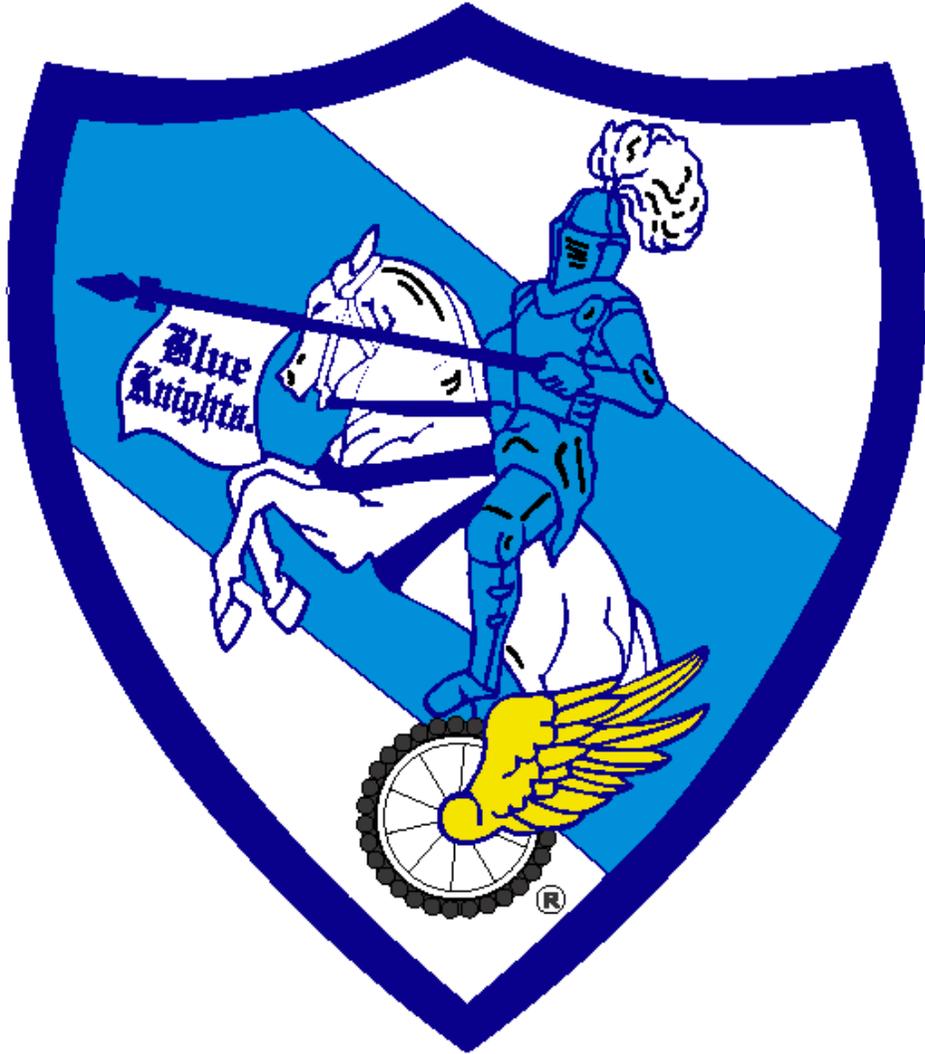


# *Blue Knights'*



*Virginia V*  
*25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*  
*1985 - 2010*

## *Blue Knight's Virginia V*

### **August 1984**

After reading an article covering the Blue Knight's, Virginia Chapter I, hosting a bike show, Earl Killmon, a Norfolk Police Officer, decided to contact the International office and inquire about starting a local chapter. During this call, the office manager, Doreen Lindsey, informed him that she had received other interest in the area and asked that he contact Bob Castellow, with the Chesapeake Police Department. The two made contact and agreed to hold a meeting at a local restaurant, Zino's Café, in the Deep Creek section of Chesapeake during the month of September, to see what interest would be generated from the 2 cities. After a few monthly meetings at Zino's, the Norfolk Fraternal Order of Police offered to allow the use of their lodge "house" for our future meetings. Our organizational meetings had taken hold, officers were elected and Earl opened his checkbook to cover the original members and our Charter was applied for. On January 16, 1985, we became the newest chapter in Virginia, to be known as, Virginia Chapter V.

