

The NMMRO Newsletter

Freedom & Independence Starts Today



NEW MEXICO MOTORCYCLE RIGHTS ORGANIZATION
P.O. Box 27673
Albuquerque, NM 87125-7673

Website: www.thenmmro.org

Volume 3, Issue 4

January/February 2012

Inside this issue:

M-STEP	2
2011 Accomplishments	3
No Colors Welcome	4
A.B.A.T.E. News	5
“Death Wobble”	5
Thanks Steve	5
Bitch Please! RR Toy Run	6
Another Perspective	7
CNMMRO Update	7
Sharing the Road	8
Veterans Affairs	9
MRF	10
NCOM/AIM	11
Careless Driving Bill	12
Veterans Job Seekers	13
Veteran Canteen Service	13

THE NMMRO BOARD:

Chairman	Annette Torrez
Vice Chairman	Courtney Farris
Secretary	Kimberly Kinter
Treasurer	Patty Berry
Sgt at Arms	Todd Thompson
Editor	Bev Covert
Webmaster	RockHell Thompson
Public Relations	Sheran Dodd
Org. Liaison	Patrick Sierra
CNMMRO	Dave Covert

MEETING SCHEDULE:

NMMRO Monthly Meetings:

January 14 - 12:00 pm
American Legion Post 49
11005 Central Ave NE Abq., NM

February - No Meeting

COC Meeting:

February 4 2011 - 2:00 pm
Two Minute Warning
3513 Hwy 47. Los Lunas, NM

Chairpersons Letter...

As the year 2011 comes to a close, I ask that we remember those who will not be here with us in 2012. I dedicate this chairman letter as a tribute to members of our motorcycle community who passed away in 2011. In February we lost ShadowRider Vice President, Gary (Candy Man) Hepler, to cancer. He frequently attended our meetings and Bike Days at the Capital. Gary always had a smile and candy for all the girls. Gary had been struck on his motorcycle by a careless driver in Los Lunas months prior to his passing, thankfully resulting in only minor injuries. In June, we lost Bandido Sinner, Kevin Nichols in a motorcycle accident. Kevin often came to our meetings and functions in support. Since his death, his friends have shared stories of his love and loyalty to the brotherhood, family and friends. In August we lost Mz Behavin Diva Pearl Peralta, in a tragic motorcycle accident involving an 18 wheeler. She was our quiet, girly girl, shining star and friend to all she met. Mark Wolfe, a man who most of us never even knew, united a motorcycle community in 2011, as we rallied together in support of an injustice from the senseless tragedy of his death. Mark and his wife Deb were struck on their motorcycle in Rio Arriba County on Memorial Day Weekend, by a drunk driver with three prior DWI's. The Rio Arriba Sheriff department botched the investigation and

the tow truck company destroyed the truck which was the key piece of evidence. The up-coming trial is to be held in 2012 with hopes of a conviction. On Sept. 22, 2011, David Chavez, was riding his motorcycle westbound on Candelaria Road NE in Albuquerque. A vehicle made a left turn and for reasons unknown pulled out directly in front of Chavez, who, although braked hard, hit the side of the Hyundai, flew through the air and crashed to his death. Motorcycle stuntman Robert Brito was killed when a careless driver in a SUV struck his motorcycle in November. Robert was on his way home from his uncle's funeral in Bosque Farms. Because the driver was not under the influence of alcohol or drugs he could not be charged with vehicular homicide, The driver was cited with careless driving and only received a \$103.00 citation. What a tragedy. Is that what a life is worth \$103.00? They all touched our lives in ways that are imaginable; they were loved and will be missed by all who knew them. Rest in peace Candy Man, Sinner, Pearl and Mark, David and Robert and many more not mentioned here. You will forever live in our hearts and memories. In 2012 a primary focus of the NMMRO will be promoting safety awareness to all who share the road. We are currently working on getting

the Carless Driving Bill on the 2012 legislative agenda. The Defenders Program assisted us with a call to action to the Governor in December. I also had an opportunity to personally speak with Governor Susana Martinez along with Jennifer Buntz from the bicycling community on December 29th at a press conference at a DWI check point held by MADD, which I was invited to attend. The Governor listened to our plea; we hope she will see the importance of the Careless Driving Bill and allow it in the 2102 legislative agenda to be heard by the house and senate again. Although careless driving cases are sometimes perused by the District Attorneys Office, the greatest penalty drivers face for taking a life is up to a \$300 fine, 90 days probation or jail time, or both pending a “careless driving “conviction. Under current New Mexico law, the charge of “homicide” by vehicle does not apply in cases such as David Chavez and Robert Brito; if the victim in the crash suffered severe bodily harm or death, and the driver who caused the crash was driving in a ‘reckless” manner or intoxicated, than the charge of homicide by vehicle would apply. “Homicide” by vehicle is not applicable under current New Mexico law when the circumstance of the crash is “careless” rather than

“reckless”. The governor and advocates plan to push a series of legislative measures in 2012 that will include a statewide vehicle seizure program for those with more than one DWI arrest. They also want increased penalties for repeat offenders. While these are important issues that need to be addressed, I also emphasized in my conversation with the Governor, the importance of careless and reckless driving and the lives that are affected by this senseless act. Too many of our own are dying on New Mexico highways, as representatives of the NMMRO, it is our duty to address this issue and do all we can to protect the motorcycle community which we serve. The NMMRO is also planning a Share the Road Cinco de Mayo Safety Awareness Bike and Car Show at the Balloon Fiesta Park, to promote safety awareness in conjunction with other organizations such as Department of Transportation, MADD, the bicyclist community, AARP, and ThunderBird Harley Davidson. We are hoping DOT will provide us with some of the budget allocated yearly for the sole purpose of promoting safety awareness in our state to help sponsor this event. I am looking forward to working along with each and every one of you in 2012 to represent our motorcycle community. Thank you to all who supported us in 2011 and will continue to support us in 2012.

Love, Loyalty and Respect

Annette Torrez NMMRO Chairperson – New Mexico MRF Representative

New Mexico Motorcycle Safe Traffic Escort Program (M-STEP)

As we continue to make major progress in the development of a program to train and authorize motorcycle escorts in New Mexico, we are receiving a lot of inquiries from other states who are also in need of a program to provide the same protections to their motorcycle community. Word of the project has spread nationwide thanks to the MRF network, American Woman Rider Magazine & other biker publications, and word of mouth. Additionally, we have been receiving news stories from all over the country about issues ranging from untrained escorts causing crashes, unescorted motorcycle runs that resulted in accidents due to lack of protection, and event cancellations due to lack of funding to pay for professional or law enforcement motorcycle escorts. There is a clear and demonstrated need for the M-STEP.

Here in the central region of New Mexico we are faced with the loss of one of the biggest and longest running toy runs. On December 8, 2011, KRQE television reported that the nineteen-year tradition of the Rio Rancho Toy Run will come to an end this year. The event organizer, Dawn Raia-Troup stated that, “The high cost of organizing this event has forced us to give up our dreamz (sic) of helping the kidz (sic).” She specified that the main problem was that the amount she had

to pay to police for traffic control efforts went from \$2,400 in 2010 to \$5,320 this year. The total cost of running the toy run this year was \$7,355. Rio Rancho Police Chief Robert Boone attributes this increase in cost to a change in the traffic control plan which required an increase in the number of the police motorcycle officers needed over previous years. The Chief also said that he cannot provide free traffic-control services to a charity event because the state Constitution’s anti-donation clause forbids giving public money to private operations. This will have a tremendous impact on the needy families in the Rio Rancho area who would have received toys from the thousands of motorcyclists who participate in this annual holiday tradition of generosity; and will also have a huge impact on the Storehouse West food pantry, the recipient of thousands of non-perishable food items donated by motorcyclists at the same event. The loss of this cornerstone of charitable giving will have statewide consequences. The need is still there, and with the loss of this motorcycle event and others like it due to the current cost of safety escorts it will likely continue to get worse if a change is not soon implemented. Our goal is to ensure that the M-STEP is the change we need.

