January 24, 2011

American Legion Riders E-newsletter

Click here to subscribe to your national newsletter!

ALR Discussion Forums on www.legion.org

Ask the Advisors!

National Commander Foster recently named five riders from several states to be members of a special national advisory committee to the Internal Affairs Commission.

The American Legion Legacy Run

--Indianapolis to Minneapolis

Registration is now open at www.legion.org!

Online registration has opened for the 2011 American Legion Legacy Run, beginning in Indianapolis on Aug. 21 and culminating Aug. 25 in Minneapolis, the site of the 2011 American Legion National Convention. For 2011, registration also provides each participant an opportunity to pre-order the 2011 Legacy Run t-shirt (with free shipping).

Click here for the 2011 Registration form.

Each rider, passenger, or supporter must complete and
sign a separate form. Registration fees have not increased for 2011, and the registration is now an editable form—simply type in the information on-screen, print it, and mail it in.

Registration and check-in is on Saturday, Aug. 20 in Indianapolis, while the run itself commences the morning of Aug. 21 and wraps up the afternoon of Aug. 25. Once in Minneapolis, ride participants may depart for home, or stay for meetings with national staff and advisors and to participate in The American Legion National Convention Parade on Sunday, Aug. 28.

**Critical dates:**

- **Saturday, Aug. 20, 2011** -- (All day) Registration and check-in for all participants in Indianapolis, Indiana. Emblem Sales table, departure dinner in the evening hosted by Indiana American Legion and ALR, and general fellowship and rider training.
- **Sunday, Aug. 21, 2011** -- Rider assembly and final check-ins. Morning departure from Indianapolis.
- **Friday-Saturday, Aug. 26-27, 2011** -- American Legion Riders meetings, after action reviews of The American Legion Legacy Run, and other activities.
- **Monday-Thursday, Aug. 29-Sept. 1, 2011** -- National Convention activities.

Route planning is underway, and the final route plan, with hotel listings, should be ready by the middle of May, after the first pre-runs in late March and April are completed.

Click here for more about The American Legion Legacy Run.

Click here for a short video of 2010 Legacy Run highlights.

**National Security/Foreign Relations (NSFR) Division**

**Hometown support of servicemembers and military families.**
American Legion posts and riders chapters nationwide do a world of good in their communities. At the Legiontown USA blog site, http://legiontown.legion.org/, members, Legion Riders, and family are encouraged to share their stories and photos.

Rider Safety Corner

Head Protection

This may be the most important piece of equipment on long distance runs at highway speeds. Safety helmets save lives by reducing the extent of head injuries in the event of a crash. Many good helmets are available. Make sure it fits comfortably and snugly, and is

No sales pitch was needed to convince a high-level Pentagon advisor of The American Legion's worth in support of servicemembers and their families. **John Newman**, a special assistant to the Assistant Secretary of the Army, is a Legionnaire himself and knows firsthand how the organization works.

In a meeting this week with Barry Searle, director of the Legion's National Security/Foreign Relations (NSFR) Division, Newman told the tale of a deployed soldier's wife coming up to him at a town hall meeting, very upset because – with her husband absent – she had no one to mow her lawn. Newman did the natural thing for a Legionnaire. “Call your local American Legion post,” he advised.

Read more here.

Editor's note: The American Legion Riders, now established in over 1,000 posts nationally, are not shy about giving support to military members and their families. But this job is huge, especially in communities far from military support groups. Contact your nearest Guard and Reserve Family Support Activities, or the senior enlisted advisors and commanders of military bases in your area, to see how your post, unit, squadron, or ALR chapters can provide important assistance through The American Legion's Family Support Initiative. Let me know of any support you provide in 2011 and I'll report your work on these pages.

--AWACS [wsloan@legion.org](mailto:wsloan@legion.org)

See also:

- [Ride to Recovery](#)
- **Veterans of Valor**
- [Volunteer Opportunities](#)
- [Community Covenant](#)
- [Heroes to Hometowns](#)
properly fastened. In choosing a helmet, look for the DOT label on the helmet. The DOT label on helmets constitutes the manufacturer's certification that the helmet conforms to the federal standard. In many states, use of a properly fitted DOT-approved helmet is required by law. (The use of a properly fitted DOT-approved helmet is in fact required on The American Legion Legacy Run.) Visit the Motorcycle Safety Foundation for more tips and information about safe riding.

Want to help make YOUR American Legion Riders enewsletter grow! Want to see your chapter's accomplishments on the newsletter? Submit your articles, pictures, or safety tips to Bill Sloan, "AWACS", at legionriders@legion.org.
February 23, 2011

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ALR Discussion Forum

Ask the Advisors!

National Commander Foster recently named five riders to be members of a special national advisory committee to the Internal Affairs Commission. Register on the Forum and post your questions and comments.

The 2011 advisory committee members:

Bill Kaledas (MI)
Terry Woodburn (IL)
Mike Kirchoff (FL)
T.J. Haynes (TX)
Everett Freel (IA)

Legacy Run special advisory members:

David Gough (WI)

American Bass Anglers donates $10K to The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund.

On behalf of Early Times Kentucky Whiskey, American Bass Anglers has donated $10,000 to The American Legion Legacy Fund. Joe Murray, Early Times brand manager, presented a check for the monetary amount to Alabama 12th District Commander Becky Burney during a presentation earlier this year.

Read more here!

American Legion Riders -Riders helping veterans through Heroes to
Hometowns  During staff training conducted recently here in Indianapolis, I briefed Daryl Hill, Assistant Director of DoD Outreach, on The American Legion Riders and the growth of the ALR programs to over 1,200 chapters nationally. I told Hill of your intense interest and ability to react quickly to render support whenever you find an active duty servicemember, or a veteran, or a veteran's child or family in need.

Hill is an assistant director of the Economics division of The American Legion Washington headquarters and is the Legion's staff coordinator of the Heroes to Hometowns program. See www.legion.org/heroes, or the Department of Defense Military Homefront page for more on this important program.