The original Officers consisted of:

Earl Killmon	President
Bob Castellow	Vice President
Woody Keating	Secretary/Treasurer
Bill Pickering	Sgt. at Arms

Also during one of our organizational meetings, we were fortunate enough to have J.D. Perkins, a member of Maryland I and the Mason Dixon Conference Chairman, attend to insure we were on the "right track" and to provide us with further history of the club. During J.D.'s return trip to Maryland, he was stopped by a Virginia State Trooper and ticketed for his speed. Although our chapter offered to pay the fine for his assistance, he wouldn't allow it and he soon inherited the title of "Founder", of the Big Hand Club, for his efforts and good intentions.

### **May 1985**

Because of our geographical location, Virginia V was a chapter within the Mason Dixon Conference and we soon learned that we were the only conference to hold three (3) meetings a year. On Thursday of Memorial Day weekend, a group of seven left Franks Truck Stop, in the pouring rain, for our first Spring Conference meeting being hosted by KY II, in Elizabethtown, Kentucky. Barely knowing each other, much less travel together, we finally got "in tune" with each other's riding habits by the time we reached Richmond and we set our first night's final destination as Smiley's Hotel, in Charleston, WV. Based on the less than modern décor, strange meat on the dinner buffet and overall atmosphere, Smiley's became our annual stop for years to come. After drying off and getting settled into the hotel, Earl opened a bottle of Jim Beam and asked if anyone wanted to join him for a drink before dinner, and from this moment on Jim Beam has been the bourbon of choice for most of our members. Finally arriving at the Howard Johnson Motel, in E-Town, we met up with another recently formed chapter (PA 13) who were similar in attitude and make up of us, and we followed them to what was known as the "Waterworks" campground, where the hospitality started. We were led in, single file, down a mud clay road, by George Weihermuller's son, on an ATV. We had finally arrived at what

was to be our first Blue Knight's Mason Dixon Conference meeting, met by a man with a machete, telling us he was the "complaint department"? We later learned that he was actually a member of KYII and the Deputy Chief of the Elizabethtown Police department. The Sunday morning meeting consisted of the 15-20 members that could roll out of bed after 2 long nights of hospitality and was held around a group of picnic tables. J.D. ran an official yet relaxed meeting and Ruben Gardener, KYII member, gave a report as the Conference International Representative.

### **June 1985**

Our first "poker run" was held in Chesapeake and the membership decided to make it an annual event. It was held in honor of a Norfolk motor officer, John Thomas, and named the "John Thomas Memorial Poker Run". John was a close friend and an avid rider who died in a motorcycle accident during the planning stages of Virginia V and although his death was prior to our charter, we consider him a member of Virginia V's Heaven I Chapter.

### **November 1985**

After attending Virginia III's Annual Toy Run parade, several members felt our chapter should host a similar event for charity. The Southern Riders, another local MC club, had been hosting a parade for the past several years, however the participation had fallen off to the point they felt it was time for a fresh start. They asked us to take it over and November 1986 would be the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Virginia V, Toy Run parade, held to benefit St Jude's and the Children's Hospital of the Kings Daughter's.

### **September 1986**

With all the enthusiasm of our new club, it didn't take long for Earl Killmon to get involved in the political ring of the conference. JD Perkins persuaded him to run for the position of Vice Chairman of the conference. Earl would hold the position for several years until he was elected Chairman. He remained Chairman and after problems developed with the International Rep, eventually took on the duties of both positions. Earl continued to hold both positions until finally deciding to step down as Chairman and focus on just being the International Representative of the Mason Dixon Conference.

