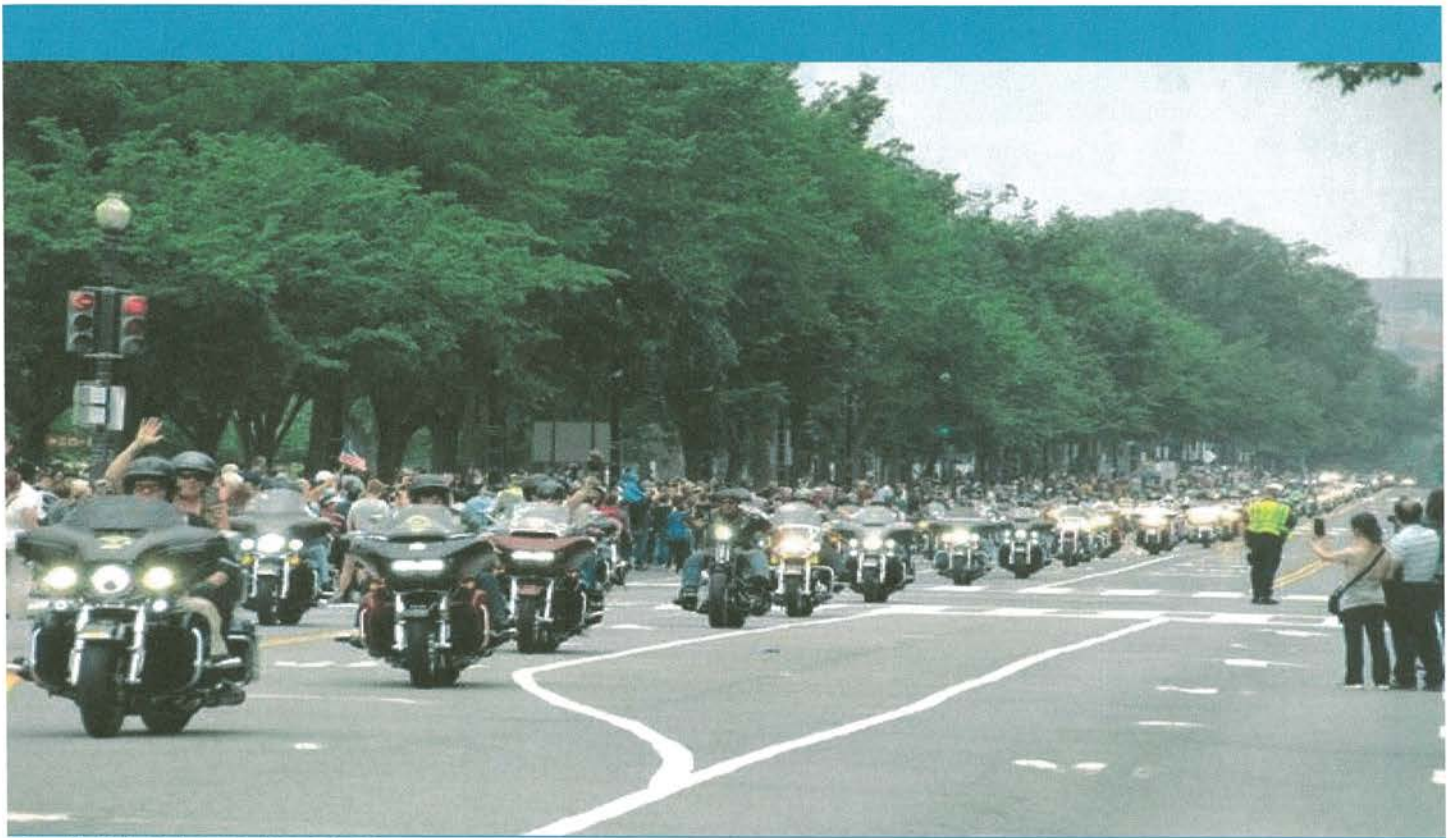


REGION 8

Veteran's Committee



FEATURED STORIES and more...