November and December were very busy months in the development of the program. I was honored with an

invitation from Rick “King” Romero and Vic Segura to speak to the statewide meeting of the Patriot Guard Riders-Road Guard Ride Captains about the M-STEP. The PGR has escorted countless military funerals and processions nationwide, and have developed a national program to train motorcycle escorts. This program has been well received by most states, and especially so in our neighbor state of Arizona. The motorcycle community in Arizona has been successful in implementing changes to legislation that provide protection to motorcycle escorts under state law. I would like to take this opportunity to convey my sincere gratitude to King for sharing vital information with me about the PGR Road Guard training program and especially for copies of all of the Arizona legislation. Having insight into how Arizona accomplished this goal will help us to accomplish ours. Many thanks also go out to Vic Segura and the PGR Road Guards for your support of the M-STEP and your valuable input in the development process.

As I write this update in the week leading up to the Christmas holiday, I am also putting the finishing touches on a letter to NM State Senator Richard Martinez, Chair of the Senate Judicial Committee. Senator Martinez has voiced his support of the development of a program to train civilian motorcycle escorts in New Mexico. At the

M-STEP Cont...

December NMMRO Officer's meeting, it was agreed that now is the time to move forward with reaching out to the state for assistance in the development process. By establishing relationships with key state organizations we can move towards finding funding sources, determining a plan for program implementation, and changing laws to protect motorcycle escorts in New Mexico. The letter to Senator Martinez is a request to draft a Legislative Memorial for the 2012 Session. Dictionary.com defines a Memorial as: "a written statement of facts presented to a sovereign, a legislative body, etc., as the ground of, or expressed in the form of, a petition or remonstrance." In other words, this Memorial will help put things in motion by bringing attention to this issue on a legislative level.

The next M-STEP Subject Matter Expert (SME) focus group is scheduled for Saturday, January 14 @ 1:30 pm directly following the noon NMMRO general membership meeting. If you are an experienced Road Captain, ride escort, or motorcycle instructor, please consider spending a little bit of your Saturday afternoon sharing your insight and experience with me as I continue to develop the M-STEP training course. Your input helps to drive the success of this program.

As always, please feel free to contact me at Diva_BB_MBDMC@yahoo.com or by phone/text at (505) 362-8263

Ride Safe – Ride Free

Diva BB Mz Behavin Divas MC

NMMRO 2011 Accomplishments...

Thank you NMMRO members, the motorcycle community, family and friends for all your support though out the year. Thank you all who continually get involved and attend our meetings.

The following are 2011 accomplishments with united involvement from the motorcycle community:

- A strong NMMRO board, who works well together with all board members and members involved in all issues.
- A strong alliance with the MRF, COC, The Defenders Program, NCOM and finally a newly formed alliance with ABATE.
- An awesome NMMRO newsletter, that continues to grow and improve with every issue. We have even gotten comments from other SMRO's they are using it as an example.
- An excellent and informative NMMRO website.
- New MRF representative and assistant MRF reps throughout the state, which are reporting on a national level on all of New Mexico's accomplishments and issues we are addressing.

Great attendance at Bike Day at the Capital with a tribute to fallen bikers. An alliance with the bicyclist community to sponsor The Careless Driving Bill. We had great success with the bill moving through both committees in the house, but time ran out with all the budget cuts that were addressed this year. We even had legislators requesting support from the motorcycle community on other bills that affected us.

We addressed city officials on an issue with APD requiring

helmets on a benefit run. Along with support from Channel 4 Steve Stucker and Councilman Dan Lewis we were able to squash the issue before it continued.

We have formed an alliance with the media and made important contacts.

A proclamation signed by the Governor for May as Motorcycle and Bicyclist Safety Awareness Month.

The NMMRO, COC, Defenders Program and Representative Rick Miera did an hour interview with Channel 4 Stuart Dyson on some of the issues motorcyclists are facing, like; safety awareness, recent motorcycle crashes, DOT, and the discrimination and profiling of motorcyclist.

Growth in NMMRO membership along with growth in corporate memberships from local businesses. A new alliance with Attorney Dan Sorey who has agreed to assist the NMMRO with advice also made a donation of \$1000.00 to the NMMRO. The Lieutenant Governor and a Representative of the House attended our October NMMRO meeting.

The addition of a Central NMMRO and a new Southern NMMRO chapter starting in the Roswell in the next few weeks we are also looking at a Las Cruces NMMRO next year.

Meeting with DOT early this year, a new motorcycle safety awareness commercial this summer was a result of this meeting. No monies had been spent on safety awareness

NO-COLORS Welcome ...



Establishments as reported by NMMRO members who do not allow colors or have refused service to a motorcyclist:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Billy's Long Bar | Santa Ana Casino |
| Burts Tikki Lounge | Silva's in Bernalillo |
| Cottonwood Mall | Slate Street – Rio Rancho |
| Hard Rock Casino | Stone Face Tavern |
| Horse & Angel Tavern | T.D.'s Showclub |
| KnuckleHeads (Bar & Grill ABQ) | The Library Bar and Grill (downtown) |
| Los Ojos Locos | Twin Peaks Bar and Grill |
| Ned's on the Rio Grande | Uptown Sports Bar |
| Sandia Casino | |

This list will be updated and published in every newsletter.
Please email Annette Torrez with new submissions or resolutions

atorrez2@msn.com

The NMMRO would like to recognize Biker Friendly establishments, please take the time to report those businesses that appreciate your business.

in three years, we changed this; We are holding DOT accountable for monies available and/or spent on safety awareness and getting them to finally spend some. We initiated a public request of DOT records this month.

A White Bandana Campaign which identifies when a motorcyclist has broke down or needs assistance on the roadside, which has also been adopted by many states throughout the United States

We are working on implementing a new Motorcycle Safety Escort Program with University of New Mexico professor's which will provide training for Motorcycle escorts that participate in benefits and runs. The program will train and certify escorts on basic life support and accident scene response. This will be the last year of the Rio Rancho Run due to the high cost of police escorts; hopefully this program will change that. Most of all we hope it prevent accidents during these runs.

A motorcycle community's strong support for a motorcyclist killed by a drunk driver and 4 other motorcyclists injured. Hundreds of motorcyclists attended court in

Santa Fe to show support against an injustice from Rio Arriba's Sheriff's Department on a botched investigation. Our presence and support helped insure Juan Cordova will go to trial for killing a motorcyclist. An alliance with MADD, which is a strong, well respected organization in our state supports and appreciates the motorcycle community. I was recently told by other state MRF reps when they read our newsletter that they were impressed with our alliance with MADD, because in many states MADD goes against motorcyclists and promotes helmet laws. The motorcycle community last week helped with funds to bury the family of a fellow motorcyclist who was killed by a drunk driver.

NMMRO has a newly formed committee requested by DOT to plan a state wide safety awareness campaign for 2012, with possible funding from DOT.

Up and coming for 2012:

- State wide Safety Awareness Day in May
- Legislation to support MSTEP
- Follow up on Careless Driving Bill. Helping COC on a Profiling and Discrimination Bill for 2013, and much much more. I would say we are on track and moving forward.
- 2012 Bike Day

United we can accomplish the possible and the impossible. Thank you all for your continued support to the NMMRO and MRF.

A Word From A.B.A.T.E. of NM ...