In the last few days, Hill has shared six cases with me where we believe local American Legion posts or Riders chapters can provide immediate and effective help. We have forwarded this information to your department leadership. The departments in turn pass on the information to the Heroes to Hometown chairman for action. We believe that in many states the Riders can become an effective in assisting the H2H chairman render critical assistance to the young wounded veterans in need.

I hope you can help. In most of these cases the situation describes a recently discharged wounded veteran with a spouse and children. They are often severely wounded and still under treatment for PTSD or TBI, or undergoing long term rehabilitation after amputation.

If your local chapter, district, or department ALR program is interested in forming a Heroes to Hometown assistance team, ready to respond to young wounded warriors in your city or town, please contact your department adjutant and Daryl Hill at dhill@legion.org for more information.

The American Legion Legacy Run - 2011 Registration is open!

Click here for the 2011 Registration form.
Each rider, passenger, or supporter must complete and sign a separate form. Registration fees have not increased for 2011, and the registration is now an editable form—simply type in the information on-screen, print it, and mail it in.

Registration and check-in is on Saturday, Aug. 20 in Indianapolis, while the run itself commences the morning of Aug. 21 and wraps up the afternoon of Aug. 25. Once in Minneapolis, ride participants may depart for home, or stay for meetings with national staff and advisors and to participate in The American Legion National Convention Parade on Sunday, Aug. 28.

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[Click here for more about The American Legion Legacy Run.](http://www.emblem.legion.org)

[Click here for a short video of 2010 Legacy Run highlights.](http://www.emblem.legion.org)
decisions in traffic must be based on sharing the roadways effectively with other riders and drivers.

Many of us will be cranking our machines up this month to begin another riding season. Don't let the critical idea of risk management, or what used to be called "defensive driving" get lost in the wind and sun.

Continue your skills training by making a point to attend an advanced riders training course this spring. Continue to develop as a Rider by honing your risk management skills as well.

Visit the Motorcycle Safety Foundation for more tips and information about safe riding and risk management.

Want to help make YOUR American Legion Riders enewsletter grow! Want to see your chapter's accomplishments on the newsletter? Submit your articles, pictures, or safety articles to Bill Sloan, "AWACS", at legionriders@legion.org.
American Legion Riders E-newsletter

Click [here](http://www.legion.org) to subscribe!

**ALR Discussion Forum**

*Post your ALR questions on the Riders’ Forum*

The American Legion’s national website, [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org), has a special forum for a variety of American Legion programs and topics, including The American Legion Riders. Log in and post your questions and comments, even take part in discussions, at [www.legion.org/forum](http://www.legion.org/forum)

**American Legion Legacy Run 2011**

**Sixth annual run from Indianapolis to Minneapolis**

**Route planning continues...here’s the latest:**

Chief Road Captain Dick Woods, accompanied by a small planning team, will make a cage run April 7-10 of the first of the two proposed routes recommended by the ad hoc committee in March. The team will confirm availability of gas, food, and lodging as well as conditions and suitability of the roads and highways. If all goes as expected we will identify the hotels, make arrangements for the lowest possible lodging rates for our riders, and publish the entire route and lodging information in this newsletter and on [www.legion.org/riders](http://www.legion.org/riders) by the end of April 2011. We’re actually ahead of schedule by a few weeks over previous years. Currently more than 100 riders and passengers have already registered for the August event (see below for registration information). Register soon--this may prove...
How a Bill Becomes a Flaw?

Congress passed the Caregiver Act with unanimous bipartisan support nearly a year ago in May. What’s happened in the meantime?

Visit the Burn Pit for latest blogs and news: http://burnpit.legion.org/

2010 Legacy Run Challenge Coins

We recently discovered a lost supply of the 2010 American Legion Legacy Run challenge coins. Many of the riders missed the chance last year to purchase a challenge coin when Emblem Sales sold out during the first day of the Run. These limited edition 2010 Challenge Coins are now available free of charge in exchange for a small donation to cover postage and mailing costs. Any extra money will go to The American Legion general fund to help fund a variety of Legion programs and activities, including the Legacy Run itself.

If you would like to obtain one or more challenge coins commemorating The American Legion Legacy Run to Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 2010, please make a small donation by check made out to The American Legion and send your request to this address:

2010 Legacy Run Challenge Coin
PO Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46204

(Note: Scott Miller and I have also recovered a few dozen of the 2009 coins for Louisville, Kentucky, also available at no cost in exchange for a donation. Send your challenge coin request to the same address above. I also have some Legacy Run patches 2006-2010. Send me an email at wsloan@legion.org.)

Heroes to Hometowns --Riders helping wounded warriors returning home

Riders react quickly to render support whenever they find an active duty servicemember, or a veteran, or a veteran’s children or family in need in a local community.

If your local chapter, district, or department ALR program is interested in forming a Heroes to Hometown assistance team, ready to respond to young wounded warriors in your city or town, please contact your department adjutant and Daryl Hill at dhill@legion.org for more information.

The American Legion Legacy
Rider Safety Corner

It's that time of year again! We here in Indiana are thawing out and getting our bikes ready for another season of riding. We're sure many of you are, too.

As you disconnect your battery chargers and brush away the dust from months of cold-weather storage, please remember that this is also a good time to give your machines a complete inspection, top to bottom, before you crank up and ride, even if you only plan to ride as far as your favorite bike shop for spring maintenance and inspections. It's that important.

Remember T-CLOCS?

T - Tires and wheels
C - Controls
L - Lights
O - Oil
C - Chassis
S - Stands

Do yourself and your loved ones a favor. Spend a few hours with your bike this weekend, using the T-CLOCS checklist from the Motorcycle Safety Foundation as a guide.

Run Online
Registration open until August 1, 2011

Click here for the 2011 Registration form. Each rider, passenger, or supporter must complete and sign a separate form. Registration fees have not increased for 2011, and the registration/waiver is now an editable form--simply type in the information on-screen, print it, and mail it.