### **November 1986**

The chapter puts together the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Toy Run parade to the Children's Hospital of the Kings Daughter's, where Santa Claus met a large number of children and listened to their Christmas wishes. Stuffed teddy bears were handed out by Santa and photographs taken to give to each child. The event would support both St. Jude's Research Hospital and Kings Daughter's making them the chosen charities for future chapter events. The parade was made up of more than 400 motorcycles and several 4 wheel vehicles and would grow in size for years to come. The night before the run, George Brehm, Bob Castellow and Earl Killmon sat around the dining room table and glued the run pins together.

### **July 1987**

Several members attended their first International Convention held in Canada. After a week of getting to know even more of the organization's membership, watching a performance by the

Golden Helmets and witnessing a Blue Knight tell an outsider, he was about to learn, “what an ole fashioned Chicago ass whippin” would be... we hit the QEW and headed back to the states. Barely making it through customs, we decided to stop at Niagara Falls, for what was to be a *brief* site seeing mission. After nearly 2 hours, and a short nap for a few, we’re back on the road and finally heading home to tell the stories.

### **May 1990**

The membership, as well as the reputation, continued to grow for Virginia V and after a few years of attending chapter, conference and International events, we felt it was “*TIME*”? Time for Virginia V to show the organization what “fun” was all about by bringing the rest of the organization to us! That’s right,

### **July 1991**

A few of us travel to Albuquerque, New Mexico to bid for the site of the 1993 International Convention. Our plans were to hold the convention in the downtown Norfolk area, co-hosted by 2 connecting hotels, the brand new Marriott and the Waterside Omni Hotel. We would let the membership see what Norfolk and the surrounding Tidewater area had to offer. Rides and activities would extend from Colonial Williamsburg to the Outer Banks of North Carolina. After showing up in our hot pink, “Norfolk by the Sea in 1993” t-shirts, we convinced the members of the Board of Governors and won the bid!

### **July 1993**

We spent the past 2 years putting together what’s been described as one of the best and most attended International Convention’s to date, drawing 1,344 members from 8 different countries. The convention was dedicated to Virginia V Heaven I members, John Thomas and Wayne Staples, as well as all other members of Heaven I. The week started off with the usual Board of Governors meeting, where Ronnie Young made an unsuccessful attempt to be elected Vice Chairman, and ended with a more than traditional banquet setting. Prior to the banquet, we learned that one of the Past International President’s, Arley Buckmaster, had a son killed in Beirut that had once been a member of the military group performing our opening ceremonies. The 20 man, precision rifle drill team, requested permission, at a special ceremony held for Arley and his wife Esther, that they, be allowed to dedicate their performance in his honor. The unit presented them with a plaque, for their son’s sacrifice and permission was granted. They went on to perform what would be an outstanding demonstration and amidst all the camera action, left the membership standing and applauding for more. “Norfolk by the Sea in 1993”, boasts several first’s for any Blue Knight convention. The first ever: co-hosted by 2 connecting hotels, indoor motorcycle competition, children’s hospitality room and banquet night pizza party, Blue Knight engraved handgun w/display case (1 of a kind) and no late registration fee!

### **July 1995**

Virginia V member, Ronnie Young, is elected to the position of Chairman, Board of Governors and serves a 2 year term. Due to the increased popularity and the fact that chapters other than Virginia V were using it, the membership voted to designate the 1993 convention logo as the “official” Virginia V chapter patch with slight modifications in the bottom ribbon. The patch was authorized to be worn on the front of chapter colors.

**July 1997**

Ronnie pledges “Back to Basics, Back to Fun” to the membership and defeats Illinois member, Pat Lenart, for the position of International Vice President.

**July 1999**

Still determined to “continue the fun” of the organization, Ronnie campaigns by describing the previous few years of leadership as, “Excellence put us on top, Teamwork will keep us there” and defeats Pat Fox of New York, for the position of International President.

**January 2000**

Virginia V continues to expand to local, state and federal agencies and attains the mark of 109 members. Travel continues, French Lick, Indiana, claims the largest International Convention title and constant reminders of the 1993 convention are brought out, leading the chapter to consider hosting, yet another convention.