Hello N.M.

Well guess it has been sometime since A.B.A.T.E. of N.M. put an article in the NMMRO newsletter. I have been the State Deputy Coordinator for about a year and a half and am a member of the Red Rock Chapter out of Gallup. A.B.A.T.E. of N.M. also has a

new State Coordinator Madjack with the East Plains Chapter.

At the present A.B.A.T.E. is focusing on getting our own housekeeping in order by reviewing the bylaws and making some much need changes. We are also working on bringing A.B.A.T.E. back into working with the NMMRO, COC and other organizations involved in protecting our rights, promoting awareness and safety for motorcyclists. At the chapter level we are working to get every A.B.A.T.E. member involved in the MAP classes and the US Defender program. Both Madjack and myself believe that united we stand, divided we fall and since we are all working towards the same goals that it is in all of our best interest to work together.

Since the state board only meets each quarter things tend to move slowly, but they are moving. We welcome anyone to join us. The next board meeting will be in Albuquerque at the Sunset Grill 6825 Lomas NE, Jan. 21st 2012 at 1pm.

Here's to a great New Year where N.M. will be a leader in motorcyclist rights and awareness!

RIDE FREE/RIDE SAFE but most of all RIDE!

Jim Smith

State Deputy Coordinator A.B.A.T.E. of N.M.

Thanks Steve...



The NMMRO presented Channel 4 Anchorman Steve Stucker with an award of appreciation for his support, loyalty and dedication in protecting the rights of the motorcyclists in our state (December 2011). Steve wants to thank the motorcycle community for the award, and said he looks forward to working with us in 2012.

Arizona Motorcycle Accidents and the 'Death Wobble' or 'Speed Wobble'

Some motorcycles may have a design defect that causes the bike to wobble at high speeds or during turns. The 'death wobble' or 'speed wobble' may have played a role in serious injuries and even deaths of some motorcycle riders.

November 11, 2011 /24-7PressRelease/ -- Experiencing a wobble while riding a motorcycle through the Arizona can be a life-threatening event. Referred to as the 'Harley wobble,' 'death wobble,' or 'speed wobble' by those who've experienced it, the front-end wobble or sway can cause a motorcycle driver to lose control of his or her bike in an instant. The problem, which has happened with Harley Davidsons as well as other motorcycles, typically occurs at high speeds or during a turn and is attributed by some to a manufacturing defect involving how the engine is attached to the bike frame.

The speed wobble has been described as a shaking or swaying in the front end of a motorcycle that can only be stopped by slowing down. It can cause a rider to be thrown from his or her motorcycle, resulting in road rash, cuts, broken bones, head injury and sometimes death.

Particularly with Harley Davidson motorcycles, the patented design that includes mounting the engine to the frame may be to blame for the wobble. The engine and transmission are rubber mounted to the frame and swingarm in some Harley models and some believe that these mounts cannot handle the torque that the engines generate, causing the motorcycles to malfunction or wobble.

Riders of Harley's Road King, Ultra Classic, Electra Glide and FLH series motorcycles have reported problems with the wobble and some injured motorcyclists have pursued the manufacturer for compensation for injuries suffered in a wobble-related motorcycle accident. When the wobble happens during a ride, the only known solution is to let off the throttle. There are after-market kits available to fix the death wobble, but no change in the motorcycle design has been made by Harley, despite the number of [motorcycle accidents](#) and injuries that have been caused by the wobble.

Many law enforcement organizations use Harley Davidson motorcycles, but the problems with the machines caused some forces to reconsider. In 2002, Charles Paul, a Raleigh, N.C. police officer died after his Harley Electra Glide began to wobble, throwing him from his cycle. The California Highway Patrol decided not to use the motorcycles after seeing the bikes wobble in a test video.

Harley Davidson has maintained that the speed wobble is not caused by a defect in the design of the bike, but may be related to other factors, including driver skill, adherence to posted speed limits, addition of aftermarket parts or other reasons. The company noted other models of motorcycles wobble, as well.

Injuries from [motorcycle accidents](#) can be devastating and debilitating. If your life has been changed because of an injury sustained in a motorcycle accident, whether due to a negligent driver or a negligent manufacturer, do not hesitate to contact an experienced personal injury attorney who can discuss your situation with you and the compensation you might recover.

Article provided by Law Offices of Gabroy Rollman & Bosse, P.C.

Rio Rancho Toy Run... “REALLY” Police Chief Robert Boone???

It wasn't enough that the Rio Rancho Toy Run provided the Rio Rancho Police Department with many of the toys that are needed to host their annual Christmas party for the children in need. Yet with all of this generosity, the police department requested additional toys this year and somehow thinks that it is still okay to ask the Motorcyclists to pay admission. Instead of asking what more can the Bikers do, the police chief needs to ask themselves, what can the police department do to assist this very much needed event.

Store House West receives thousands of pounds of food from this one event. Who will tell the families in Rio Rancho that they cannot be helped? Will Police Chief Robert Boone be there? Perhaps they will not be hungry after it is explained to them. Maybe that will tame the growling tummies and keep away the tears of the children when Santa does not visit.

This Toy Run began 19 years ago; it was started when a very small group of local bikers asked what they could do for the children in their community? The first year there were 13 motorcycles and it started at the bowling alley. Year after year it continued to grow, many local businesses offered their locations and staff to assist with this event. It even went to the bottom of the hill for a few years (thank you Virginia).

As the years passed, the number of people that benefitted grew. The need was great then and it still is today. Many years and Toy Runs have passed; it was getting larger every year and in need of re-organization. This small group of bikers decided to create a committee to oversee and run this event; this committee eventually became its own organization. It is the chairperson of this organization that has kept the Toy Run going these past several years and has donated hundreds if not thousands of hours organizing it (thanks Peachz), not to mention the out of pocket expenses.

With all of this being said... Chief Boone stated he cannot provide free traffic-control services to a charity event because the state Constitution's anti-donation clause forbids giving public money to private operations. (from interview with KRQE)

Then why is it that there isn't a problem asking for the donations from this charitable event?

Chief Boone, is this really the only solution you are willing to offer?

“There's 6,000 motorcycles that participate in this event,” he said. “If they turned around and charged a dollar admission fee for anyone who wants to run this, it would certainly pay for police services.” (from interview with KRQE)

What will happen next year when there is nothing to give? Who will feed the hungry?

Submitted by: Bev Covert



Isavella Terry is 7 years old, born in Las Cruces NM. She was diagnosed with LCH (Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis) It is a form of cancer that grew in many locations throughout her body, the liver being one of them. As a result her liver was severely damaged. Although she is in remission now following 2 years of chemotherapy, she is in desperate need of a liver transplant. She has been placed on the transplant list and will need to travel to Palo Alto California for the surgery and is expected to have to remain there 3 months for recovery. Isavella's family is in need of assistance to afford the medication, travel and expenses for her surgery. There will be a benefit following the COC meeting on Feb 4 at the Two Minute Warning in Los Lunas. Travelers In Pain Band will be providing the entertainment. **Contact Lance 440-1269**

CNMMRO Update...

The CNMMRO held its most recent monthly meeting on December 6th at the Smokehouse BBQ in Rio Rancho. Topics discussed included:

- The chapter will receive paperless bank statements in order to avoid the \$3.00 monthly service charge.
- M-STEP Update – Progress made by Diva BB on the curriculum.
- Motorcycle Awareness Day - May 5, 2012, Annette is organizing this event.
- NMDOT – NMMRO Public Records Request sent on Oct 18,
- We have been asked how we can reach out to the sport bike riders.
- MRF update.

