

# News For Thought

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## Weird News: Biker Buried With Bike

An Ohio biker was granted his last wish to be buried astride his beloved Harley-Davidson, but it took one custom Plexiglas casket, three extra burial plots, five embalmers and six years of planning and preparations for 82-year old Bill Standley of Mechanicsburg, Ohio to share a grave with the '67 Harley he bought new and rode around the country through 49 states.

It all started 18 years ago when Standley joked with his kids about who would inherit his motorcycle; "I've got two sons, only got one bike," and one of his daughters off-handedly quipped, "Oh dad, just be buried with it."

Six years ago, Standley went before the Champaign County Board of Health to get permission for the bizarre burial, and was informed that he would need a special vault and he'd have to drain all of the fluids out of the bike.

He and his two sons then custom built a see-through casket from a modified septic tank, reinforced with wood and steel, and on January 31st family and friends took him on his last ride to the cemetery, where a crane lowered him and his bike to their final resting place in full riding gear, forever in the wind.

## New York Lawmaker Says Bikes Shouldn't Be Allowed In His District

Legislator Thomas F. Barraga (R-11th District) says people should not ride bikes at all in his district because "Suffolk County is a suburban automobile community -- drivers expect to see other drivers on the road, not bicyclists and motorcyclists."

The anti-motorcycle/bicycle lawmaker from West Islip, New York made those remarks in response to a high school senior who wrote to him as a part of a government class assignment.

On January 29, the 17-year old, Matthew Cutrone, wrote to Barraga requesting "some sort of bike lane or maybe even warning signs in certain areas of the county" after his mother was hit by the driver of a van that illegally turned left in front of her.

Stating that he believes that "no one who lives in our hamlet or for that matter Suffolk County should ever ride a bicycle or motorcycle," Barraga's callous response lit up social media and prompted a ton of angry responses, though the legislator said he's standing by his remarks.

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## Missouri Pushes To Change Ban On Sunday Motorcycle Sales

Like many states, it is against the law in Missouri for dealers to sell cars, trucks or motorcycles on Sunday. Due to archaic "Blue Laws" influenced by religion during the Colonial Period, sales are prohibited on the Sabbath, but there is a trend brewing and

some states are removing this outdated ban.

The latest state to allow Sunday motorcycle sales was Indiana last July, when Hoosiers joined Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York and Maryland in removing their Sunday sales ban.

Now Missouri's Blue Law is being challenged, and lawmakers are proposing three bills that would allow for motorcycles to be sold in Platte and Jackson Counties on Sundays. The reason is because some Kansas City metro dealers feel it is not fair that they can't sell on Sundays when just across the border in the neighboring state of Kansas, dealers can.

Other states that currently prohibit the Sunday sales of motorcycles and automobiles are Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, Oklahoma, North Dakota and Wisconsin. In Missouri, dealers are not even allowed to discuss a sale on Sunday, or face a \$300 fine and possible jail time.

## Florida Lawmakers May Make Drivers Watch Out For Motorcycles

Safety rule number one for motorcycle riders is to watch out for car drivers, but a proposal in Florida could make it

state law for drivers to watch out for motorcycles.

The bill covers what Senator Greg Evers (R-District 2) calls "vulnerable road users." That includes motorcyclists, pedestrians, road workers, scooter and bicycle riders, farm equipment operators, carriage drivers and those in wheelchairs. If a driver commits a moving violation that results in bodily injury, it would become a second-degree misdemeanor. If it causes death, it would become first-degree, with the potential for license suspension.

## Further EPA Actions Restrict E15 Fuel

Following passage of the Farm Bill, which hampers the availability of E15 (gasoline containing 15% ethanol) by restricting blender pumps necessary to dispense the fuel, as well as the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency's recent move to reduce for the first time the amount of ethanol required to be blended into U.S. gasoline supplies, two new EPA regulations are expected to further limit E15 availability.

In action taken March 3rd, the EPA decided against adopting E15 as its standard test fuel, and in other regulatory action refused to waive E15 vapor pressure limits, which will effectively reduce its distribution to gas stations during summer months.

Previously, the EPA approved E15 for use in cars and trucks built since 2001, but has not approved the fuel for use in any motorcycles or ATVs, and manufacturers have warned that E15 can damage engines and even inadvertent fueling can void warranties.

## ABATE Of Indiana Seeks To Allow Off-Road Vehicles On County Roadways

Indiana state law bans driving off-road vehicles on public streets, but ABATE of Indiana, a motorcycle advocacy group, is asking Tippecanoe County commissioners to exercise a clause that allows county officials to allow all-terrain vehicles, gators and various other off-road machines, including snowmobiles, to use county roads in unincorporated areas.

"We're just requesting that they at least evaluate this, look at what other communities have done with this -- what other counties have done with this" said Jay Jackson, executive director of American Bikers Aimed Toward Education. "We're not aware of any significant ramifications as a result, so we don't see a downside to it."

Jackson told commissioners that 45 Indiana counties allow off-road vehicles on public roads. The vehicles still must comply with state laws governing off-road vehicles. State law requires the rider or driver be 16 years old and licensed, and also requires that the vehicle be registered, much like a boat.

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## Weird News: APB For Mr. Harley Davidson

Police in Guapa, Brazil, investigating a string of carjackings believed they found a key piece of evidence that could blow the case wide open: a Harley-Davidson cap belonging to a suspect: "He left a grey T-shirt which he had used to cover his face, and also a baseball cap with a skull embroidered on it, along with the name Harley, and the citizen's surname, Davidson, who is probably the miscreant we're looking for," a police officer told a local news station.