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Monday-Thursday, Aug. 29-Sept. 1, 2011 -- National Convention activities.

Click here for more about The American Legion Legacy Run.

Click here for a short video of 2010 Legacy Run highlights.

www.emblem.legion.org
You'll ride safer and with more confidence as a result.

Download a copy of The Motorcycle Safety Foundation's T-CLOCS Safety Inspection Checklist.

Visit the Motorcycle Safety Foundation for more tips and information about safe riding and risk management.

Want to help make YOUR American Legion Riders enewsletter grow! Want to see your chapter's accomplishments on the newsletter? Submit your articles, pictures, or safety articles to Bill Sloan, "AWACS", at legionriders@legion.org.

All,

I wanted to use a few inches of space and remind us all--Riders and American Legion members--to pause and remember Frank Buckles, America's last veteran of the Great War, who passed away Feb. 27 at his West Virginia farmhouse home. You can read more about Buckles, see a video, and watch a trailer for "Pershing's Last Patriot" online at www.legion.org/frankbuckles.

--AWACS
April 5, 2011

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Click here to subscribe!

Legion Riders Discussion Forum
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American Legion Blogsite
Wounded Warrior Success Story
Lt. Brian Brennan
Visit the Burn Pit for latest blogs and news: http://burnpit.legion.org/

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Click here for more about The American Legion Legacy Run.
American Legion posts and riders chapters nationwide do a world of good in their communities. At the Legintown USA blog site, http://legintown.legion.org/, members, Legion Riders and Legion Family are asked to share their stories and photos.

Rider Safety Corner

Group Riding—One chapter’s technique for safe lane changes:

"A couple of years ago our riders developed what we think is a safe way to ride in groups on the highways when passing slow vehicles in the right lane. Our leading bike maintains a steady speed, alert for slow moving vehicles ahead. If the lead sees the need to pass coming up, he or she puts on the left turn signal and passes a hand signal to the rear. As the signal reaches the rear of the formation, the tail gunner, or "sweep," initiates the lane change by first checking his/her flank and pulling into the left lane. As the lane clears of traffic, the riders from the rear to the front carefully execute the lane change in front of the sweep in the now empty lane. The road captain in front is the last to change lanes, and at that point can resume a safe speed to overtake the slower vehicle. We..."
try to use this sparingly, but we review it during the pre-ride safety briefings. It seems to work well--much better than 15-20 motorcycles moving independently from lane to lane!

--Tom Howard, Post 42, Charlotte, Michigan

Send us your tips!

Visit the Motorcycle Safety Foundation for more tips and information about safe riding and risk management.

Download a copy of The Motorcycle Safety Foundation's T-CLOCS Safety Inspection Checklist.

Have you seen the Legion Riders and American Legion Legacy Run videos on LegionTV? Check out the new promotional clip about The American Legion Riders.

Want to help make YOUR American Legion Riders enewsletter grow! Want to see your chapter's accomplishments on the newsletter? Submit your articles, pictures, or safety articles to Bill Sloan, "AWACS", at legionriders@legion.org.

The American Legion Riders | PO Box 1055 | Indianapolis, IN 46206
May 2, 2011

American Legion Riders E-newsletter

Click here to subscribe!

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American Legion Blogsite

The Death of Osama bin Laden

'Joey would have loved this':
Engines rev for first Joey Wilson Ride

By Jennifer Lord Paluzzi
May 01, 2011 - GRAFTON, Mass. - The first Joey Wilson Memorial Scholarship Charity Ride sped off from Delisle Goulet American Legion Post 92 on a sunny Sunday, with the engines of about 200 motorcycles roaring.

"They're all here for my Joey," marveled Alison Wilson, Joey's mother, as she looked out into a parking lot filled with gleaming bikes. "He would have loved this."

Joey Wilson, 16, a junior at Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational High School, was the driver in a car crash on Dec. 18, 2010 which also killed Northbridge resident Christopher "Topher" McLellan. His family has since established a scholarship in his memory and Alison Wilson has adopted a special mission of her own: she has spoken frankly to students at both Valley Tech and Grafton High School about the aftermath of her son's death from drunk driving.

The bike run was combined with the post's fourth annual Blessing of the Bikes ceremony, in which both motorcycles and riders were "smudged" by
Nipmuc tribe members. The event last year brought in 35 riders -- among them, Joey Wilson.

"He’d only had his permit for two weeks," said Liz Beshai, his aunt. "He loved motorcycles. He loved anything with a motor, really."

As if answering her statement, the first of many motors gunned as the riders began to line up for the start. Soon the lot was filled with the roar of about 200 motors revving.

Beshai smiled and repeated the words on everyone's lips that morning. "Joey would have loved this," she said.

Story and photo by Jennifer Lord Paluzzi, The Daily Grafton, Grafton MA

"Fun and funds for the Legion. These types of events pull people together with the Posts and Riders." --National Adjutant Dan Wheeler.

For Immediate Release:

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS TO HOLD BARBECUE COOK-OFF AT TEXAS STATE RALLY

Grand Haven, Michigan Post 28 Riders to travel 1,500 miles to compete in Converse, Texas May 13-15

When the Riders chapter at post 593 in Converse, Texas was selected to host the annual state rally, they wanted it to salute the spirit of service that prevails in The American Legion Family. They were in search of a family friendly, fun competition to add to the rally when, by chance, riders from Converse met a group from Michigan. As is usual for American Legion Riders, their conversation drifted to serving veterans and fundraising. When one of the Michigan riders mentioned they hold successful barbeque meals at their post, the Texas riders offered to teach them how to cook real barbeque. The ensuing spirited dialog ended in laughter and a plan. They would establish a friendly riders cooking competition, with 100% of the proceeds going to
**Rider Safety Corner**

**Riding with a passenger**
The Motorcycle Safety Foundation offers "QUICK TIPS" and guidelines on a variety of subjects important in our sport. Do you know the legal considerations for riding with a passenger in your state? Do you know how the additional weight of the passenger will affect your bike's handling and braking characteristics? Is your bike's suspension set up and properly adjusted for a passenger? Does your passenger have the basic knowledge necessary to ride safely?