CNMMRO meetings are held at 7 pm on the first Tuesday of each month and are always open to everyone. Our upcoming meetings will be held on January 3rd & February 7th Dave Covert



Motorcycle Clubs Use of Road Guards... Another perspective

Because of its size alone, the Big Texas Toy Run can be "an inconvenience one day a year" for motorists, Nick Taddonio says. On Sunday, thousands of motorcyclists will leave Fort Worth and Dallas and head toward QuikTrip Park in Grand Prairie as part of the annual charitable event, which benefits needy children in the Metroplex. To limit the inconvenience, on- and off-duty police officers will help direct traffic as the bikers travel along Interstate 30. "There are many, many police officers involved," said Taddonio, president of the charity's board. "We say on our flier it's police-escorted and it's not just at the front end of the line." But not all motorcycle rides are as big, or as organized, as the toy run. When motorcycle clubs set out on rides -- occasionally for charity, often just for fun -- they sometimes use their own bikers, or "road guards," to direct and block traffic, a common but illegal practice that is being blamed for the death of a man in October in Granbury. Rafael Del Val, 38, was in a convoy of some 85 motorcyclists headed to Cranfills Gap when he was fatally injured. According to a Granbury police report, members of the motorcycle convoy were trying to stop cross-traffic at U.S. 377 and Temple Hall Highway so the group of riders could stay together. Del Val and a second biker collided with an SUV while entering the intersection against a red light. Although a Granbury police spokesman said the case will go to the Hood County district attorney's office for presentation to a grand jury, the accident report lists Del Val's disregard of the red light as the sole contributor to the crash. The crash has focused attention on the use of road guards to block cross-traffic, regardless of traffic signals, until all riders can pass. "This is a very common practice for the hordes of bikes that ride around the small towns of North Central Texas -- it happens a lot," a person wrote in a letter to the Star-Telegram. "Really friendly way to drive. Motorcyclists want cars to be bike friendly, but apparently that is a one-way street." **Interpretation of law** Some motorcyclists argue, however, that the law is ambiguous and that the use of volunteer road guards is a safety measure to keep motorcyclists and other drivers safe. "It's a gray area," said Jeff Wilson, president of the Cowboys from Hell riding club, to which Del Val belonged. "It's always been one of those things that you just don't know what they're expecting of us. When the laws were written, it was for a single bike or a single car. ... But the laws aren't written for 80-something bikes riding at the same time. There's no clause for that." According to a Department of Public Safety official's interpretation of the Texas transportation code, only law enforcement officers are allowed to block traffic unless an emergency occurs, such as a wreck. While Fort Worth and several other cities have ordinances giving funeral escort companies limited authority to stop traffic, such rights do not extend to motorcycle convoys, officials said. "If someone calls and says we're the DFW rider group and we want to take 200 motorcycles through your city, if you want to go through intersections, you're going to have to hire off-duty officers that assist you because we're the only ones that can stop the traffic," said Sgt. Ann Gates, a supervisor in the Fort Worth Police Department's motorcycle unit. "Otherwise you're going to have to obey all the traffic lights and signs. You're not going to be able to expect to blow through there as a group and expect everyone to just stop."

Defining 'escort' Though not funeral escorts, the Patriot Guard Riders often participate in processions as part of their mission to attend, by invitation, the funerals of American service members to show respect and help shield mourners from interruptions caused by protesters. George Winslow Jr., national president of the Patriot Guard Riders, said that if the group's members are part of a funeral procession that is not being escorted by law enforcement officers, "our practice is to follow all applicable traffic laws." He said providing road guards is outside the group's normal practice "unless requested by law enforcement during a particular mission." "In many states 'escort' has a specific legal definition, sometimes requiring special licensing and equipment," Winslow said. "Normally we do not provide 'escort' services. However, we often participate in a procession, which is being escorted by law enforcement officers, which I understand leads many of the public to believe that we are the escorts." But Wilson said hiring officers for informal rides like the one in which Del Val was

killed is not feasible. "It's not a sponsored ride or anything like that," Wilson said. "Nobody raised money. It's not a sanctioned ride. It's like, 'Let's meet up somewhere Sunday and go for a ride.'" Wilson said he believes that keeping the riders together is necessary for safety reasons and that road guards are a tool to help warn other motorists. "I would think if you get a large group of 85 bikes coming through, you keep them together, you get them through and they're out," Wilson said. "To me it's a safety issue -- to keep the bikes together so everyone can watch over everybody." **'It's reckless'** Kat Fay, the driver of the Kia Soul involved in the collision, disagrees. She said such groups assume that other motorists understand the purpose of a person acting as a road guard. "I had no idea what was going on," Fay said. "I had never experienced it before or even heard of it." Fay said she found it unusual when she pulled up to the red light and spotted a motorcycle stopped in front of the car to her right, but had no idea that the motorcyclists were trying to stop all cross-traffic or that a large group of motorcycles was even headed her way when her light turned green and she proceeded forward. "The woman on the back of the bike started waving her arms and yelling and pointing to my left," Fay said. "I looked left and there were motorcycles basically hitting my car at that point." Fay said the Granbury investigator who worked the case mentioned to her that if the group had simply requested the Police Department's help, officers would have escorted the bikers through town. "They can't take it into their own hands," Fay said. "I think it's reckless. I think that they're putting their lives at risk. They're putting other people's lives at risk." By Deanna Boyd, 817-390-7655 dboyd@star-telegram.com

Read more here: <http://www.star-telegram.com/2011/12/16/3601145/motorcycle-clubs-use-of-road-guards.html#ixzz1goE3kjmZ#storylink=cpy>

Sharing the Road...Bicycles are Vehicles (Letter to the Editor, Santa Fe New Mexican)

Sept. 7, 2007, saw James Quinn and his wife, Ashley, out for a bicycle ride from Albuquerque toward Tijeras on old Route 66. They were on the shoulder, well out of the traffic lane, another group of cyclists just behind them.

Angela Browning, 19, was driving in the same direction when she struck the couple, killing James, 28, and injuring Ashley. Apparently Browning saw the group behind the Quinns, moving left to pass them, but did not see James and Ashley. In her written statement to Bernalillo County sheriff's officers, Browning said, "I was going about 60 mph and swerved off the road. I didn't even see him." Browning was found guilty of careless driving and failure to maintain the lane, paying \$310 in fines and \$213 in court costs.

As participants in the Sept. 26, 2009, Tour de Ruidoso bicycle ride, John and Liz Mazzola, 59 and 56 at the time of this crash, were lawfully riding their tandem northbound on N.M. 48, part of the tour route. Phillip Berryhill, 56, was southbound on N.M. 48, getting ready to make a left, when he collided with the tandem riders. The Mazzolas were both severely injured in this crash with John spending 17 days fighting for his life in intensive care at University Hospital. John and Liz will struggle every day just to accomplish normal tasks because of the injuries they sustained. Berryhill was cited with "failure to yield," but the \$71 in fines was deferred, so that by not being cited for any additional traffic violations in the next 90 days, Berryhill paid nothing.

Think about it for a moment. What is the life of a wife or husband, child or parent worth? What value do we place on our own lives?

On Sept. 22, 2011, David Chavez, 43, was riding a motorcycle westbound on Candelaria Road NE in Albuquerque. Isaac Wright, 69, wanted to make a left turn onto Candelaria from Stanford. For reasons unknown, he pulled out directly in front of Chavez, who, although he braked hard, hit the side of Wright's Hyundai, flew through the air and crashed to his death. A similar crash claimed the life of bicyclist Dan Montoya, 53, on May 12. In this instance,

Montoya, riding lawfully on the shoulder of eastbound Tramway Boulevard, was struck by a westbound car. Bruce Wickensburg, 78, also for unknown reasons, crossed the center line, veered onto the shoulder and killed Montoya.

