introduction about your military experience, your family, and hope you will take the opportunity to tell us about any goals you may have through our organization. We hope you will join us in our efforts to serve veterans, active duty military personnel, and our community. You've already earned membership in our distinguished organization through your service to America and encourage you to join your brothers and sisters at your Post to support the initiatives of the VFW and serve the needs of all of its veterans.

The information provided in this package is to familiarize you with a brief overview of the history of the VFW, its mission, traditions, protocols, and how your Post supports our veterans and the community. Your involvement will be key to the continued success of this post and we welcome and encourage your participation.

Respectfully,

Jon Schultheis  
Post 2514 Commander



The purpose and mission of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is to preserve and support the patriotic and historical interests of our country, our communities and our veterans; to strengthen the common bonds of the men and women who have served and who are currently serving in our military; to assist them and their families; to enhance their quality of life; and to maintain true allegiance to the Constitution and laws of the United States of America and defend her from all enemies, whomsoever.

In support of our mission we sponsor and participate in the following:

- We have adopted a Marine unit is Cherry Point, MASS-1, to promote camaraderie among Veterans from all generations and gain a mutual understanding of the real issues facing are service members and Veterans.
- We support Community Service activities, Youth Scholarships and Activities and Veterans & Military Support. These programs include the two youth scholarship/essay contests of Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen, the Smart/Maher Citizenship Education Teacher Award contest, Community Service reporting, various Recognition Award Citations, Buddy Poppy Drives to support Veteran's in need, Citizenship & Flag Education through the distribution of copies of the Constitution of the United States, as well as the American U.S. Flag Code, Military Assistance, Scouting Awards & Scout of the Year Scholarships, and other Youth Activities.
- We continue to provide National VFW grants to the RCS in support of their Homeless Veterans services initiatives. Sponsor our annual "Flag Retirement Ceremony" with the support of the New Bern Young Marines and Boy Scout Troop 584. Provide fundraising events in support the Craven County Community College Veteran's Scholarship Program for Work Force Development career opportunities. We are also working on an initiative with the Carolina East Medical Center to develop a "Final Salute" for Veteran's in their care that are called to duty. Additionally Post 2514 will continue to work with several of the local assisted living facilities to recognize and honor our forgotten Brother's and Sister's who gave so much for our country. With the support of other Veterans organizations in Craven County and our local Boys and Girls Club, Scouts and Young Marines we will ensure that all of our community Veterans are never again, forgotten.

# VFW Mission and History

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The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, with its Auxiliaries, includes 2.2 million members in approximately 8,100 Posts worldwide. Its mission is to **"honor the dead by helping the living"** through veterans' service, community service, national security and a strong national defense.

The VFW traces its roots back to 1899 when veterans of the Spanish- American War (1898) and the Philippine Insurrection (1899-1902) founded local organizations to secure rights and benefits for their service: Many arrived home wounded or sick with no medical care or veterans' pension were left to care for themselves. In their misery, veterans banded together and formed organizations that would become known as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States of America. After chapters were formed in Ohio, Colorado and Pennsylvania, the movement quickly gained momentum. By 1915, membership grew to 5,000; by 1936, membership was almost 200,000. Since then, the VFW's voice had been instrumental in establishing the Veterans Administration, creating a GI bill for the 20th century, the development of the national cemetery system and the fight for compensation for Vietnam vets exposed to Agent Orange and for veterans diagnosed with Gulf War Syndrome. In 2008, VFW won a long- fought victory with the passing of a GI Bill for the 21st Century, giving expanded educational benefits to America's active-duty service members, and members of the Guard and Reserves, fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan. Annually, VFW members and its Auxiliary contribute more than 13 million hours of volunteerism in the community, including participation in "Make A Difference Day" and "National Volunteer Week". From providing \$2.5 million in college scholarships to high school students every year to encouraging elevation of the Veterans Administration to the president's cabinet, the VFW is there—honoring the dead by helping the living.

# History of the Cross of Malta

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The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States adopted for its symbol the Cross of Malta, which has a heritage of honor, duty, sacrifice and courage that dates back to the 11th century. The Cross has its origin in the Knights of St. John, a strict order of crusaders originally founded to maintain a hospital for pilgrims journeying to the Holy Land. From this order evolved two divisions, the Knights Templar, famed for their ability to fight, and the Knights Hospitaller, humanitarians who provided for the sick and distressed.

The Knights established branches throughout Europe and moved their headquarters to Cyprus. From Cyprus the headquarters was eventually moved to Rhodes in the 14th century and was transferred from there to the island of Malta in the 16th century. There they became known as the Knights of Malta.