Rolling Thunder® XXXII "Ride for Freedom"

May 26, 2019

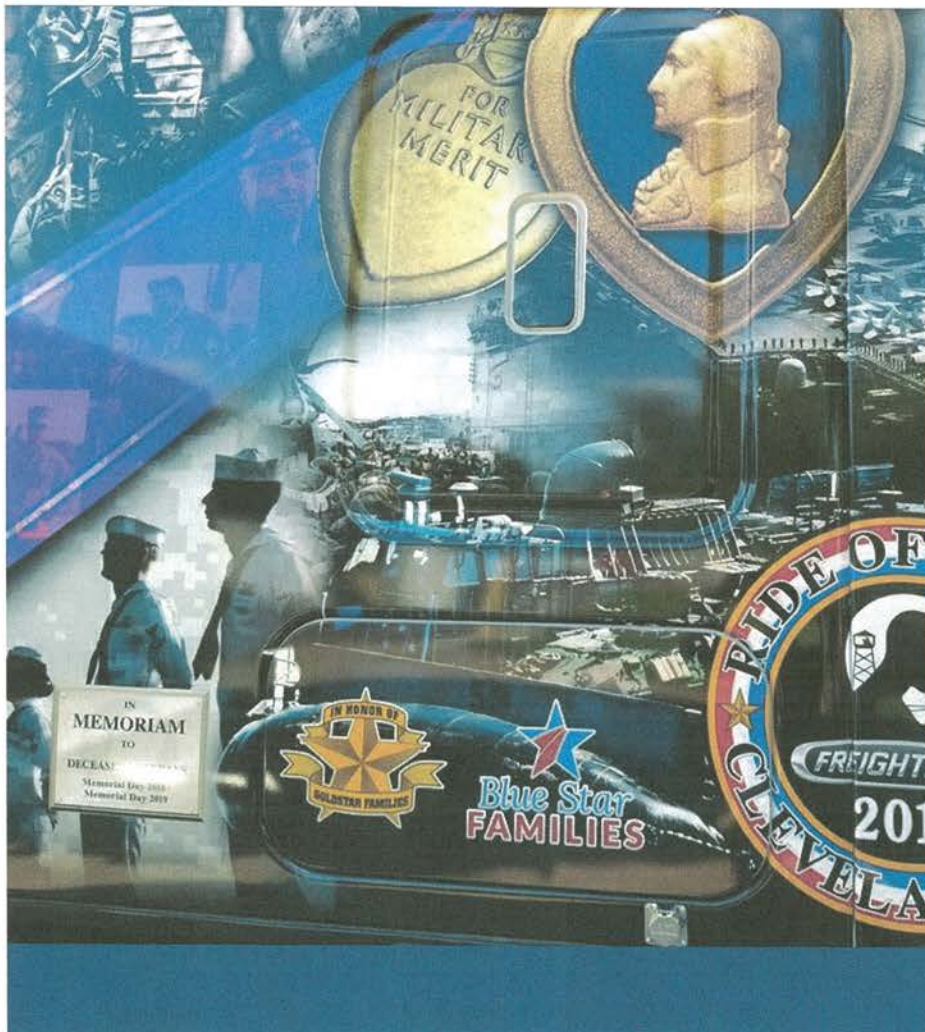
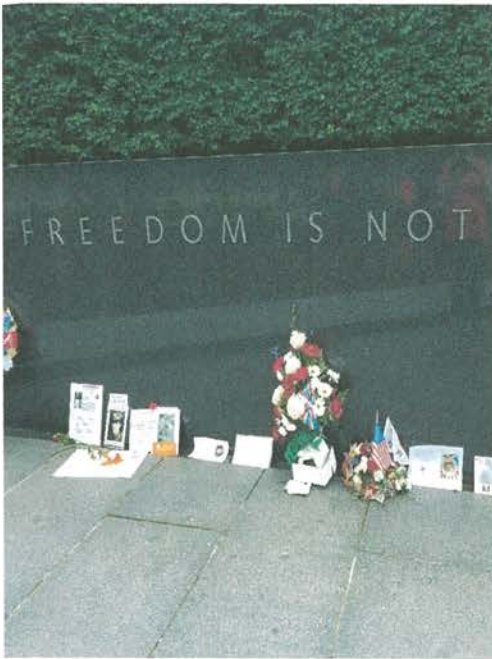
**Rolling Thunder to End
Annual Memorial Day
Ride in DC after 2019**

The 2019 Freightliner,
Cleveland TMP

"Ride of Pride" Trucks

Actor, Gary Sinise Flew
1,700 Children, Spouses
of U.S. Fallen Soldiers to
Disney World.