Although both of these cases are being pursued by the Bernalillo County District Attorney's Office, the greatest possible penalty these two drivers face for taking a life is up to a \$300 fine, 90 days of probation or jail time, or both, pending a "careless driving" conviction.

Why? Under current New Mexico law, the charge of "homicide by vehicle" doesn't apply. If a victim suffers severe bodily injury or death and the driver who caused the crash was driving in a "reckless" manner or intoxicated, then the charge applies. "Homicide by vehicle" is not applicable under current New Mexico law when the circumstances of the crash are "careless" rather than "reckless."

There are examples of states where the laws have been amended to address crashes that result in death or great bodily harm, but were not the result of "reckless" driving. Colorado legislation enacted in 2010, Careless Driving Resulting in Death, increased the number of points added to a driver's license from four to 12 upon conviction, which is enough for drivers' license revocation.

Traffic code in Montana also has a special provision for enhanced punishment options when careless driving results in death or serious bodily injury, upping the maximum fine from \$100 to \$5,000 and possible jail time not to exceed six months, or both.

Add to this the release on Dec. 13, a recommendation from the National Traffic Safety Board to ban all cellphone use, even hands-free, by drivers across the country, and you start to get a picture of the national trend toward holding drivers more accountable.

We invite all road users to join us in challenging New Mexico to step-up and protect all of us now, on the forefront of this movement rather than ignoring the issue and again coming up at the bottom of yet another list. Consult dukecitywheelmen.org to see what you can do to move this careless driving penalty initiative forward.

Jennifer Buntz, President, Duke City Wheelmen Foundation, in Albuquerque



**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

Office of Public Affairs

Washington, DC 20420
(202) 461-7600
www.va.gov

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 21, 2011

A Holiday Message

From Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki

WASHINGTON -- On Christmas night, 1776, General George Washington led a poorly-clothed, poorly-equipped, and poorly-fed American Army across the icy Delaware River to attack well-equipped Hessian troops at the garrison in Trenton, New Jersey. The determination of the beleaguered Americans carried the day. They achieved total surprise, capturing 900 prisoners and their cannon.

On another brutally cold Christmas day in 1944, American troops of the 101st Airborne Division, outnumbered, cutoff, surrounded by two panzer divisions at Bastogne, and lacking cold weather gear, ammunition, food and medical supplies fought with undaunted courage until relieved by General George Patton's Third Army on December 26 and 27.

Six years later, in December 1950, Marines and Soldiers of X Corps surmounted overwhelming odds by breaking out of the Chinese encirclement at Chosin Reservoir. On Christmas Eve, their evacuation from the port of Hungnam completed a masterful retrograde operation that would help turn the tide against North Korean and Chinese advances early in 1951.

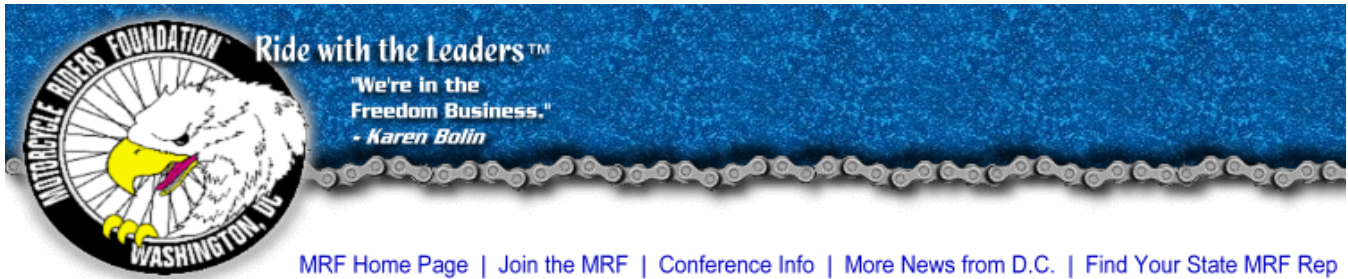
For more than two centuries since the fateful Trenton crossing, American men and women have stood watch, safeguarding some of our most cherished traditions, while they and their families sacrificed theirs.

On Christmas 2011, thousands of Americans will be home for the holidays because of the President's commitment to begin bringing our combat troops home. Yet, tens of thousands of others will continue their difficult and lonely missions of protecting us.

VA honors, remembers and thanks the men and women of our Armed Forces and their families, who are serving us this holiday season around the world.

I thank each VA employee for your commitment and compassion for these servants of the Nation when they come to us as Veterans. You make VA the great organization that it is by advocating for them.

To our men and women in uniform, to our 22 million Veterans, and to our 315,000 VA employees and all your families, best wishes for a joyous holiday season, and heartfelt thanks for the great gifts you provide to this country – the freedom to choose how we live our lives in this great Nation. God Bless America.



[MRF Home Page](#) | [Join the MRF](#) | [Conference Info](#) | [More News from D.C.](#) | [Find Your State MRF Rep](#)



MRF E-MAIL NEWS Motorcycle Riders Foundation
 236 Massachusetts Ave. NE | Suite 510 | Washington, DC 20002-4980
 202-546-0983 (voice) | 202-546-0986 (fax) | <http://www.mrf.org>

11NR35 - MRF News Release - **Senate Committee Passes Highway Safety Bill**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
14 December 2011

Contact: Jeff, Vice President of Government Relations and Public Affairs


Today, the United States Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation passed a sweeping safety bill known as the Motor Vehicle and Highway Safety Improvement Act (S. 1449). The bill passed by voice vote.

Earlier this week, Senator Lautenberg (D-NJ) filed an amendment that would have gutted the popular federal motorcycle education and awareness grants, known as the 2010 funds. The Motorcycle Riders Foundation is pleased to report that Lautenberg did not call that amendment for a vote. Due to an overwhelming response from the motorcycle community, the 2010 grants are safe for now.

Also under attack was the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) lobby ban. This law prohibits NHTSA from using federal money to lobby State legislatures, uninvited. The way S. 1449 was drafted, it removed this lobby ban. Senator Jim DeMint (R-SC) introduced a number of amendments to maintain the ban and the necessary amendments were agreed to, by unanimous consent of the full committee.

The one sticking point that remains is at least, the least troublesome. That being said, it is still something that will keep the attention of the MRF lobby efforts. The trouble lies in a provision in S. 1449 that calls out motorcycle helmets in the list of definitions as "motor vehicle equipment". Previously, the list simply stated: "any device or an article or apparel... that is not a system, part, or component of a motor vehicle".

The MRF would like to thank all the State motorcycle rights organizations and everyone else who helped with this legislation. The bill passed today will likely move on to be a part of the larger Highway Bill which could happen in early 2012. The MRF will keep you informed on this issue.



It's time you did something more to protect your rights!

JOIN AND SUPPORT Motorcycle Riders Foundation REGISTER, VOTE, WRITE AND RIDE!

Annual Individual Membership \$30
 3-Year Individual Membership \$80
 Annual Sustaining Membership \$100
 Annual Joint Membership \$50
 3-Year Joint Membership \$130
 New Member
 Renewal Member # _____
 Freedom Fighter Donation:
 \$10
 \$25
 \$ _____

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE YOUR INFORMATION

Name		Phone () -	
Address			
City	State	Zip	
E-mail Address			
Are you a member of a state motorcyclists' rights organization? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, name: _____			

Mail with remittance to: Motorcycle Riders Foundation, Inc., 236 Massachusetts Ave. NE, Suite 510, Washington, DC 20002-4980
 (202) 546-0983 • FAX (202) 546-0986 • <http://www.mrf.org> • mrfoffice@mrf.org

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

(All information treated confidentially)

Referred by _____

Date _____

MRF# _____

Exp. Date _____

Member was given:

Pin

Patch

Year Rocker

Newsletter

What issue? _____

CHARGE IT!