The insignia of the Knights of Malta is basically the same as the one used today by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. It is an 8-pointed cross formed by four arrowheads meeting at the points. Each represents one of the Beatitudes taken from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. The arrowheads indicated the knights were willing to fight for the principles of justice and truth although their order was basically a peaceful one.

This outlook is similar to that of the VFW, devoted to peace but comprised of men who have fought and are willing to fight again, for those principles, which embody the individual liberties and dignities of men. The fundamental objectives of the organization are set forth in a charter granted it by the Congress of the United States in 1936.

# VFW National Home

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The VFW National Home for Children serves as a living memorial to America's veterans by helping our nation's military and veteran families during difficult times. It was founded in 1925 as a place where the families left behind by war -- mothers and children, brothers and sisters -- could remain together, keeping the family circle intact even when their serviceman didn't come home.

Today's families face different challenges -- reintegration, post-traumatic stress, high unemployment and rehabilitation from battlefield injuries, among others -- and the National Home has evolved over our decades-long history to meet those changing needs.

The idea for the National Home was first planted in 1923 when the Military Order of the Cootie presented the concept to the VFW at its national convention. Members of the VFW embraced the idea of a home for the children and families of veterans, and the VFW National Home for Children was born as a non-profit corporation separate from the VFW itself.

The beginning of today's VFW National Home for Children lies with a poignant story of a young girl named Amy Ross. On a cold February day in 1922, 23-year-old Amy Ross walked into the office of Dr. Clarence L. Candler, the VFW Department of Michigan Commander with the idea to find jobs for the thousands of veterans who were walking the streets of Detroit looking for work. While the task seemed insurmountable, Dr. Candler turned over the limited facilities of the VFW to Mrs. Ross, and she went to work. "What followed is history (over 9,000 veterans were found employment)," he wrote in the Nov. 1924 issue of the Golden Stripe, Michigan's VFW Newspaper. "But not all of you know that the present high standing of the VFW in Michigan, our wonderful headquarters in the General Motors Building, the Yanks Convalescent Camp, Inc., our 300-grave burial plot at Roseland Cemetery, and our new \$500,000 VFW National Home, Inc. all came as a direct result of Amy Ross' sacrifices for the veterans of this community."

Through Amy Ross' efforts, millionaire cattleman Corey Spencer came to meet with Dr. Candler in the summer of 1924. Having learned of Amy's great work and the needs of the VFW, Mr. Spencer had an idea. He had 472 Acres of land near Eaton Rapids, Michigan, known as the Grand River Stock Farm, and he wanted to make it a gift to the VFW. Spencer's offer was presented to the 1924 Convention in Atlantic City, where the Commander-in-Chief appointed a committee to investigate the offer and report back to the National Council of Administration.

Tragically, Amy Ross never lived to see the VFW National Home became a reality. After her untimely death in 1924, the VFW gave Miss Ross a military funeral. Dr. Candler was quoted as saying, "Amy Ross dead? No, she has just commenced to live...When that new little city arises out of the ground near Eaton Rapids called the VFW National Home, you

will hear Amy singing a lullaby to some veteran's orphan."

On December 6, 1924, the National Council of Administration approved the idea of the VFW National Home. Articles of Incorporation were prepared, and on January 7, 1925, the dreams of Amy Ross, Corey Spencer and the Military Order of the Cootie had at last come true. The Veterans of Foreign Wars had taken a giant step forward in fulfilling its pledge to "Honor the Dead by Helping the Living."

The December 1924 issue of the Gold Stripe devoted all of its content to the sad parting of Amy Ross and the great news of the VFW National Home. The editor wrote, "This VFW National Home is the greatest objective ever placed before any veterans' organization. It will give each and every post something tangible to work for."

On March 2, 1925, Sgt. Edward Pollett, Ret., 48, traveled from Halfway, Michigan, to pick up his retirement check at Ft. Wayne in Detroit. While crossing the street in Detroit, he was hit by a street car and later died at a nearby hospital. Twenty-four hours after his death, Mrs. Pollett identified her husband at the county morgue and then found that she and her 6 children, ages 2 to 15 were left destitute since Sgt. Pollett's retirement pay stopped upon his death. The Halfway, Michigan VFW Post 1146 appealed to Dr. Candler, State VFW Commander, on behalf of the family, and arrangements were made immediately to send the family to the VFW National Home.

On March 9, 1925, Mrs. Pollett and her 6 children entered the VFW National Home as the first residents. The first Matron of the Home, Nora M. Abbott, and first supervisor, Roy Williams, supervised the housing of the Pollett's in an old frame farmhouse. In June of 1925, Nora Abbott wrote, "Maybe you would like to hear how things are going for the Pollett's. My little mother and her children are settled and seem to be happy. She tells me how thankful she is that she could come here and have a home with her children. . . ."