You can download the MSF "Quick Tips: Guidelines For Riding With A Passenger" here.

And ride safely with your partner! 

Send us your tips!

Visit the Motorcycle Safety Foundation for more tips and information about safe riding. Submit your articles, pictures, or safety articles to Bill Sloan, "AWACS", at legionriders@legion.org.

www.emblem.legion.org

American Legion Programs. Converse agreed to host the event as part of the Texas State Rally on May 13-15, 2011. Competition is open to all American Legion Riders.

According to Jack Van Weelden, Chief Cook and instigator for the Post 28 riders, "We are bringing our own cooker and wood, because we want to help our fellow riders in Texas learn how to barbeque. Who knows how much money they would raise for American Legion Programs if their food was actually eatable? It's going to be a blast.

Terry (Hawgr) Smith, Chief Cook and instigator for the Post 593 riders responded with, "What can I say. They are from up north and this is Texas. If they are trainable, I think we can help them some. We won't send them home hungry."

According to Clayton Smith, Chairman of the ALR State Rally, there is no entry fee. "But be careful, he adds, "there are a few rules: Number one, this is a family event so laughter is required. Number two, Respect for Ribs, Chicken and Brisket is required at all times. Number three, courage to face a mystery meat and judge it with a smile is required. Number four, you must agree not to lose- the only real winner will be the programs of The American Legion.

For more information email alr593info@gmail.com

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**The American Legion Legacy Run planning continues.**

"Pre-run" to rehearse entire route May 15-19, 2011

Chief Road Captain Dick Woods, accompanied by a four planning team members, will conduct a pre-run by motorcycle on May 15-19 of the proposed route recommended by the Legion Riders ad hoc committee. The pre-run will simulate times and stops at every location, confirming transit times between scheduled stops and refueling points, and further confirming arrangements made for entertainment, special events, and lodging over the entire course of the 5-day run.

As of today, nearly 200 riders and passengers have already pre-registered for the August 21-25 Legacy Run. Join us! (Click here for registration information).

Legacy Run Challenge

Coins available. Challenge coins for 2009
(Louisville), and 2010 (Milwaukee) are still available, free of charge, in return for a small donation to cover mailing costs. If you did not get a coin in previous years and would like to obtain one or more American Legion Legacy Run challenge coins commemorating your support of the American Legion Legacy Scholarship, send a check (payable to The American Legion) to:

**Legacy Run Challenge Coins**
PO Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206

Suggested donation? $5 per coin will cover our costs. A few dollars more will help, too, of course. (NOTE: We have exhausted supplies of all of our 2006, 2007, and 2008 coins)

--AWACS, legionriders@legion.org
American Legion Riders Responding to Alabama Tornados

Relief Operations currently underway

**Alberta, AL:** One area in Alabama where the tornado hit particularly hard was the Alberta neighborhood, just down the street from the University of Alabama campus. Alberta is located in Tuscaloosa county and is said to be where the heart of the tornado damage lies.

"It's just devastating," said tornado victim Jeanetta Banks. "I saw a women standing up when we first came in she had a sign saying, 'Do you know who I am?' She don't even know who she is. That's something you see that happens in other places, but not here. My house was just shaking. It was real bad."

...and in Hackleburg, AL:
Legion family members of

**Guest Editorial-606 Words**

May 5, 2011

Where is the death certificate, Mr. President?

**By Jimmie L. Foster**

Osama bin Laden is dead. Of that, I have no doubt. To question this statement one would have to question the skill and bravery of the Navy SEALS and believe that the master terrorist who occasionally appeared in propaganda videos and audio recordings was capable of perpetually eluding all human and technological intelligence.

The unparalleled success of Sunday’s mission makes President Obama’s decision to not release the bin Laden “death photographs” especially confounding. When an event organizer cut off the sound to candidate Ronald Reagan during a debate with George H.W. Bush, Reagan famously said, “I paid for this microphone!”

Well, Mr. President, the American people paid
Hackleburg Post 158 are mourning the loss of three members, including the post commander and his wife. Hackleburg is just north of Birmingham, a town of about 1,500 people who lost virtually the entire community.

Riders respond in force

For Alberta: Riders from the Wright Brothers Post 210, Montgomery, Alabama, are forming a relief convoy of all interested riders and veterans to provide volunteer muscle to work under the direction of local authorities in Alberta. This convoy of motorcycles, cars, trucks, and other vehicles will depart Montgomery at 8:00 a.m. Saturday, May 7. For more information contact Tim "Merlin" Smith, Post 210 commander and ALR director, at 210merlin@gmail.com, or phone 334-546-0601.

For Hackleburg: The Greencastle, Indiana American Legion Post and Chapter 58 is organizing a semitrailer bound for Hackleburg, Alabama loaded with donated items. Trailer will be parked for donations on Saturday, May 7, from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. The ALR asks for non-perishables such as diapers, formula, batteries, toiletries, and other comfort items. For more information contact Keith Whitinger, ALR Chapter 58, Greencastle, Indiana, at keithwhitinger@sbcglobal.net, or phone (765) 721-3198.

See also the Indiana American Legion Riders website www.indianalegionriders.org/

THE AMERICAN LEGION'S

for those photographs. More than a trillion dollars, in fact, if you include the cost of the Department of Homeland Security, two wars, and the care for more than 40,000 veterans who have been wounded in Afghanistan and Iraq.

President Obama said that “given the graphic nature of these photos it would create a national security risk.” I respectfully disagree.

Radical Islam creates the national security risk. There were no photographs that prompted the attacks on 9/11, the missile strike on the USS Cole or the bombing of the U.S. Marine barracks in Lebanon. Does anyone seriously believe that the terrorists will hate us less than they already do if the photos are not released? Will the “death to America” chants that have existed since the Iranian hostage crisis suddenly morph into love sonnets?

