



Volume 3

July, 2007



Happy Independence Day!!

While you're watching fireworks on Wednesday, take a minute to remember what we're celebrating and why. July 4 is more than just a day off work.

Edited by Gail (Brain) Camerino

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Save the Dates!

July 21, 2007

Veterans Awareness Ride
(Sponsored by Chapter 11)

August 21, 2007

Moving Wall Escort

September 15, 2007

Bravo Co. 2-5 reunion
(Details to come)

September 22, 2007

2nd Annual Blue Ash – Honor our Troops
Ride

Raymond Walters College

NOTE CORRECTED DATE!!!

If you know of other rides or activities of interest, please email the information, including date, time and contact information to Gail54@fuse.net

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State Run

All Ohio Flag Day Veteran's Run

16 June, 2007

By Mike (Pappy) Sepi

The day started off cool as we met at the Lebanon Rest Stop just north of 275. I was the first to arrive, followed by Spy and then Gladiator and his wife. We sat under the shade at a picnic table awaiting the arrival of Shorty; however he did not show up (found out after we got back that he had to work).

We pulled out the rest stop at 10:15 and headed north!! We had planned on stopping on the way (gassing up, maybe eating) but the next thing we knew, we were parking right in front of the Capitol. When we arrived (at approx 11:30) there were already many people there. All Rolling Thunder Chapters throughout the State of Ohio were represented, along with special guests who would speak to the crowd. Once there, Gladiator and I (mostly Gladiator) began selling raffle tickets and did quite well.



By the time the program got under way, the temperature climbed and it was HOT, but well worth it!!! The program began with the Posting of the Colors by the Color Guard of Chapter 11, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem. The Opening Prayer was given by Harold Murray (Gold Star Father and a member of Chapter 2). Corie Schweser (Ohio President of Blue Star Moms of America) and Lynne Jenks (National Vice President, Rolling Thunder®, Inc) did the Presentation of Wreaths at each end of the Capitol. Our own Chapter President (Spy) then gave the meaning of the Missing Man Table (which was set up in front of the steps to the Capitol). After that was completed, speeches were given by Corie Schweser, Tim Espich (Director, Governor's Office on Veteran Affairs) and Lynne Jenks. By now the sun was beating down on everyone, but no one left. Once all the speeches were

given, the Benediction was given by Harold Murray and then everyone sang "God Bless America". The program ended with the playing of Taps and then the Retiring of the Colors, again by the Color Guard of Chapter 11.

After saying our "good-byes" to our brothers and sisters, we climbed back on our bikes and headed south down Highway 71. But before we left, we decided this time, we were going to stop and get something to eat and gas up!!! Well, we did stop, got gas and went into a Subway. We sat down, ate, and just relaxed for a little while before heading back home. As we got closer into the Cincy area, Spy was the first to peel off, then as I peeled off onto 275, I honked and waved good-by to Gladiator and his wife as they passed by me, still heading South on 71. All in all, the four of us had a good time.

A little side note: I wish more of our Chapter could have participated.

[Editor's Note: Pappy is proving himself to be Chapter 9's Man on the Street. Thanks, Pappy!]

Norwood Awareness Run 17 June, 2007

By Mike (Pappy) Sepi

I am reminded of our Mission as Rolling Thunder members:

The major function of Rolling Thunder®, Inc. is to publicize POW-MIA issues: To educate the public that many American prisoners of war were left behind after all previous wars and to help correct the past and to protect future veterans from being left behind should they become prisoners of war-missing in action.

We are also committed to helping American veterans from all wars.

The Norwood Awareness Run should be an excellent example to educate the entire Tri-State Community about our mission. Unfortunately, fewer than half our members were able to attend. It was disheartening that again this year there was very little support from the City of Norwood. I know it was hot, it was Father's Day and many people had other plans, but I only have to look at the Wall and wonder if we would voice those excuses to the families of POWs and MIAs, or just look ashamed at our collective and personal lack of involvement.

A special Thank You needs to go out to Jerry (Lucky-13) Owens for putting the program together. For those of you who did attend, I thank you.

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Volunteer Corner

Volunteers are still needed for the Blue Ash Airshow!

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Gathering of Eagles Update – July 2007
By: Bob "Trav" Camerino, GoE Liaison
Rolling Thunder® Chapter 9 OH



June was a slow month for GOE with no local activities to report on.

As the next GOE event is not until September in DC I will take this opportunity to talk about two other organizations.

The first is Operation America Rising.

<http://operationamericarisng.com/>

"This event will take place on 7-7-07 all over America. This national salute to our troops will be a gleaming observance of America's patriotism."

The Ohio event will take place just east of Columbus at:

John Bishop Park
4920 Etna Rd
Whitehall, OH 43213

Hours are 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM with music, games, and patriotic speakers. Admission is free.

The second is Honor Flight.

<http://www.honorflight.org/>

"Honor Flight is a non profit organization created solely to honor America's veterans for all their sacrifices. We fly our heroes to Washington, DC to visit and reflect at their memorials."

Tina and Preacher Wilson from RT Chapter 9 are also members of the Fraternal Order of Eagles Post 1395 in Lebanon which is sponsoring an Honor Flight on July 7th. This is a full flight of Vets who are flying to DC that morning and returning to the Dayton Airport 8:30 or 9:00 PM that same day. All are invited to help welcome them back home.

Fraternal Order of Eagles - The Eagles are an International fraternal organization whose mission is "to make human life more desirable by lessening its ills, and by promoting peace, prosperity, gladness and hope".

Post 1395 is sponsoring the July flight in honor of the 101st birthday of their Aerie.

<http://www.foe.com/>

Gail and I plan on attending both events starting with America Rising in the afternoon and ending up at the Dayton airport welcoming the Vets home. If you're interested in riding along drop me an e-mail.

Ohio River Veterans Run Morrow, Oh June 23, 2007

The weather cooperated, except for a few afternoon sprinkles, and we all had a great time.

About 50 bikes left from Aces and Eights – hoping for more next year – and the rumble of pipes when they all arrived at RiverTime stopped conversation.



Trav started the day off right by offering festival attendees the chance to win him for only \$10. When he got few takers, he confessed that the chances were really for the mini-chopper. Only 300 will be sold and there are 10 prizes.

Food, Beer (provided and sold by Morrow Tomorrow) and free music from Bust'n Out and the Dry Run Band helped to draw in the

canoers and others from Morrow. We all were entertained while Ditzzy did a wonderful job MCing the auction and raffle.

Special thanks need to be extended to the folks at RiverTime Canoe and Morrow Tomorrow; their gracious hospitality added to our success.



There's Preacher with a few, the proud, the Marines. So what if he was Army?



And here's Pappy, after cooking a gazillion hamburgers.

Another special thanks to all who donated so generously to the tip jar at the food booth. That money will be used to pay postage to send care packages to our troops overseas.

Hats off to all of Chapter 9 for a job well done!

Gail

Hey! Where'd you get that handle?

Our newest member is Packrat, and with a name like that, I had to wonder if Mrs. Packrat has to sleep in the garage or driveway. When I asked Packrat about his handle, this is what he told me:

“A few years ago I was somewhere with some people doing something and somebody needed something. Nobody had any idea where to get the thing, so I just went out to my truck and got one.”

{Editor's note: The next time you need a widget or a thingamajig, just call Packrat.}

Suggestion Box



Ideas for articles? Suggestions?
Let me know! Gail54@fuse.net