2019 Veteran's
Standing Committee,
St, Petersburg, Florida
May 20-24, 2019 and
Meet your new
Executive Board,



Rolling Thunder® XXXII "Ride for Freedom"

UAW TRUCKS: Ride for Pride Cleveland TMP Truck

Purple Heart Truck belongs to:
Crete Carriers

"Gully Truck" belongs to:
Cooper Transportation

2019 Ride of Pride Truck:
The Spirit of Cleveland

Inside this newsletter is the story of each truck and what they represent.

Rolling Thunder® XXXII "Ride for Freedom" cont....

Mission Statement:

Rolling Thunder Washington, DC, Inc's mission is to educate, facilitate, and **never forget** by means of a demonstration for service members that were abandoned after the Vietnam War. The **Rolling Thunder First Amendment Demonstration Run** has also evolved into a display of patriotism and respect for all who defend our country.

First Amendment Demonstration Run:

The Rolling Thunder First Amendment Demonstration Run is an annual protest and gathering that first started in 1988. Motorcycle riders from around the nation, and even around the world rally in the Pentagon parking lots and then begin riding a designated route through the Mall area of Washington, D.C. Afterward, everyone has an opportunity to meet old and new friends, pay respect at the memorials, and participate in the Memorial Day events. The event is an actual demonstration/protest to bring awareness and accountability for POWs and MIAs left behind.

Brief History:

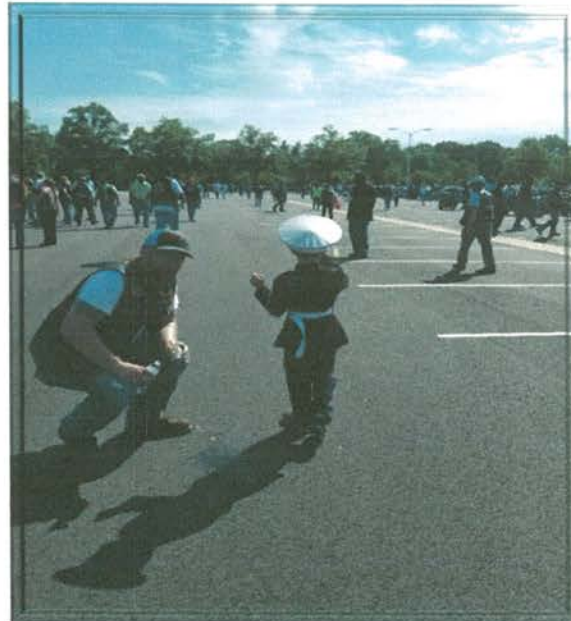
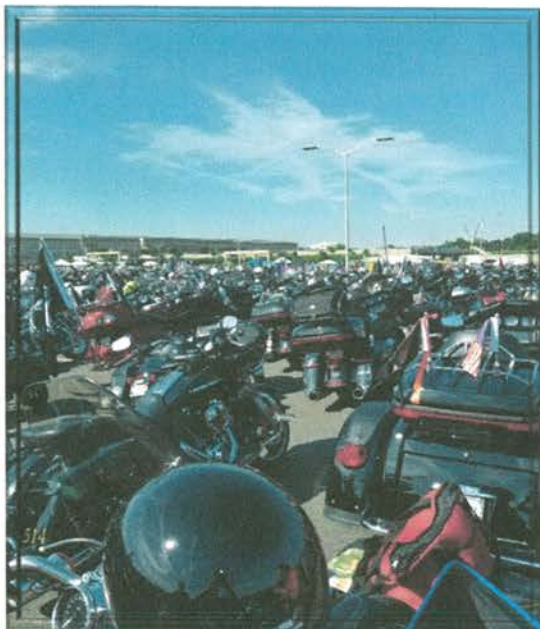
Rolling Thunder Washington, DC Inc., and its mission began as a demonstration following the era of the Vietnam War, which was a difficult time in our history. Many of America's military were killed or missing in action (MIA) and their remains did not return home or respectfully buried. There were also reports of live prisoners of war (POW) who were left behind when the war ended. In 1987, Vietnam veteran Ray Manzo (CPL, USMC), bothered by these accounts, came to DC with his idea and met and enlisted the help of fellow veterans to organize a motorcycle demonstration to bring attention to the POW/MIA situation. Memorial Day weekend seemed suitable for the event. As they envisioned the arrival of the motorcycles coming across the Memorial Bridge and thought it would sound like "**Rolling Thunder**". The first Run in 1988, had roughly 2500 motorcycles and riders demanding that the U.S. government account for all POW/MIA's. It continues to grow every year, becoming the world's largest single-day motorcycle event. Now, with over a million riders and spectators combined, Rolling Thunder has evolved into an emotional display of patriotism and respect for all who defend our country.