The American people are tired of walking on eggshells to placate a violent ideology that respects neither innocent civilians nor the amazing humanitarian work performed by our soldiers every day. The problem is not blasphemous cartoons or even misguided pastors burning Korans. It’s the people who react with barbarous acts of violence usually inflicted on innocents who had nothing to do with the original “offense.” Where does the First Amendment include exception clauses for cases that might incite radical Islamists? Mr. President, they hate us anyway.

The American Legion does not rejoice at any death. But let us remember what bin Laden has wrought. He is the reason more than 6,000 U.S. military families have buried loved ones lost in combat since 9/11. He is the reason our children are now groped in airports by security officials. He is the reason for the high level of mistrust between the overwhelming majority of peaceful Muslims and those of other faiths.

It is not about gathering trophies or “spiking the football,” as the president mischaracterized it. It’s about showing a replay to season ticket holders who were barred from entering the stadium.

The photos are no doubt bloody and graphic.
Please help us spread the word that ALL members of The American Legion are eligible for cash grants if left without food or shelter because of a natural disaster? Many of you may know of Legionnaires in Alabama and elsewhere who are without food or a place to shelter. Please remind them of our Legion's long standing "devotion to mutual helpfulness," and have them contact the nearest standing American Legion post, or the Alabama state headquarters at 334-262-6638. We can usually place a check in their hands within 24-48 hours of the application to cover emergency shelter, clothing, and food needs.

But do you know what else is painful to see? The burns on the faces of patients at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Or the eyes of Michael Nordmeyer, the father of 21-year-old Zach Nordmeyer, a soldier and member of The American Legion who was killed in Iraq two years ago. It still pains most of us to look at images of firefighters running into the World Trade Center for the very last time.

There will be some who doubt the official version of bin Laden's death whether the photographs are released or not. But not releasing this evidence would surely be adding steroids to these nonsensical conspiracy theories.

Some say the photographs will bring closure. Others see it as a need to satisfy a thirst for vengeance. I prefer to think of them as symbols of justice.

The raid on bin Laden's hide-out is a truly great moment in American history.

Mr. President, release the photographs. We paid an enormous price for them.

Jimmie L. Foster of Anchorage, Alaska, is national commander of The American Legion, the nation’s largest wartime veterans organization with 2.4 million members.

Contact:
Joe March or John Raughter
American Legion National Headquarters
317-630-1253

A high definition photo of Nat. Cmdr. Foster is available on request or it can be downloaded from www.legion.org.
The American Legion Legacy Run: Ready for kickstands up August 21!

The 2011 route plan is complete for what may be the most unique Legacy Run we've ever done (see route at left sidebar). We're headed for the Great Lakes and 1,224 miles of beautiful backcountry hills, lakes, beaches, dunes, and scenery through northern Indiana, Michigan, across the Mackinac Bridge into Michigan's Upper Peninsula, then west along Lake Michigan's northern shores and dunes into Wisconsin's great northern forests and lakes. The route continues to the southern shore of Lake Superior into Duluth, and then across Minnesota with an overnight stop at Brainerd and a final refueling near Sauk Rapids before a relaxed morning run into Minneapolis for The American Legion's 93rd annual national convention.

More than 200 riders and passengers have
Aug. 23 - St. Ignace, MI to Manocqua, WI (306 miles)
- Lunch event hosted by the Iron Mountain, Michigan American Legion Post 50
- Afternoon visit with wounded warriors at Wisconsin's Camp American Legion
- Evening stop in Manocqua, WI

Aug. 24 - Manocqua, WI to Brainerd, MN (276 miles)
- US-51N; US-2W
- Lunch stop at Duluth Post 71
- I-35S; MN 210W
- Evening stop in Brainerd, MN

Aug. 25 - Brainerd, MN to Richfield, MN (175 miles)
- I-39 South; US10E; I-494
- Arrival early afternoon for welcome event at American Legion Post 435, Richfield, MN (South Minneapolis)

 already signed up for the August 21-25 event. Pre-registration is $50 for each operator and $25 for each passenger before August 1. Registration fees rise to $60 for both riders and passengers on August 2, 2011.

Join us! Click Here for the 2011 American Legion Legacy Run Registration Form.

Riders and passengers must complete and sign separate registrations. Riders are welcome to join or depart at any designated "posse up" point along the way. Registration is open to all licensed motorcyclists with machines of 750cc or better, including trikes, sidecars, trailers, and other types. Groups of riders are welcome and we will certainly attempt to place your riders together within the Legacy Run's own group structure.

Structure: The American Legion Legacy Run is carefully managed into up to twelve separate traveling formations of no more than 25 motorcycles, each led by a trained and experienced road captain selected from veterans of prior Runs. While the Run may look at first glance to be a mass group of up to 300 motorcycles, the leaders and planners focus on group and individual safety first and foremost. The "accordion" effect common to many large group riding formations is mitigated by breaking the Run into many smaller segments running at steady speeds independently of the groups to the front and rear, allowing ample space between for highway traffic.

Experience one of the country's largest and most successful cross-country group riding experiences! The American Legion Legacy Run has raised more than $2,000,000 for The American Legion Legacy Scholarship for the sons and daughters of our active duty men and women who have died on active duty since Sept. 11, 2001.

National Commander Jimmie Foster will also travel every mile of the Legacy Run--speaking to local groups and media events at each stop, working with the riders to meet his goal of raising $450,000 for The American Legion Legacy Scholarship in 2011.

Lodging Information

All room rates honored until August 1, 2011. Call the hotels directly and reserve your room using a credit card. (Additional charges may apply for more than
will provide his Certificate of Appreciation to all posts, departments, units, or squadrons who donate in any amount to The American Legion Legacy Run.

