



Freedom's Road Newsletter

Written by Freddy Freedom

Patriot Guard Riders



The scenario is played out over and over in these troubled times. A reservist is called up for military duty, or someone has enlisted for active duty. Basic training and AIT (Advanced Individual Training) are completed, the 30-day leave prior to being sent over seas has come to a bitter-sweet end as family and friends gather for the send off. There's a mixture of American pride, patriotism, love and sorrow. There are hugs, pats on the back, handshakes, waves, words of encouragement and forced smiles, trying to hold back tears as another one of America's finest is sent off. The folks at home will adjust their lives to the postal delivery schedule. Sundays and holidays are almost dreaded because there is no mail delivery. As time goes by, emotions calm down, the changes settle in and some resemblance of normalcy returns. The days turn into months as everyone counts down the time.



There is a knock on the door, you open it and standing before you are a couple uniformed military personal, one is a Casualty Notification Officer and the other a Military Chaplain. Your worst nightmare is now a stark harsh reality. There is no way on this earth that you could have prepared for what you are about to hear. There are no words to describe what you are feeling.

War is never popular. There are always going to be very strong differences of opinions about whether or not we should be at war. There is always going to be finger pointing and claims of who or what is responsible. The reality of war is that they are



fought by soldiers following orders. All returning soldiers, whether alive or in a body bag need to be honored with respect. We don't need a repeat of what the returning veterans of the Viet Nam war had to endure. That is where this story begins.



The Patriot Guard Riders is made up of 100% volunteer motorcycle enthusiast, both veterans and non-veterans, who share a common belief that all who serve our country honorably deserve our respect and should be treated with dignity and honor. The members do not receive any reimbursement whatsoever for, time, equipment, gas cost, or any other expense that is encountered.



The "Guard" as it is sometimes called, got it's start in Kansas in August of 2005 when Chuck "Pappy" Barshney, then Director of the American Legion Riders Chapter 136, caught wind that a religious group led by Fred Phepls based outta a Westboro, Kansas church had been staging protests at veterans funerals. The riders at the American Legion Chapter 136 decided to do something about the protests and the Patriot Guard Riders was born.

The purpose or Mission, as it is formally called, is to offer support and protection to the family from any type of outside protest or interference throughout the entire funeral proceedings. They stand guard outside holding American flags as well as the Patriot Guard Riders flags while funeral services are being carried out. Then they proceed behind a police escorted funeral procession to assist, and if necessary, to shield the procession from any protest that might be encountered as it makes its way to the cemetery. At the cemetery, they are deployed to set up a perimeter at a respectable distance from the grieving family to once again buffer them from any disrespectful demonstrations until they are given orders to quietly disburse.



Since its conception in 2005 the "Guard" has expanded its horizons to include offering their presence and services to assure a safe and happy reunion for the families of returning military personal as well as offering security to those leaving to serve.

The services provided by the Patriot Guard Riders are completely free and only provided if requested. If you're interested in enlisting the services of the Patriot Guard Riders or would just like to have their presents to show honor and respect log onto their web site.

We all have opinions about what courses our country chooses to take that why we have the right to vote. Our right to voice our opinions is guaranteed by the United States Constitution and any veteran, including this writer, will stand up to defend your right to



to speak out. So remember, it is the veterans of this nation that have defended your rights. Please don't blame them if the country isn't going in the direction you think it should be going. Instead be respectful to those that ... "gave all" and thank a vet for your right to speak your opinion as long as... That star spangle banner waves over the land of the free and the home of the brave!

God bless America!

For information about the Patriot Guard Riders Riders, go to www.patriotguard.org

Hogs In Ministry

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Rom 10:13