Visa MasterCard American Express

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____



THE AIM/NCOM MOTORCYCLE E-NEWS SERVICE is brought to you by Aid to Injured Motorcyclists (A.I.M.) and the National Coalition of Motorcyclists (NCOM), and is sponsored by the Law Offices of Richard M. Lester. For more information, call us at 1-(800) ON-A-BIKE or visit us on our website at www.ON-A-BIKE.com. NCOM BIKER NEWSBYTES Compiled & Edited by Bill Bish, National Coalition of Motorcyclists (NCOM)

FEDERAL HELMET LEGISLATION NARROWLY AVERTED - Due to the quick actions of concerned motorcyclists across the country, a major federal transportation measure narrowly avoided becoming a bill to encourage states to enact helmet laws nationwide. On Monday, December 12 Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) filed an amendment to S.1449 the "Motor Vehicle and Highway Safety Improvement Act of 2011" that would call for mandatory helmet laws nationwide and could jeopardize funding for Motorcycle Safety programs across America. By Tuesday the motorcycle community was alerted to Lautenberg's efforts by national and state motorcyclists' rights organizations, including the National Coalition of Motorcyclists (NCOM) and numerous NCOM Member Groups, and riders were urgently urged to contact their U.S. Senators to oppose the amendment -- and time was of the essence because a Senate committee was to vote on the bill the following day! Wednesday, Dec 14, during the hearing held by the U.S. Senate Commerce, Science & Transportation Committee to "mark-up" the bill, Senator Lautenberg decided not to introduce his amendment. Not only did motorcyclists' prompt response help avoid another federal helmet law battle and preserve federal funding for motorcycle safety programs, but the committee also voted to accept two amendments by Senator Jim DeMint (R-SC) that removed language in the bill that would have lifted the current ban on the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) from lobbying states to enact universal helmet laws for all riders. S.1449 passed the committee by voice vote and now goes to the Senate floor for further action, while riders remain ever vigilant.

JUDGE UPHOLDS N.Y. MOTORCYCLE-ONLY CHECKPOINTS - A federal judge rejected motorcyclists' claims that their Constitutional rights were violated by New York State Police motorcycle-only "safety checkpoints" that detained thousands of riders en route to large N.Y. rallies and ticketed many of them for mostly non-safety violations. Aid to Injured Motorcyclists (A.I.M.) Attorney Mitch Proner of NYC sued troopers on behalf of four motorcyclists who claimed that safety was a mere pretext in looking for criminals and that the practice was intrusive and unfair to motorcycle riders as a group. But Judge Gary Sharpe concluded that safety was indeed the main focus of the initiative, which distinguishes the checkpoints from "a general interest in crime control" that could have amounted to unconstitutional seizures when there's no "individualized suspicion of wrongdoing." "The court concludes the checkpoints were enacted to promote motorcycle safety, a manifest public interest; they were effective in addressing this interest; and that any interference with individual liberties was not only minimal, but also grossly outweighed by the interest advanced," Sharpe wrote in his ruling. "The intrusion on civil liberties is something that shouldn't be countenanced," Proner told the Associated Press, adding that the discriminatory roadblocks have been ongoing since 2008 even though motorcycles, like other vehicles in New York, are already subject to annual safety inspections, and no other vehicles are stopped for roadside safety checks. "It's obvious just from their own internal documents they're looking for criminal activity," said Attorney Proner, citing a checkpoint near Buffalo's Peace Bridge that included border patrol agents, and one in central New York near a rally sponsored by a motorcycle club included gang task force officers. "The fact they didn't find crime doesn't mean that wasn't what they're fishing for," he said. "That just shows you've got law abiding citizens on motorcycles primarily being inconvenienced." Proner told the AP news agency that motorcyclists across the country are interested in this case, the only such federal lawsuit nationally though some other states have similar checkpoint programs, and that he will appeal.

SAFETY BOARD SEEKS BAN ON CELL PHONE USE WHILE DRIVING - States should ban all driver use of cell phones and other portable electronic devices (PEDs), except in emergencies, urges the National Transportation Board. The NTSB recommendation, unanimously agreed to by the five-member board, applies to both hands-free and hand-held phones and significantly exceeds any existing state laws restricting texting and cellphone use by drivers. The board made the safety recommendation in connection with their investigation of a deadly highway pileup in Missouri last year that was caused by the inattention of a 19 year-old-pickup driver who sent or received 11 texts in the 11 minutes immediately before the tragic crash that involved a semi and two school busses. The accident is a "big red flag for all drivers," NTSB chairman Deborah Hersman said at a meeting to determine the cause of the accident and make safety recommendations. "No call, no text, no update is worth a human life." The board has previously recommended bans on texting and cell phone use by commercial truck and bus drivers and beginning drivers, but it has stopped short of calling for a ban on the use of the devices by adults behind the wheel of passenger cars. While the NTSB doesn't have the power to impose restrictions, its recommendations carry significant weight with federal regulators and congressional and state lawmakers. In November, Pennsylvania became the 35th state to forbid texting while driving, but despite such laws the problem is continuing to get worse according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) that reports nearly 20% of drivers admit to texting or e-mailing, and at any given moment last year almost 1 in every 100 car drivers was texting, emailing, surfing the Web or otherwise using a handheld electronic device, up 50% over the previous year. Joining in the campaign to curb distracted driving, Aid to Injured Motorcyclists (A.I.M.) has produced a color vinyl bumper sticker that reads; 'HANG UP AND DRIVE!' that is available free by calling A.I.M. at 1-(800) ON-A-BIKE.

US TRAFFIC DEATHS HIT LOWEST LEVEL SINCE 1949 - Annual traffic deaths in the U.S. have fallen to their lowest level in six decades, reports the U.S. Department of Transportation. Despite the fact that Americans drove almost 46 billion more miles during the year, highway deaths fell by nearly a thousand to 32,885 in 2010, representing a 2.9% drop from 2009 (33,883) and the lowest number of fatalities since 1949. "While we have more work to do to continue to protect American motorists, these numbers show we're making historic progress when it comes to improving safety on our nation's roadways," said DOT Secretary Ray LaHood. According to DOT statistics, deaths in crashes involving drunk drivers dropped 4.9% in 2010, resulting in 10,228 fatalities compared to 10,759 in 2009. Fatalities declined in most categories in 2010, including for occupants of passenger cars and light trucks, but fatalities rose among motorcycle riders (4,469 in 2009 to 4,502 in 2010, an increase of 33, or less than 1%), pedestrians (up 4% from 4,109 to 4,280), occupants in medium and heavy trucks (499 to 529, +6%) and buses (26 to 44, +41%). The latest figures also include a new measure of fatalities caused by distracted driving, essentially a refinement of existing data that focuses more directly on situations where dialing a phone, sending a text or the activities of another person or event are likely to lead to a crash. The DOT reports that 3,092 fatalities were the result of such "distraction-affected crashes."

FEDS PROPOSE ADDITIONAL MOTORCYCLE SAFETY STUDY - The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is proposing to launch a study program equipping 160 motorcycle riders with cameras, GPS, and other data recording devices in order to track riding behavior and how riders avoid -- or fail to avoid -- crashes. "Knowledge of both how riders successfully avoid crashes and of behaviors that correlate with and contribute to crash risk is crucial to developing effective countermeasures to reduce motorcycle crashes and fatalities," says the NHTSA study proposal. The federal agency is currently seeking comments on their proposed motorcycle safety study, which is very similar to a "naturalistic study" being conducted by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) tracking 100 specially-equipped motorcycles for one year to compile data on rider behavior.