Donations made to the Run in excess of $500 are additionally acknowledged with a custom wooden plaque. Please provide full name of donor organization--corporation, post, chapter, unit, squadron, district, etc.,--if not already printed on the check, along with a valid point of contact. These plaques may be presented to supporting businesses, veterans organizations, or private individuals as well. Checks should be made out to The American Legion Legacy Run and mailed to The Legacy Run, PO Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

**Rider Safety Corner**

Riding safe and smart can mean the difference from enjoying yourself on the road or suffering injuries in a nasty accident. Here are a few key safety tips that, if followed, should keep you cruising happily for years.

**Be Visible:**

Accidents involving motorcycles frequently occur because car drivers can't see the motorcyclist. Make yourself known on the road by riding with your headlight on, flashing break lights.

**Friday, Aug. 19, and Saturday, August 20, 2011 (Indianapolis)**

**Comfort Inn & Suites and Sleep Inn Airport West**

5855 Rockville Rd, Indianapolis, IN 46224

(This properties will host an all weekend bike wash area and designated bike parking, free Legacy Run Barbeque, and special rates for single and double occupancy)

Phone (317) 487-9800

Comfort Inn and Suites ..... $69.00+tax
Sleep Inn ......................... $59.00+tax

**La Quinta Inn (HQ Hotel)**

Indianapolis Airport 5316 West Southern Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46241

Ph: (317) 247-4281

Room Rate: $63.00+tax (until Aug. 1, 2011)

**Sunday, Aug. 21, 2011 (Mt. Pleasant, MI)**

**Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort**

6800 Soaring Eagle Boulevard, Mt. Pleasant, MI

Ph: (989) 775-7777

Make reservations online at www.soaringeaglecasino.com by choosing Reserve Your Room Today and using the group code 98Y5WG

Room rate: $89.00+tax (until July 31, 2011).

There will be a $10 charge for the third and fourth adult.

**Monday, Aug. 22, 2011 (St. Ignace, MI)**

**Kewadin Shores Casino & Resort The Kewadin Lakefront Inn**

3015 Mackinac Trail, St. Ignace, MI 49781

Ph: (906) 643-7071 or 1-800-KEWADIN

Room rate both locations $75.95+tax (until Aug. 1, 2011)

**Tuesday, Aug. 23, 2011 (Minocqua, WI)**

**AmericInn Minocqua**

700 Highway 51 North, Minocqua, WI 54548

Ph: 1-715-356-3730

Room rate $75.00+tax (until Aug. 1, 2011)

**Comfort Inn Minocqua**

8729 Us 51 N., Minocqua, WI 54548

Ph: (715) 358-2588

Room rate $77.00+tax (until Aug. 1, 2011)

**Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2011 (Brainerd/Baxter, MN)**
when slowing down or stopping and using your horn. Dress brightly and use reflective tape on your clothing and bike. Always be mindful that motorcycles are smaller than cars and offer virtually no protection.

**Be Aware:**

Use common sense and pay close attention to other drivers' signals. Make sure you clearly signal all your moves on the road so drivers and fellow bikers aren't surprised. Be prepared to react quickly in the event a vehicle threatens your safety, whether it's slowing down, switching lanes or speeding away from an unaware driver. And never forget that that all vehicles on the road have blind spots, so keep enough distance to avoid other drivers' blind spots.

**Be Smart:**

Motorcyclists are subject to the same traffic laws as car and truck drivers. So obey all traffic laws. Avoid weaving in and out of traffic or passing cars on the shoulder. If you're under the influence of drugs or alcohol, do not ride your motorcycle. And make sure your bike is safe and in good working order.

*With thanks to Motorcycle Safe Florida and The Motorcycle Safety Foundation*

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**The Crossings Inn and Suites**
7208 Fairview Road, Baxter, MN 56425
Ph: (218) 822-1133
Rate: $77.00 single and $87.00 double occupancy

**AmericInn Baxter-Brainerd**
14466 Dellwood Drive, Baxter, MN 56425
Ph: (218) 829-3080
Room rate $75.00 (Extra charges for third and fourth adults in room)

**Country Inn and Suites**
15058 Dellwood Drive, Baxter, MN 56425
Ph: (218) 828-2161 Fax: (218) 825-8419
Room rate $77.00+tax (Extra charges for third and fourth adults in room)

**Thursday, Aug. 25, 2011 (Run arrives in Minneapolis).**

**Lodging Options in Minneapolis:**

Riders staying over for Convention activities may wish to contact their Department headquarters for information about hotels and lodging already blocked for Legion Family members at reduced rates—your department adjutant or convention committee may have excellent rooms available with other convention attendees from your state located close to the convention center in downtown Minneapolis—not far from the arrival point at Post 435.

Many of you will want to stay together in a single hotel. We recommend these locations:

**La Quinta Inn Minneapolis Airport Bloomington**
7815 Nicolett Avenue South, Bloomington, MN 55420
Ph: (952) 881-7311
Room rate: Call for rates

**AmericInn Lodge & Suites** 1200 East 78th Street, Richfield, MN 55423 Ph: (612) 869-8600
Room rate: Call for rates

**Comfort Inn Airport** 1321 East 78th Street, Bloomington, MN 55425 Ph: (952) 854-3400
Room Rate: Call for rates

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**The American Legion Riders Rolling Hills Romp**
St. Anthony, Indiana, July 21-24, 2011

The Rolling Hills Romp is quickly approaching us. The Romp committee is working hard on the planning of this major event and I think your going to like what we have lined up for you this time around.

The Romp will be celebrating the 10th anniversary of this American Legion Riders National event and is being held in our back yard this year. We are planning a good old fashion biker party with rides, games, lots of great entertainment and much much more for you to enjoy. Riders members from all over the country will be coming in for this event and it would be a shame if we didn't have a huge showing of Hoosiers to meet and greet them.

Information about the Romp is posted on the Indiana ALR website at www.indianalegionriders.org/romp.htm and at the ALR National site at www.americanlegionriders.net. Send us your pre registration form before the June 15th deadline and we will even give you a $10.00 discount on your entry fee. That means more cash for you to spend on your favorite cold beverages to enjoy at the party.

So mark you calendar this year for July 21 - 24 and we hope to see you all in Southern Indiana for the party.