Now approximately 900,000 participants and spectators are involved with this annual demonstration in Washington, D.C. Rolling Thunder is one of the best patriotic events held in the nation's capital and a unique experience not to be missed.



Motorcycle count was somewhere in the number of 1.5 to 1.6 million riders.

**Special thanks to all who participated in Rolling Thunder!
Special Thanks to Billy Stephens and Michael McManus for these awesome photos!**



UAW TRUCKS: GULLY TRUCK RIDE FOR PRIDE CLEVELAND TRUCK MANUFACTURING PLANT

Notice the decal to the left of Gully Transportation Driver's head. 1.1 million Military personnel have died in American wars. But, right now let's focus on one, Jeffrey D. Walker. Jeffrey died in May of 2007, his second tour in Iraq. At that time, his son Connor was 5 months old. Walker's personal decorations include the Purple Heart, Combat Action Ribbon, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the National Defense Service Medal. Jeffrey wasn't searching for medals or distinction in the Marine Corp. When asked by his niece, why he went to war, his response, "so you can play in your yard." He wanted to serve, to protect, and he loved life.

Thursday, Gully Transportation received its Ride of Honor tractor, at the Freightliner Cleveland Truck Manufacturing plant, along with Crete and Cargo. Gully Transportation Driver, JD Walker, veteran and Gold Star Dad is standing beside the decal placed in honor and remembrance of his son, Jeffrey. Remember Jeffrey D. Walker this weekend, and the soldiers like him, that gave all they had, to protect our rights and freedoms.

JD Walker rode in this truck to Washington D.C. for Rolling Thunder. Below is his son Jeffrey.



"UNsung HEROES"

The 2019 Western Star Ride of Honor "Unsung Heroes" honors and pays tribute to all those support people of the military. These service members are the support network of the entire system and without them, the frontlines would not be successful. These people usually do not get headlines or even get noticed, that is largely the nature of their work. You may not notice when they do their work, but you will certainly notice if they do not.

These support people do all sorts of jobs in many different specialties. They are the trainers/advisers or instructors. They are doctors, nurses and paramedics in the field. They are firefighters, military police, and animal handlers. They are supply, fuel and ammo handlers. They cook and run food services. They are all sorts of clerks, personnel specialists, admin and finance people. They are JAG officers, strategists and clergy. They are engineers, both in and out of the field. They are mechanics that keep everything the military has moving.

We honor their vital services that are the backbone of our military!

GULLY TRUCK

The 2019 Ride of Pride is in honor of all the military service members and all the major conflicts since World War I. This ROP also celebrates and honors all the past ROP vehicles. The graphics of this special truck include various elements found in past trucks such as the Yellow ribbons and striping, the ROP dog tags, and the many campaign ribbons.

This unit is special in a unique way: it is the 1st ever DTNA owned unit. The unit belongs to the DTNA marketing group and we house it at our Cleveland plant. Being "ours" it has been named "the Spirit of Cleveland" in honor of all our employee veterans and past ROP units.

2019 Ride of Pride Truck
AKA: *The Spirit of Cleveland*

PURPLE HEART TRUCK "COURAGE"

Freightliner's Cleveland Truck Manufacturing Plant (TMP) held a dedication ceremony for the Ride of Pride and Ride of Honor units created by the plant. **Cargo Transporters'** is the proud recipient of the 2019 Ride of Pride, tractor named Courage. It is dedicated to Medal of Honor and Purple Heart recipients. The tractor will be driven by Derrick Whittle, driver and Coast Guard veteran. He, along with the Ride of Honor tractors will escort to Washington, D.C., the veterans group, Rolling Thunder to the "Ride to the Wall." This annual summit is a show of support for veterans and POW/MIA families. Hyperformance Graphics is the company that manufactures the tractor graphics, the company is in Conover, NC.



D-Day Roh
"Overlord"
Truck

Cargo Transporter'

Our D-day ROH, code name "Overlord", features many images of the assault and the aftermath. You can see troops in assault craft, a C-47 delivering its paratroopers and on the hood you can spot the National D-Day Memorial above the POW/MIA logo. The invasion stripes, put on all aircraft, adorn the back of the sleeper. This scheme employees more subdued and 40's style colors to take you right back to the era.