### Through the Years

Since its founding, the VFW National Home for Children has grown from an old frame farm house to a sprawling campus with playgrounds, park areas, and multiple buildings, including single-family homes, a community center and gymnasium, child care facility, guest lodge, chapel and administrative offices.

Over the years, the National Home has evolved to meet the changing needs of America's military and veterans' families. Through it all, one thing has remained constant: the National Home's commitment to honor our nation's veterans and active-duty military by providing help and hope for their children and families.

# VFW Ritual and Meeting Protocol

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*We do not want our Post members, new or old, to feel uncomfortable or embarrassed at any meeting or luncheon. The following are some of the more important General Rules to try to remember.*

1. When addressing the Commander, all officers stand at attention and salute in a military manner. The Commander will return similar salutes. All officers stand and exchange salutes when addressing each other.
2. One rap of the gavel calls attention or seats the body when standing. Two raps of the gavel means “stand up” and calls everyone to standing at attention.
3. While the Post is in session, no member shall pass between the altar and the commander’s station, except as prescribed by the Ritual. This space represents the sacred ground where our comrades who have answered the final roll call are at rest.
4. All VFW military formations and procedures shall conform with current United States Army Infantry Drill Regulations.
5. The Officer of the Day shall act as the master of ceremonies.
6. All members will stand during rendition of prayers and will follow the action of the Chaplain or presiding officer relative to removal of caps during prayers; if uncovering, the hat shall be placed on the extended closed fingers of the right hand in such a way that the Cross of Malta is exposed and held over the heart.
7. Official caps will not be worn during luncheons, banquets or other meals.
8. Official caps will be the only head covering allowed to be worn at regular meetings of the Veteran of Foreign Wars of the United States.
9. On approaching the door of a Post meeting while in session, a member will give two knocks to attract the attention of the guard who will challenge, “Who knocks here?” Member will answer with his name and the number of the Post he is from. The guard will then report to the Senior Vice Commander, who will order him to admit the member, if proper. The guard will then open the door and the member will show his membership card. Upon being admitted to the Post room, the member will advance to the altar and salute the Commander. Should the Commander be busy, the member will face about and salute the Senior Vice Commander, after which he will be seated.
10. When wishing to retire while the Post is in session, members will advance to the altar and use the same sign as when entering, to the Commander or Senior Vice Commander, and when answered, member may retire.

11. In meetings of the VFW, members holding office shall be addressed as “Comrade” followed by the title of the office they hold. All other members shall be addressed as “Comrade.”

12. Any procedural matter governing meetings not provided for by the VFW Rules of Order shall be governed by Demeter’s Manual of Parliamentary Law and Procedure.

13. The presence and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages in VFW meeting rooms and nearby hallway during VFW meetings is unacceptable and is prohibited.

14. No member shall in debate impeach the motives of a fellow member or treat him with disrespect. Members shall avoid personalities and unbecoming speech.

*Through the generations we give life to our impressive VFW Ritual, for it solemnly binds young and old into the brotherhood of men who have fought for America on land, on sea, and in the air.*

# VFW Post 2514 History

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The Post was founded in memory of two local servicemen who served honorably and gave the ultimate sacrifice to our county. Those comrades were:

**PFC Drew E. Dixon**

Born 29 Jun 1893

Died 9 Feb 1930

PFC Dixon served with a Medical Det. of the 54th Infantry in France and Germany in World War I. Dixon died at the VA Hospital Oteen, Asheville, NC from a service connected disability.

and

**2nd Lt Robert J. Conderman**

Born 13 Aug 1918

KIA 8 Dec 1941 Wake Is.

VMF-211 Aviator Lt Conderman was fatally wounded preparing to fly his F4F-3 "Wildcat" Fighter against the attacking Japanese Mitsubishi G3M "Nells" bombers at Wake Island 8 Dec 1941.

The Post was originally established as the Dixon VFW Post 2031 on 13 Jul 1931 and combined and redesigned as Dixon - Conderman VFW Post 2514 on 15 Nov 1944.

# VFW Post 2514 Strategic Plan

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**Vision:** To be the premier veterans support organization in Craven County by providing current information on veteran's issues, advocating for veterans, providing support for veterans in need, and providing a place for fellowship.

**Mission:** VFW Post 2514 will provide comprehensive support and fellowship to veterans and their families by sustaining an organization that meets today's and future needs.

**Goals/Objectives:**

**Goal 1:** Establish and maintain a culture at the VFW Post 2514 where all Veterans, as well as the larger VFW community become an inclusive family- oriented organization.