Email rollinghillsromp@hotmail.com if you have any questions or need any other information about the Romp.

Dawg
Chairman
Rolling Hills Romp

The American Legion Riders (ALR) national newsletter is published semi-weekly by The American Legion Riders program office at the national headquarters of The American Legion, 700 N. Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis, IN 46204. For information about the Riders in your state, or are interested in forming a new American Legion Riders Chapter at your local post? Contact your American Legion department (state) headquarters by clicking here.
Have a safety tip or an idea for an article? Send to legionriders@legion.org.
American Legion Legacy Run 06102011

June 10, 2011

American Legion Riders E-newsletter

To subscribe? Visit here.

Legacy Run Route Plan 2011

Aug. 21- Indianapolis to Mt. Pleasant, MI (336 miles)
- Depart from Indianapolis
- Overnight stay at the Soaring Eagle Hotel/Casino.

Aug. 22- Mt. Pleasant, MI to St. Ignace, MI (171 miles)
- US-127N to I-75N
- Early afternoon arrival at Mackinaw City/Mackinac Island.
- Over the Mackinac Bridge into St. Ignace.
- Overnight stay at Kewadin Hotels, St. Ignace, MI.

Aug. 23- St. Ignace, MI to Manocqua, WI (306 miles)
- Lunch event hosted by the Iron Mountain, Michigan American Legion Post 50
- Afternoon visit with wounded warriors at Wisconsin's Camp American Legion
- Evening stop in Manocqua, WI

Aug. 24- Manocqua, WI to Brainerd, MN (276 miles)
- US-51N; US-2W
- Lunch stop at Duluth Post 71
- I-35S; MN 210W
- Evening stop in

The American Legion Legacy Run

Ready for kickstands up August 21!

The 2011 route plan is approved for what may
**Brainerd, MN**

Aug. 25- Brainerd, MN to Richfield, MN (175 miles)

- I-39 South; US10E; I-494

Arrival early afternoon for welcome event at American Legion Post 435, Richfield, MN (South Minneapolis).

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Legacy Run Challenge Coins available.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Challenge coins for 2010 (Milwaukee) are still available, free of charge, in return for a small donation to cover mailing costs. If you did not get a coin last year and would like to obtain one or more American Legion Legacy Run 2010 Challenge Coins commemorating your support of the American Legion Legacy Scholarship, send a check (payable to The American Legion) to:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legacy Run Challenge Coins</td>
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<tr>
<td>PO Box 1055</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indianapolis, IN 46206</td>
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Suggested donation? $5 will cover our costs for coin and mailing expenses. A few dollars more will help, too, of course. All remaining funds go to offset the normal expenses of The American Legion Legacy Run.

*(NOTE: We have exhausted our supplies of 2006-2009 coins. - ed.)*

**Rider Safety Corner**

*(Submitted by road captain John "Hammer" Hanzlky from Post 1, Omaha, Nebraska, ALR/PGR)*

- *This is one safety tip I rarely see in organizations that have rider by-laws. I think it one of the most dangerous maneuvers a group can make if not done correctly by all.*

  - I've seen many a mid-pack rider grab a handful getting on an interstate on-ramp only to run up on the bike in front, then break hard only to freak the guy out behind him and so on and so on, scattering the group.

  - *When riders are in a group and turning onto an interstate on-ramp our Road Captain will maintain an even speed until the sweep rider has made the turn. Once the last rider has made the turn, be the most unique Legacy Run we've ever presented (see route at left sidebar). We're headed for the Great Lakes and 1,224 miles of beautiful backcountry hills, lakes, beaches, dunes, and scenery through northern Indiana, Michigan, across the Mackinac Bridge into Michigan's Upper Peninsula, then west along Lake Michigan's northern shores and dunes into Wisconsin's great northern forests and lakes. The route continues to the southern shore of Lake Superior into Duluth, and then across Minnesota with an overnight stop at Brainerd and a final refueling near Sauk Rapids before a relaxed morning run into Minneapolis for The American Legion's 83rd annual national convention.*

  - More than 200 riders and passengers have already signed up for the August 21-25 event. Pre-registration is $50 for each operator and $25 for each passenger before August 1. Registration fees rise to $60 for both riders and passengers on August 2, 2011.

  - **Join us! Click Here for the 2011 American Legion Legacy Run Registration Form.**

  - Riders and passengers must complete and sign separate registrations. Riders are welcome to join or depart at any designated "posse up" point along the way. Registration is open to all licensed motorcyclists with machines of 750cc or better, including trikes, sidecars, trailers, and other types. Groups of riders are welcome—we will certainly make every effort to place your riders together within the Legacy Run's own group structure.

  - **Structure:** The American Legion Legacy Run is carefully managed into up to twelve separate traveling formations of no more than 25 motorcycles, each led by a trained and experienced road captain selected from veterans of prior Runs. While the Run may look at first glance to be a mass group of up to 300 motorcycles, the leaders and planners focus on group and individual safety first and foremost. The "accordion" effect common to many large group riding formations is mitigated by breaking the Run into many smaller segments running at steady speeds independently of the groups to the front and rear, allowing ample space between for highway traffic.

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  - **National Commander Jimmie Foster** will travel every mile of the Legacy Run—speaking to local groups and media events at each stop, pumping gas, and working with the riders to meet his goal of raising $450,000 for The American Legion Legacy Scholarship in 2011.

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- **Friday, Aug. 19, and Saturday, August 20, 2011 (Indianapolis)**

  - **Comfort Inn & Suites and Sleep Inn Airport West**

  5855 Rockville Rd, Indianapolis, IN 46224

  *(These properties will host an all weekend bike wash area and designated bike parking, free Legacy Run Barbeque, and special rates for single and double occupancy)*

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It onto the ramp, and the group is still a group, the Road Captain will quickly pick up the pace and merge into interstate traffic as a group. It may be a long group, but think of one of those big trucks pulling a double set of 53' trailers up in South Dakota. It definitely is big enough to be seen coming down on a ramp and most drivers will adjust their lane if at all possible. This maneuver will keep the group from getting scattered out and merging as individuals and then trying to re-group in traffic, which then would become one of the most dangerous moves we could make ... playing Catch-up in traffic."