The 2019 Ride of Honor for Crete Carriers is tribute to the 75th Anniversary of Operation Overlord, commonly known as D-Day. This assault took place the morning of June 6, 1944, on the north shores of France. This is the largest military assault operation in history, involving thousands of troops and supporting elements. This landmark battle was successful and was the beginning of the end of the war in Europe. From the foothold created by the D-Day operation, Allied forces were able to push across Europe defeating the Axis powers to end the war and declare victory in Europe on 8 May 1945. This victory came at a huge cost, there was an estimated casualty count of between 14,000 to 19,000 on the initial assault June 6, 1944.

Crete Carriers

We are excited to share our newest Ride of Pride tractor, but before we do that, we would like to give you all some history on the Ride of Pride and Ride of Honor tractors. The picture is of our first three Ride of Pride/Honor tractors. Sadly, they have all been retired. This excerpt comes from the ROP Committee Members at Daimler, Cleveland, NC. "Following 9/11 and the subsequent events, a group of Cleveland Truck Plant veterans wanted to come up with a way to honor other veterans, as well as those affected by these tragedies. They designed and built a detailed truck to honor veterans that would drive a specific route on an annual basis. This became known as the "Ride of Pride". Every year since 2002, a new theme or set of themes is selected for our trucks by the Ride of Pride committee. As the event has evolved over the last 17 years, we have partnered with the local chapter of a veterans group known as "Rolling Thunder". This group was formed 32 years ago and has more than 90 chapters throughout the United States and overseas. They supported Vietnam veterans in their formative years but have since included all other veterans as well. Each year on Memorial Day weekend our group will "Ride to the wall" of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. We lead riders to Washington D.C. for an annual summit, then once in D.C., we join riders from across the country to show support for veterans and POW/MIA families. This event draws over half a million riders each year."

2019 was the largest ever!



“The Spirit of Cleveland”



Special thanks to all who participated in Rolling Thunder! Special Thanks to William Osborne for these awesome photos!



Riders for Hero's Local 862 Sponsored the Run for the Wall, fuel stop location I-64 & Waddy, KY.

Run for the Wall group coming down I-64 stopping in at Waddy, Kentucky for a fuel stop. It was an absolute honor talking to some of these riders and organizers. It is such an amazing ride they do across the United States. It is so wonderful they represent our Veterans and their families and to call for accounting of the POW/MIA, to honor the memory of those killed in action from all wars and supporting our military personnel.



UAW Local 862 Veterans Committee will be once again sponsoring and supporting the "Run for the Wall"

Did you know.....