**July 2001**

Working on experience and up for the challenge, Virginia V puts another convention bid together and solicits to host the 2003 International Convention in Chesapeake. The site would be the Greenbrier area, with the host hotel being Holiday Inn and set to the theme of “Back to the Sea in 2003”.

**July 2003**

Once again, the efforts and hard work of many result in the start of another successful International convention. The theme “Back to the Sea in 2003” offers a variety of events from daily beach shuttles to visits aboard the newly commissioned Ronald Reagan aircraft carrier. We offered battleship tours, BBQ’s, golf, scuba diving, amusement parks, Fish Fry’s and all the “hospitality” associated with the south, and one could stand! With a registration package of \$79, we reclaim the title of hosting the largest convention in the organization’s history with 1,627 members from 9 countries in attendance. Months prior to this convention, Wanda Booher, a well known and dedicated Blue Knight family member, passed away unexpectedly. For her organizational efforts in putting this convention together, as well as her devotion to the club, this convention was dedicated in her memory.

## **2004 - Current**

Since the days of the beginning, members of Virginia V have continued to travel coast to coast and throughout Canada, renewing old friendships, developing the new and supporting a variety of charitable causes. The chapter has hosted several Mason Dixon Conference meetings and has been responsible for donating more than \$106,000 to local and national programs, as well as, supporting our own in time of need. Our membership has maintained more than 150 members since the year 2003 and has increased more than 300% since the beginning. While the attendance record will be hard to beat and a theme has yet to be decided, Virginia V gears up for a 3<sup>rd</sup> International convention, to be held in 2011, back in Chesapeake.

Over the past 25 years, members of Virginia V have been honored with hundreds of sincere friendships throughout the Blue Knight organization and they will always be held in high regard.

Until our paths cross again... always, Ride With Pride!

## ***Virginia V Charter Members September 1984***

George Brehm	Ed O'Toole
Bob Castellow	Shirley O'Toole
Roger Clark	Bill Pickering
Ray Dorman	Billy Ross
Colon Griggs	Ronnie Schafer
Woody Keating	Jim Stevens
Earl Killmon	Steve Taylor
Dave Murphy	Russell Volk
Jim Nida	Ron Hyman
Ronnie Young	Stan Levinson
Jim Welch	

*In honor of those with the insight to recognize the fraternity, joy and camaraderie of sharing the road with brother and sister Blue Knight's who will always "Ride with Pride"*

## *Virginia V Past Presidents*

Earl Killmon	Richard "Spike" Johnson
Bob Castellow	Bobby Arrington
Tommy Hayden	Wes Wassum
Ronnie Young	Woody Keating
Scott Wilson	Susan Taylor
Mario Pietrucci	Ken McLendon
Darrell Kidd	

## *Virginia V, Heaven I In Memory of*

1984	John Thomas	Norfolk Police Department
1988	Wayne Staples	Chesapeake Police Department (Ret)
1999	Orville Richardson	Virginia Dept. of Corrections
2000	Bill Pickering	Norfolk Police Department (Ret)
2003	Wanda Booher	Virginia V
2004	Jim Gwaltney	Portsmouth Police Department (Ret)
2007	Charles Fisher	Portsmouth Sheriffs Office
2008	Marlin Tarr	Virginia Beach Sheriffs Office (Ret)
2009	Stephen Marks	Los Angeles County Park Police (Ret)
2009	Randy Kuhlmann	Portsmouth Police Department
2009	Joyce Tapley	Virginia V
2009	Scott Wilson	Norfolk Police Department, Past President, VA V

## *Virginia V Membership*

1985	43
1986	55
1987	59
1988	63
1989	58
1990	64
1991	75
1992	66
1993	72
1994	51
1995	80
1996	84
1997	78
1998	79
1999	83
2000	109
2001	119
2002	130
2003	156
2004	167
2005	189
2006	173
2007	186
2008	169
2009	173
2010	168



*We look forward to the next 25 years!*

*Ride With Pride*