--Road captain jmhcycle from Post #1 Omaha NE ALR/PGR

(With thanks to Hammer! Careful throttle control and spacing will make the group more visible to traffic, encouraging cage drivers to move to the left as they see the merging formation. But ALL riders in the formation should also remain aware that the "right of way" belongs to the traffic on the highway, and should be prepared to merge carefully into the occupied lane. Not every car or truck can or will move to the left.

--AWACS

Click this box for information about joining America's largest veterans service organization--The American Legion Family.

www.legion.org

Sleep Inn ....................... $59.00+tax

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Have a safety tip or an idea for an article? Send to legionriders@legion.org.

Want to subscribe to this newsletter? Visit here.

Scott Miller, smiller@legion.org, ALR Program Developer
Bill "AWACS" Sloan, wsloan@legion.org, ALR Program Administrator

www.legion.org/riders
Motorcycle Brake Safety Recall

If you have a newer Harley-Davidson, please pay attention to the recent Safety Recall.

The problem affects Touring, CVO Touring and Trike vehicles from the 2009 through 2012 model years

(Harley owners: Click here for information for your bike.)

A Rider hand salute to SGM JASON L. STANLEY
Senior Enlisted Advisor
Pakistan-Afghanistan Coordination Cell (PACC)
The Joint Staff, Pentagon, for forwarding this advisory.


...and preparations for 2012 have already begun.

Indianapolis has served as the start point for all six Legacy Runs since 2006. But with the home of the national headquarters slated to host the 2012 American Legion National Convention, obviously a different approach needed to be taken. And now, plans are being made for the 2012 American Legion Legacy Run Home.

Read more here.

The American Legion Legacy Run Home will begin in western New York State on Aug. 21, 2012 with the National Commander’s Ride from the home department of National Commander Fang A. Wong. The Run will escort Commander Wong along the 850-mile Run that will also traverse Pennsylvania, Ohio and Michigan before entering Indiana.

Upon arrival in Indianapolis on August 23 a three-day
Veterans and the "Occupy" Movement.

and...Stolen Valor:

The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to decide whether Congress can make it a crime to lie about having earned a military decoration.

Visit the Burn Pit for latest blogs and news: http://burnpit.legion.org/

American Legion Riders Expo, hosted by the American Legion National Headquarters, Stout Field Army Airfield and the Indiana American Legion Riders will begin. Riders can relax with a series of American Legion Rider social events and take part in range and classroom training, Rider program development courses, skills competitions and Motorcycle Safety Foundation RiderCoach exhibitions.

And finally, the day after a Candlelight Memorial Night Ride through downtown Indianapolis for scholarship students and their families at the Indiana War Memorial on Saturday evening, August 25, the Riders will once again lead The American Legion National Convention Parade.

Mark your calendar now:

Aug. 20, 2011: Assembly in Buffalo/Niagara Falls, NY.
Aug. 21-23: The National Commander's Ride
Aug. 23-25: American Legion Riders Expo
Aug. 26: The 94th Annual National Convention Parade
Aug 27-31: The American Legion National Convention

Registration will begin in January 2012.

Visit www.legion.org/riders often for updated information.

Click here for Video highlights of the 2012 American Legion Legacy Run.

NEW RIDERS MERCHANDISE AVAILABLE ONLINE

The American Legion Emblem Division has released exciting new American Legion Riders shirts, coins, caps, doo-rags, flag sets, hitch covers, custom name tags and more at www.emblem.legion.org.

American Legion posts and riders chapters nationwide do a world of good in their communities. At the Legiontown USA blog site, http://legiontown.legion.org/, members, Legion Riders, and family are encouraged to share their stories and photos.
Rider Safety Corner

Cooler weather doesn't mean we can just park the bikes in the guest bedroom and wait for warmer riding weather. It's important to prepare your motorcycle for storage to ensure a ready machine in the springtime.

Before you park the bike in the back of the garage to connect your battery charger, please remember that this is also a good time to give your machine a complete inspection, top to bottom. Take the time to drain the crankcase and fill to proper level with fresh oil. In fact, check all your fluids and drain/refill as necessary. If possible, jack the bike up a few inches off the ground to help keep your tires in proper shape. Take the time to check your lighting and the tensioning of your brake cables, throttle, and clutch. Replace or clean your air filter now, if needed.

Refer to your own owner's manual and the Motorcycle Safety Foundation motorcycle maintenance checklist (T-CLOCS).

T - Tires and wheels

Heroes to Hometowns -- Riders helping wounded warriors returning home.

Riders have always reacted quickly to render support whenever they find an active duty servicemember or a veteran or a military family in need.

If your ALR chapter or post is interested in forming a Heroes to Hometown Assistance Team ready to respond to young returned wounded warriors in your city or town, please contact your department adjutant and visit the H2H page at www.legion.org/heroes for more information.

SUBSCRIBE! Click here.

Help grow your American Legion Riders Newsletter. Submit your articles, tips, pictures, clippings or safety articles to wsloan@legion.org or smiller@legion.org.

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Scott Miller, smiller@legion.org
ALR Program Developer
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Do yourself and your bike a favor. Spend a few hours this weekend using the T-CLOCS checklist as a guide. You'll have a safe and ready machine when the cold weather clears and warm riding days are with us again.

Download a copy of The Motorcycle Safety Foundation's T-CLOCS Safety Inspection Checklist.

Visit the Motorcycle Safety Foundation for more tips and information about safe riding and risk management.

Bill Sloan, wsloan@legion.org
ALR Program Administrator

www.legion.org/riders
The American Legion Riders National Program Office
Internal Affairs Division
The American Legion

The American Legion Riders | PO Box 1055 | Indianapolis, IN 46206