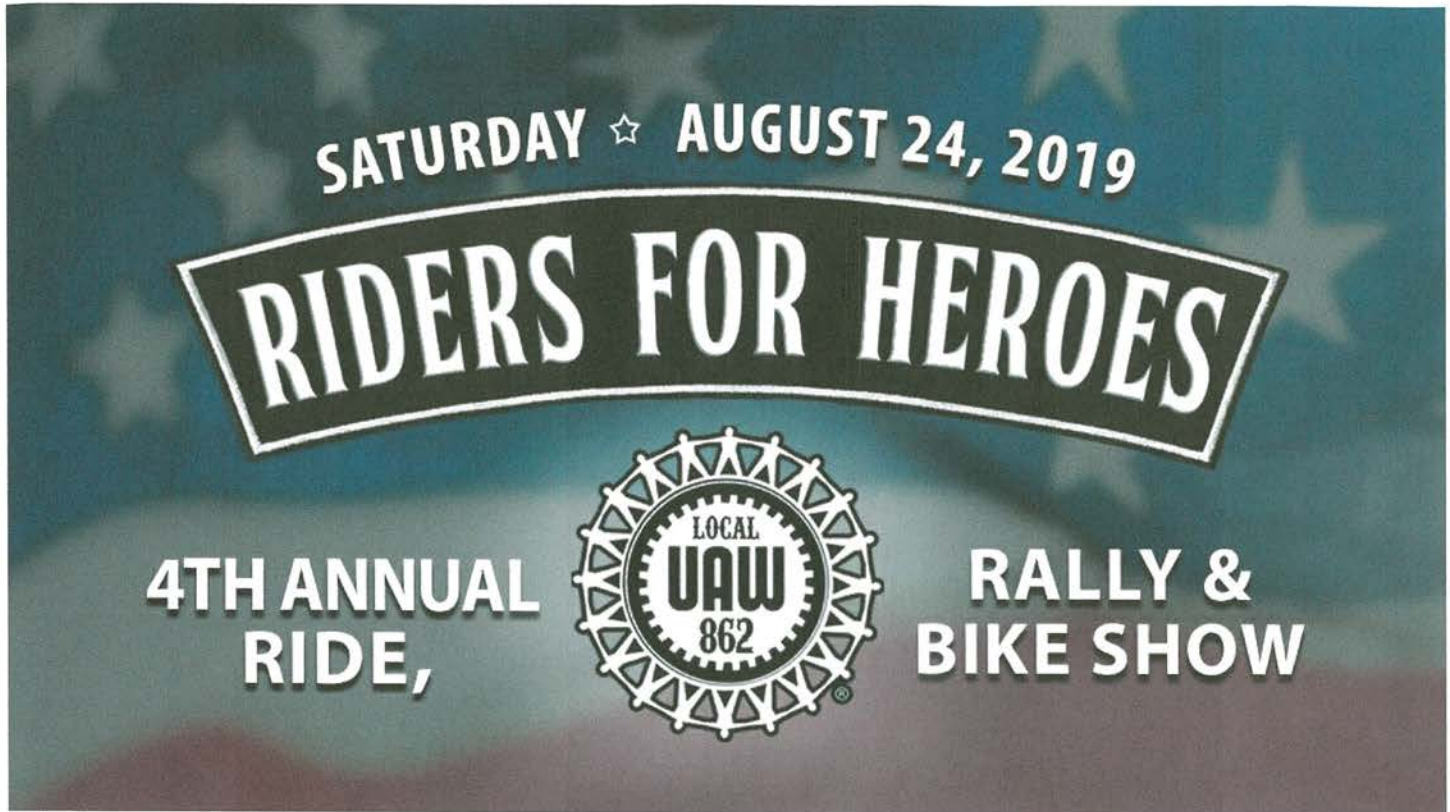


Gary Sinise is a caring philanthropist who helps military families via the Gary Sinise Foundation. Through a program run by his foundation, over 1,700 Gold Star family members were given an all-expenses-paid, five-day vacation to Disney World in Orlando, Florida! Also called the "Snowball Express," the meaningful journey flew the children and spouses of fallen soldiers on 15 airplanes with incredible send-offs.

While the "Snowball Express" occurred around Christmas holidays, Sinise's good deed hasn't gone unnoticed and the video from the heartfelt moment has gone viral. The touching airport send-offs included cheers from supporters dressed in festive gear in Chicago and greetings from Mr. and Mrs. Claus, who arrived by helicopter with gifts in L.A. In Nashville, however, the military families received the most poignant send-off with a beautiful rendition of the "Star-Spangled Banner."

This humbling moment stopped everyone in their tracks. "Most every person standing around, myself included was bawling at the sight of these kids and spouses who have paid so great a price for our country," wrote observer, Jen Tringale who posted the scene on Facebook. Sinise also commented [to KCAL9](#): "Each one of these children who are going on these airplanes has lost a parent in military services—either combat-related or illness or unfortunately suicide sometimes," "We want to take care of these kids and make sure they know we don't forget."

Keep up this great work you do!

UP COMING EVENTS:

4th Annual Riders for Heroes 2019 (ride & rally/bike show takes place at two separate locations)

Saturday, August 24, 2019

Ride will start at Bluegrass Harley-Davidson, located at 11701 Gateworth Way, Louisville, KY 40299
On-site ride registration starts at 8:00 am; Kickstands up at 9:00 am

Rally will be held at UAW Local 862 (LAP) Hall, located at 3000 Fern Valley Rd., Louisville, KY 40213
Bike show registration: 12:00 - 1:00 pm; Rally kicks off at 2:00 pm

Don't ride? Don't worry! Party with us at the rally! The rally will kick off at the UAW Local 862 (LAP) Hall at 2:00 pm with live music, cold beer, great food and much more!

Tickets:

\$10.00 per person for rally entry
\$20.00 per pre-registered person (includes event t-shirt and rally entry)
\$10.00 per bike entered into show

All proceeds from the 2019 Riders for Heroes Ride, Rally & Bike Show will be donated to USA Cares, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to assisting veterans and military families in crisis.

