



From the Bylaws

The Military Order of the Cootie is recognized as a subordinate and auxiliary order to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. It shall be considered the “Honor Degree” of the parent organization and shall be governed by and under the control of the National Convention, the Council of Administration, and the Commander-in-Chief.

Only active members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States shall be eligible for membership in the Military Order of the Cootie, and such membership shall be continued and conditioned upon retaining membership in the V.F.W.

The objectives of the organization are to promote social and reunion features among the members of the order and to keep alive therein the spirit of optimism and humor so characteristic of the American service man.

“CLOSER THAN A BROTHER”

Organized in 1920 at Washington, D. C. a number of V.F.W. members recognized a need for an auxiliary to the parent organization that would bring the membership closer through social activities. This would be a diversion from the serious business that usually took place during a local, state, or national gathering of the V.F.W. Originally classified as the “Fun Degree” this subordinate order of the V.F.W., together with its social functions, began to assume some of the obligations of its parent order so that greater stress could be applied by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States to its major programs.

“BUSIER THAN A BEE”

It was not long before the M.O.C. began its program of activities that brought about its designation as the “Honor Degree” of the V.F.W. The activity began at the V.F.W. National Home at Eaton Rapids, Michigan with the filling of a library with practical books for children. Later, Cootie Field, the athletic playground, was constructed through donations and various fund-raising functions sponsored by the local Pup Tents. Each year a Cootie Christmas Party is given under the sponsorship of the Grand Pup Tent of Michigan. The party has grown through the years with each child receiving a personal gift. In recent years a fire truck, a fire station, and equipment have been presented to the National Home and the youngsters given specific instructions in combating fires.

“HIGHER EDUCATION”

The Christie Braun Supreme Scholarship Program, sponsored by the Military Order of the Cootie, is designed to provide college educations for all four year to three year students graduating from the National Home each year at a rate grant of \$3,500 for each student’s yearly attendance. In addition, the program sponsors technical school scholarships and post-graduate scholarships for National Home graduates of \$1,500 annually for each selected student. The voluntary support by members of the M.O.C. since the programs inception in 1960 has been generously over-funded and action of the 1985 convention has capped the Scholarship and Athletic Fund at their June 30, 1985 level. All monies received after June 30, 1985 For the Scholarship-Athletic Fund will be placed in the newly created National Home Project Fund. Should the Scholarship Fund Decrease to a level not commensurate with expenses, donations to the fund will be re-instituted.

**“HONOR DEGREE”
OF THE
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS**

The Military order of the Cootie has an international membership. Pup Tents are located in our nation and in foreign lands. A Pup Tent is the name assigned to a local unit of the order, while State units are termed Grand Pup Tents, and the National organization is the Supreme Pup Tent. Meetings are known as Scratches and officers are designated as Shavetails. One of the main objectives of our order is to provide comfort and cheer to our hospitalized, institutionalized, and homebound veterans. The Cootie uniform colors have a profound meaning. The color white is representative of the sheets on the hospital beds where our veterans lie and the color red signifies the blood-sacrifices that our veterans have made.

This is a brief outline of the make-up of the Military Order of the Cootie. An organization with a serious goal of having fun and by doing so serving our fellow veterans. We invite you to join its ranks, to be an “Honor Degree Member” of the VFW, and to “Keep ‘Em Smiling in Beds of White.”

For further information contact:

ANY MEMBER OF THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE COOTIE THAT YOU KNOW

**OR THE SUPREME PUP TENT
MILITARY ORDER OF THE COOTIE
c/o SUPREME HEADQUARTERS
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