NOISE CAMERA TO MUFFLE LOUD VEHICLES - First came red-light cameras, followed closely by speed-cameras, and now Calgary will soon become the first municipality to introduce noise cameras to the motoring public. "Motorcycle riders and hotrod enthusiasts beware: the Noise Snare is one step closer to squelching your high-decibel expressions of mechanical masculinity," reported the Calgary Herald about the pilot project that pairs a noise-reader with a camera to catch law breakers. The \$112,500 device was offered to Calgary for free as the first city to test the gadget, and if all goes well the city expects to be handing out \$200 tickets by summer. "This is something that will allow municipalities across North America to start enforcing (noise) bylaws. The fact that now it's been proven to be an accurate test is very, very important," said Bill Bruce, the city's director of bylaw services. Electrical engineer Mark Nesdoly invented the "Noise Snare" after a loud motorcycle awoke his sleeping daughter one night.

Careless Driving Bill status for the 2012 New Mexico Legislative Session...

As you all know the NMMRO was instrumental in getting a bill introduced in the 2011 New Mexico legislative session which would have increased penalties on Careless Driving infractions that result in injuries or death. The bill, which was a variation of the Failure to Yield bill which had been the legislative focus of the NMMRO for many years, was sponsored by Rep. Rick Miera and introduced as HB68. HB68 was well received in the House of Representatives and passed through all House committees. The process then culminated with a unanimous approval on a vote on the floor of the House. From there the bill went to the Senate where it died due to inactivity.

Although disappointed, the NMMRO has not given up on the fight to increase penalties on careless drivers who are often at fault when motorcyclists are injured or killed. The NMMRO once again met with Rep. Miera in an attempt to come up with a legislative strategy for the 2012 legislative session. The 2012 session, because it falls on an even numbered year, is a short session. These short sessions last only 30 days and are usually limited to bills which involve budgetary matters. However, bills that deal with "*Issues raised by special messages of the Governor of New Mexico*" can be placed on the legislative agenda. The NMMRO has formally requested that the Governor of New Mexico place a bill on the 2012 legislative agenda which is identical to HB68.

If we are successful at getting Governor Martinez to place the bill on the agenda we will attempt to get the bill sponsored in the Senate. We are currently speaking with contacts in the Senate in an attempt to find a sponsor for the bill. As in the past, we will work with the bicyclist community and possibly other organizations in order to form a broad based coalition in support of the bill.

Submitted by: Dave Covert

Why We're Fighting for the Careless Driving Bill...

ABQ Man Killed in Bosque Farms Crash - By Brent Ruffner/Valencia County News-Bulletin;

A 28-year-old Albuquerque man, Robert Brito Jr., was killed Saturday morning after his motorcycle crashed into a sport utility vehicle near N.M. 47 and North Bosque Loop in Bosque Farms. About 11:15 a.m., police responded to a call of a crash near Wells Fargo Bank when the roadway was congested with a heavy amount of traffic, said Bosque Farms Police Chief Greg Jones. Jones said the driver of the SUV, Thomas Garcia of Denver, Colo., was in the southbound turn lane on N.M. 47 waiting to turn left into the bank parking lot. The chief said another motorist traveling in the northbound lane stopped in the roadway to allow Garcia into another lane. "He went to turn left and went right into the path of the motorcycle," Jones said. The driver of the motorcycle was transported to an Albuquerque hospital by ambulance, where he later died. Garcia was cited for careless driving. The police chief said Brito was not wearing a helmet at the time of the crash. No one else was injured. Jones said Garcia was not under the influence of alcohol or drugs and did not fit the criteria needed to charge the driver with vehicular homicide. Neither driver was traveling over the speed limit, the police chief said. "It's unfortunate that it was a common traffic offense that caused the crash," Jones said. The police chief said motorists must be cautious of other drivers waving them to go across intersections without being sure of what is in other lanes in the roadway. "Don't assume that the lane is clear to travel," Jones said. "You don't have control over vehicles that are operated in the other lanes." Saturday's crash marked the first N.M. 47 fatality crash in Bosque Farms this year.

New Online Tools for **Veteran Job-Seekers** - **Secure Access to Military Records, Skill "Translators"**

WASHINGTON - Veterans now have on-demand access and can download official data about their military training and experience, which can be used to help them find jobs and continue their careers. Their service data can be uploaded to job search and networking sites to help identify employment opportunities. "Savvy employers look to Veterans for the excellent training and unique experiences they bring to the civilian workforce," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "Now, Veterans can have state-of-the-art access to official data about their military service that we will help them land meaningful jobs." Starting Dec. 3, Veterans can use the VA's online My HealthVet portal (www.myhealth.va.gov) to see official information about their military service, including deployment data, in-uniform experience, and Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) codes which define the type of work performed and skills learned during their tour of duty. Veterans can electronically download that information to their personal computers by using an enhanced version of the Blue Button. This new capability is the latest addition to a growing suite of job-hunting tools announced by President Obama on Nov. 14. The President and Secretary Shinseki have shown real leadership on Veterans Employment," said Dr. Peter L. Levin, chief technology officer at Veterans Affairs. "The White House has been instrumental in guiding this public/private initiative to meet the needs of Veterans, and with promoting web-based services that help Veterans find jobs. With their MOS codes, Veterans can more easily substantiate that they possess the skills needed by employers." Several industry partners have signed up to create -- or have even already implemented -- third-party applications that can read military specialties or classification codes in Blue Button format, automatically translate those codes into civilian descriptions, (continued next page)

VA's Veteran Canteen Service **Helping**

Homeless Veterans - Free Meal Available at Medical Center Cafeterias to Eligible Veterans

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs is reaching out to homeless Veterans by providing free meals and spending money to eligible homeless Veterans. "VA is committed to ending homelessness for our Veterans who defended our nation," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "As part of that effort, I am pleased the Canteen Service has added these incentives that help Veterans get off the streets and into the care and housing they need." The free meals will be offered at Veterans Canteen Service (VCS) cafeterias to homeless Veterans attending their first VA medical appointment. New Veterans participating in the Housing and Urban Development and VA Supportive Housing program, <http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/index.asp>, who present signed leases will also receive a \$20 coupon to be used in VCS retail stores located at every VA medical center. "A free meal and a few free items may not seem like much, but it can be a world of difference to a person getting back on their feet and seeking recovery and independence," said VCS Director Marilyn Iverson. "I know all of our staff members are committed and we can literally bring something to the table when it comes to meeting the Secretary's goal of ending Veteran homelessness for good." VCS also facilitates vendor donations to various homeless programs, including local VA stand downs and community organizations. VCS operates more than 170 retail stores and cafeterias at VA medical centers across the nation, providing competitively priced food and merchandise to VA patients, their families, caregivers, VA employees, volunteers and visitors.

and identify openings and other resources for Veterans, Levin added. Military job information available to Veterans under this program will depend on discharge or retirement date.

- All Veterans discharged after 1980 will see military specialty or classification codes;
- Some Veterans discharged between 1975-1980 will see military specialty or classification codes;
- Some Gulf War Veterans may see combat pay and deployment periods;
- All Post-9/11 Veterans will see combat pay and deployment periods

Veterans enrolled in VA health care can access their military service information through My HealthVet. Veterans who have not yet signed up for My HealthVet access can register for a My HealthVet account at any VA medical center by completing a one-time identity-verification process to help assure their data privacy.

Calendar of Events...

