

**WESTFIELD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.**

PO Box 170 / 3386 Old Westfield Rd.

Westfield, North Carolina 27053

Phone: (336) 351-2576



**Don Riddle Memorial Scholarship Application**  
**\$500.00, One-Time Scholarship**  
**Scholarship will be paid in full at your schools Senior Awards Day**

**A. General Information**

Applicant First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent / Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Educational / Emergency Organization Information**

High School Name: \_\_\_\_\_ GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

College / University Intended: \_\_\_\_\_

Degree or Major Intended: \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliate Emergency Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliate Emergency Organization's Leaders Name and Phone Number:

\_\_\_\_\_

How are you affiliated with this Emergency Organization? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**Please attach all documents to the Don Riddle Memorial Scholarship Application  
Mail Application and all documents to the Following address:**

**Westfield Volunteer Fire Department  
Attention: Scholarship Committee  
P.O. Box 170**

**Westfield, NC 27053**

**Applications must be postmarked on or Before April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

## **Don Riddle Biography**

This scholarship fund is dedicated to the memory of Donald C. Riddle, Sr who passed away in 2020 after a life of dedicated service to his country, his community, his family, and his God. Who was Donald Riddle?

- ***Growing Up.*** Born in 1935, Don grew up in the Stokes County tobacco farming community of Johnstown between Westfield and Francisco. He graduated from Westfield High School where he was captain of both the basketball and baseball teams. While in school, as with most young people of that time, he worked on the family tobacco farm where he learned valuable life lessons while developing a work ethic along with the discipline that prepared him to be successful later in life.
- ***Military Service.*** After high school, Don enlisted in the U.S. Army, and served for 3 years in the 101st Airborne Division as a paratrooper. After completing his U.S. Army enlistment, he transferred to the U.S. Air Force where he was stationed at many bases around the globe. While in the Air Force he was trained as a jet engine mechanic and served in the Vietnam war keeping the squadrons of aircraft flying during combat. Don retired from the Air Force in 1975 after 21 years of service at the rank of Master Sergeant.
- ***High School Teacher.*** After retiring from the military, Don moved his family back to his childhood home community of Westfield, NC. With years of experience as an aircraft mechanic, Don received his automotive mechanics certification through Surry Community College and began a second career as an auto mechanic and body shop instructor at East Surry High School in Pilot Mountain. He served as a positive role model to hundreds of young people by being a good community citizen while mentoring many of his students into the profession of auto mechanics and body work. Don also taught auto mechanics and NC Safety Inspection certification classes through the Continuing Education division of Surry Community College. Don loved farming and gardening while passing this knowledge to his children and other young people of his community.
- ***Volunteer Firefighter.*** When he returned to his community of Westfield after his military service, Don served as a volunteer firefighter in Westfield Volunteer Fire Department.

He not only fought fire when needed, but eventually obtained the rank of Captain and also served as the President of the department's Board of Directors. In his leadership positions, he placed an emphasis on firefighter training for the members of the department. He served as a role model by consistently being near the top in the number of hours of training each year. He pushed the department to maintain state-of-the-art firefighting tactics as well as equipment. He also placed an emphasis on firefighter and community safety. In 1985, he trained and served as a charter member of the department's initial Fire Responder program – responding on medical calls with both the Surry and Stokes County EMS. Don was one of the first NC certified EMTs in the department. He retired from the department in 2005 with almost 33 years of service.

- ***Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Service.*** As a veteran of the Vietnam conflict, Don joined the Pilot Mountain Post 9436 of the VFW. Not only was he involved in fundraisers to assist veterans, but Don also served several terms as the Post commander. He helped provide comfort to the families of many WWII, Korean War, and Vietnam war vets at their passing by participating in many formal military burial services.
- ***Service through Westfield Baptist Church.*** Don not only loved his country, community, friends, and family, but he loved his God and faithfully served him throughout his life. When he returned from his military service in 1975, Don and his wife Glenda moved their church membership to Westfield Baptist Church – his home church from his childhood. While at Westfield Baptist Church, Don served many years in leadership as Deacon, never ducking tough decisions that had to be made to carry out the church's gospel mission. He also served as a Sunday School teacher for almost 30 years. Each Sunday morning during the summer months, Don led a special ministry at nearby Big Dan Lake where he taught Sunday School to the vacationers – another way he spread the gospel of Christ.

Don Riddle was a unique person who was a born leader and teacher, but humble enough to serve his Lord in everything he did. He was always ready to cheer someone up with a humorous story, share a load of wood with someone in need, or use his skills as a mechanic to help his fellow neighbors. It would be his hope that deserving young people be blessed with an education provided by this scholarship.