**Goal 2:** Encourage and support sustained growth in VFW, Auxiliary and Social member organizations.

**Goal 3:** Build the businesses of the VFW Corporation by identifying strategies to make each profit center (e.g., Canteen, Sunday Breakfast, Monthly Steak Dinners) generate revenue to support the VFW mission.

**Goal 4:** Develop and maintain methods of communications that afford transparency for the VFW, Auxiliary, Social Members, and employees with the current financial state of the VFW Post 2514 and its strategic plans for the future.

# VFW Post 2514 Programs

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Our VFW Post No. 2514 members participate in VFW supported programs which include but is not limited to:

**AMERICANISM** – promotes patriotism; donates flags to schools; cooperates with other organizations on veteran-oriented Holidays; and produces memorials, such as the major World War II, Korean and Vietnam memorials in Frederick's Memorial Park area.

**COMMUNITY SERVICE** – aids churches, schools and organizations, which serve the needy, provides monetary donations to support the hungry and homeless of Frederick.

**LOYALTY DAY** – furnishes materials to contestants who compete for best answers to questions on the U.S. Constitution awarding a U.S. Treasury Bond to the winner, and pays for his or her trip to the State and National finals.

**VFW SCHOLARSHIP** – Conducts essay (written and verbal) contests among students at the Post District and level who ultimately go onto the State and National finals.

**YOUTH** – Conducts swimming and golf tournaments for young men and women; provides golf course space for high school Cross Country runners; supports a Babe Ruth League baseball team financially.

**CITIZENSHIP** - There are numerous projects and services that VFW Posts and its Auxiliaries offer to promote citizenship in the local community and educational facilities.

**BUDDY POPPY** – Among all the flowers that evoke the memories and emotions of war is the red poppy, which became associated with war after the publication of a poem written by Col. John McCrae of Canada. The poem, "In Flander's Field," describes blowing red fields among the battleground of the fallen. For more than 75 years, the VFW's Buddy Poppy program has raised millions of dollars in support of veterans' welfare and the well being of their dependents.

# VFW Post 2514 Officers and Duties

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**COMMANDER** Jon Schultheis

Presides over all meetings and business of the Post

**SR. VICE COMMANDER** Lonnie Sullivan

Assists Commander and presides when Commander is not present

**JR. VICE COMMANDER** Howard Hickox

Assists Commander and presides over Post when Sr. Vice is not present

**ADJUTANT** Bobby Edwards

Produces official correspondence and maintains records of the Post

**QUARTERMASTER** Valerie Mitchell

Collects membership dues and conducts all financial transactions

**CHAPLAIN** Mario Ruiz

Contacts sick members and presides over all religious functions

**SURGEON** David Rust

Promotes the health and wellbeing of Post's members

**1ST YEAR TRUSTEE** Joseph Moore

Audits official records and financial transactions

**2ND YEAR TRUSTEE** Walter Graves

Audits official records and financial transactions

**3RD YEAR TRUSTEE** Gary Gillette

Audits official records and financial transactions

**SERVICE OFFICER** Riley Constant

Assists members, their surviving spouses, and orphans, and other worthy cases in obtaining rightful benefits.

**JUDGE ADVOCATE** Alton R. Riggs

Provides legal research and assistance as required.

# VFW Websites and Resource List

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## Veterans of Foreign Wars Network Websites

- VFW Post 2514 Website- [www.vfw2514.org](http://www.vfw2514.org)
- Post 2514 Facebook Page – <https://www.facebook.com/VetCommunity>- New Bern NC @ vet community
- North Carolina District 4 Website – <http://www.myvfw.org/nc/dist4/>
- Veterans of Foreign Wars National Website – <http://www.vfw.org>
- VFW Merchandise Sales – <http://www.vfwstore.org>

## Veterans Assistance Websites

- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs – [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)
- VA Mental Health Home Page - <http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov>
- eBenefits Website – [www.ebenefits.va.gov](http://www.ebenefits.va.gov)
- MyHealthVet Website - [www.myhealth.va.gov](http://www.myhealth.va.gov)
- NC4VETS - <http://www.nc4vets.com>
- VA Outpatient Clinics - <http://www1.va.gov/directory/guide/state.asp?dnum=ALL&State=NC>

## Phone Numbers and Contacts

- **VFW Post 2514**  
**3850 Butler Rd**  
**New Bern, N.C. 28560**  
**(252) 637-9222**
- **Veterans Crisis Line** (Anonymous) – (800) 273-8255
- Web-sight – <http://www.veteranscrisisline.net>