Jan 3 rd 7:00 pm	CNMMRO Meeting	Smokehouse BBQ , 4000 Barbara Loop, Rio Rancho, NM
Jan 14 th 12:00 pm	NMMRO Meeting	American Legion Post 49 - 11005 Central Ave NE Abq., NM
Feb 4 th 2:00 pm	COC Meeting	Two Minute Warning - 3513 Hwy 47. Los Lunas, NM
Feb 4 th 1:00 pm	Isavella Terry Benefit	Two Minute Warning - 3513 Hwy 47. Los Lunas, NM
Feb 7 th 7:00 pm	CNMMRO Meeting	Smokehouse BBQ , 4000 Barbara Loop, Rio Rancho, NM
Feb 11 th 1:00 pm	Bike Day at the Capital	Round House Rotunda, State Capital Building in Santa Fe

Motorcycle Accident?
HIRE ATTORNEYS WHO RIDE

Over \$200 Million Recovered For Our Clients

Law Offices of
RICHARD M. LESTER
Founder, Aid to Injured Motorcyclists

- 110 Offices Throughout North America
- Free Legal Consultation
- No Recovery = No Fee
- We Make House Calls
- Attorneys in Every State and Province Who Ride
- No Fee on Motorcycle Damage Recovery
- Also Auto Accidents

24 Hours - Toll Free (800) 531-2424
(800) ON-A-BIKE

Call For Your New A.L.M. Card With Lost Key Finder

Add to Your Motorcyclist's Toolkit
Richard M. Lester
Attorney at Law
800 531 2424

You know us!

Visit us on the web at www.ON-A-BIKE.com

We are endorsed by the National Coalition of Motorcyclists and more than 1000 motorcycle groups throughout the United States and Canada, and serve as Legal Counsel for the Conventions of Clubs.

ATTENTION MEMBERS: Our nationwide network of A.L.M. attorneys devote a significant portion of their legal fees from motorcycle accident settlements back into motorcycling by being the sole financial sponsor of the National Coalition of Motorcyclists.

NMMRO Membership

Single Membership	\$20.00
Couples Membership	\$30.00
Corporate Membership	\$100.00
Renewals:	Single \$15.00
	Couple \$20.00

Please send info & checks to:

NMMRO
PO Box 27673
Albuquerque NM 87125-7673

Name: _____

Address: _____

(City, State and Zip Code)

E-mail: _____

Phone Number: _____

Are you a registered voter? _____

Advertisements & Announcements'



Sales Service Installation, Repair
Carpet, Wood, Laminate, Ceramic
Commercial & Residential

NEW MEXICO STATE CONTRACTOR
Frank Rivera
505-837-1950
License Bonded & Insured

Thank You for your Kindness...

Pollito Con Papas
1402 Broadway, SE.
Albuquerque, NM
(505) 765-5486



1903 4th St. NW Suite A
505-273-0552

HITT-EM UP
TATTOOS

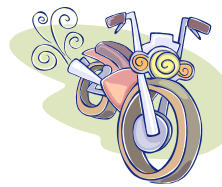


There is no price,
or quality we can't beat

505-804-9851
505-712-1712

www.myspace.com/dreyzplace
dreyzta141@yahoo.com

505.414.9676
ENCHANTMENT MOTORSPORTS
12231 Academy Rd. NE ABQ



Grumpy Jim's
Leather Works

Belts, Buckles, Wristbands, Key Chains,
Motorcycle Whips, Vest Extenders, and other
motorcycle related leatherwork

505-286-1509 (home) 505-401-6727 (cell)

A.C.E. Firearms Training, Inc.

Charles E. "Charly" Anderson
President

New Mexico Licensed Concealed Carry Instructor
NRA Certified Instructor for Pistol, Rifle, Shotgun
Home Firearms Safety & Personal Protection
New Mexico HE Instructor • NRA Life Member
Member of CCRKBA, SAF, GOA

Ph: 505.861.1436

Cell: 505.264.0940

E: charlya@wwdb.org

PO Box 757, Belen, NM 87002-0757



Healing Hands Massage

Cassandra Fischer

Licensed Massage

Therapist

4041 Barbara Loop Ste. A

Rio Rancho, NM 87124

(505)203-0450

(505)896-6965

Young Living Essential

Oils #946986

NM LMT#4702, RMTI-S

#0364

D&D Custom Embroidery

David Baca Sr. and David Baca Jr.

615-6632



We also sew on patches

RENEGADE CLASSICS OUTLET STORE
MEN & WOMEN
LEATHER • CLOTHING • BOOTS • ACCESSORIES
Motorcycle Clothing For The Biker Community
BIKERS OUTLET

Accessory Pit

NEW MEXICO TRIKE CENTER

8509 Constitution Ave, NE
Albuquerque, New Mexico
(505) 292-2700

ADVERTISEMENT

Standing out when you ride is a good thing.

Over 87,000 riders are injured on the road each year.

Standing out will help you stay safe. Most accidents happen because other vehicle drivers just don't pay attention.

In the event of a crash, a motorcyclist is more vulnerable and in much greater danger physically than a driver. Because I'm an attorney and rider too, I have an intimate understanding of the road, its challenges and how to help.

Stay safe on the road.
The next time you go out...

- wear proper protective gear
- add reflectors & brighten your headlights
- always use running lights
- make the front, back and sides of your bike bright!

Riders Representing Riders.

Dan Sorey
Dan Sorey
2003 Harley Road King

The Sorey Law Firm. Think fast. Ride safe. www.JusticeForRiders.com
211 N. Center Street, Longview, TX 75601 ph 1-903-212-2822 fx 1-903-758-3239

JIM SUTTON
OWNER/EXHAUST SPECIALIST

Muffler AND AUTO SERVICE Inc.

- Custom DUAL Exhaust • Catalytic Converters
- USA Made Muffler • Flowmaster • Dynomax • Magnaflo
- Welding Service • Brakes

4600 Central SE • Albuquerque, NM 87108
(505) 265-2880

LEO'S BAR
LOCATED ON 12TH AND CANDELARIA

Berry Drafting Services
Patty Berry, Owner
berrydrafting@live.com
(505) 934-1548
926 Coal Ave. SW
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Show Stoppers Unlimited
9319 Central NE
Albuquerque, NM 87123
www.showstoppersunlimited.net
(505) 888-2484

Towing Available

Transmission
Foreign & Domestic
Brake Jobs • Shift Kits

THE PIT STOP
CALL (505) 877-9414

305 Isleta S.W.
Albuquerque, NM 87105

Flywheels
Rotors & Drums
Turned



NEW WINTER HOURS!

MONDAY-FRIDAY: 10AM-6PM
SATURDAY: 9AM-5PM
SUNDAY: 10AM-4PM

THUNDERBIRD
HARLEY-DAVIDSON®
A SCOTT FISCHER EXPERIENCE

SERVICE OPEN FOR PICK UP/DROP OFF STARTING AT 9AM MONDAY-SATURDAY AND CLOSED SUNDAY (EXCEPT FOR DROP OFF).

NEW MEXICO MOTORCYCLIST RIGHTS ORGANIZATION



In Memory of Lanky Dave Berry 9th ANNUAL BIKE DAY AT THE CAPITOL

Saturday February 11, 2012
1:00 PM
Santa Fe, New Mexico
Round House Rotunda
(State Capitol Building in Santa Fe)

**Leave ThunderBird Harley Davidson Dealership at 11 AM
Stop at Santa Fe Harley Davidson from 12:00 12:30**

Meet your State Representatives and Senators

**The motorcycle and bicyclist community invite all to join us in support to protect
our rights and liberties on issues, laws and regulations involving safety and
awareness on our highways.**

For More Information contact Annette Torrez @ 505-730-0435
E-mail: atorrez2@msn.com
Web-site: www.thenmmro.org