Tickets and Info:

https://louisvilletickets.com/events/riders-for-heroes-4th-annual-ride-rally-bike-show?fbclid=IwAR3dKD-yAfQ_dD4N2aSIhvz6ufCLU7zAXHPy6u9xNR57a1Q7uysQvsPaNG8

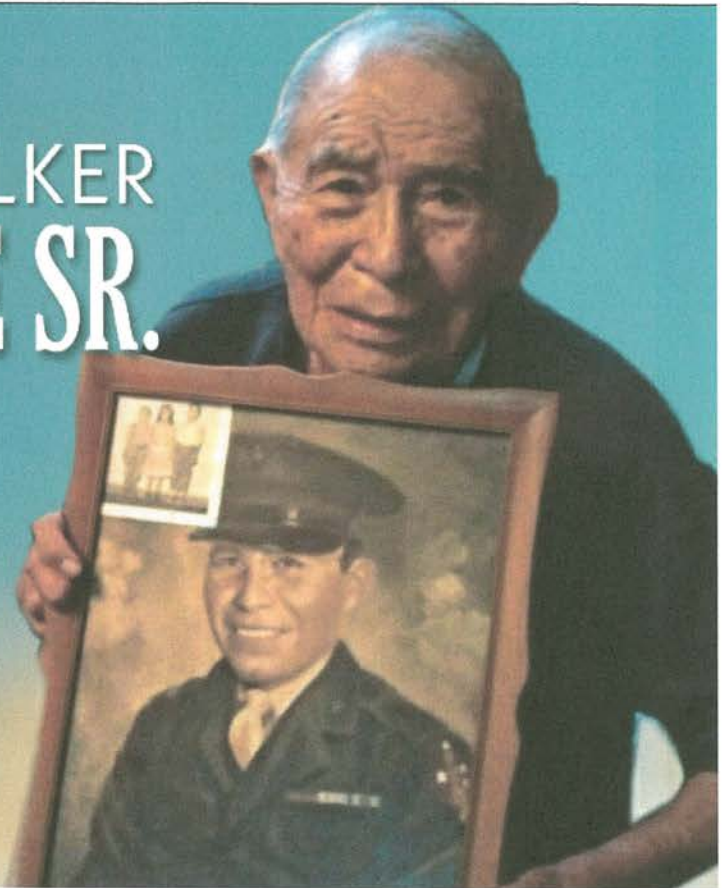
This August, join Riders for Heroes for their 4th annual ride, rally & bike show! Register today to hit the road with UAW Local 862 in support of veterans & military families in crisis!

DATE: Saturday, June 8, 2019 at 7:30 AM - 11:30 AM

LOCATION: 3813 Taylor Blvd, Louisville, KY 40215-2614, United States

Stay tuned for more upcoming events for Operation Victory!

NAVAJO CODE TALKER FLEMING BEGAYE SR. 1921-2019



Navajo Nation Mourns Passing of Navajo Code Talker Fleming Begaye, Sr.

NAVAJO NATION MOURNS PASSING OF NAVAJO CODE TALKER FLEMING BEGAYE, SR.

CHINLE, Ariz. — The Navajo Nation is mourning the loss of Navajo Code Talker Fleming Begaye, Sr., who walked on Friday, May 10, 2019. Mr. Begaye was 97. Born on August 26, 1921 in the community of Red Valley, Arizona and resided in Chinle, Arizona. Begaye is Tódích'íi'nii (Bitter Water Clan) and born for Kintichii'nii (Red House People Clan).

According to the Navajo Nation, Begaye served as a Navajo Code Talker in the Marine Corps from 1943 to 1945 and fought in the Battle of Tarawa and the Battle of Tinian. He spent a year in a naval hospital.

Published
BY LEVI RICKERT / CURRENTS / 11 MAY 2019

May 20-24, 2019 Standing Committee Veteran's Delegates



Thank you, Jimmy Martin, for doing such a great job reading aloud, the meaning and message of "The Missing Man Table".

This year as it was my job to put the special table together, I wanted to educate those who didn't know the sacred meaning of this SPECIAL TABLE! Thank you!

By: Debbi Abatti-Pearson

2019 Standing Committee for Veterans

Meet your new Executive Board



(L to R) Vice President: Donna Boughton, Recording Secretary: Diane Carpenter, President: Tom Fisher and Sargent of Arms: Edwin Perez

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

REMEMBER, If your local is planning and event, please send me your information so can include in next month's newsletter!

Send to: debbiabattipearson@yahoo.com