Page 18 WWW.FREERIDERSPRESS.US





Delaware Governor Vetoes Helmet Law Repeal

Governor Jack Markell has vetoed HB 95 which would have repealed the requirement that persons operating a motorcycle in Delaware carry a safety helmet. Since 1978 when the state repealed their mandatory helmet law, Delaware has one of the most unique helmet laws on the books by requiring riders to have a helmet in their possession on the bike, but not requiring those over 18 to actually wear one.

Even as Delaware riders hear of their governor's decision, all eyes are on Michigan where a bill to repeal their 42-year old helmet law appears destined for their governor's desk, where its fate is no more certain.

The Michigan Senate recently voted 24-14 to approve a measure that would allow motorcyclists 21 or older to go lidless if they have been licensed to operate a motorcycle for at least two years or have passed a safety course, though ABATE of Michigan opposes an amendment requiring \$100,000.00 in medical coverage to ride without a helmet, calling it excessive and noting that many insurance companies don't offer such coverage, and if they did the cost would be prohibitive.

ABATE says they will fight to have the insurance requirement removed as the bill moves through the house, but though republican Governor Rick Snyder remains non-committal he has hinted to the Detroit News that he's willing to consider the elimination of Michigan's motorcycle helmet law in the context of general auto insurance reforms that he's preparing to propose to lawmakers. Three previous attempts to repeal the helmet law have been vetoed by prior governors, twice by Snyder's immediate predecessor democratic governor Jennifer Granholm. www.ON-A-BIKE.com

Judge Upholds Patch-Holders Rights

"A federal judge has rejected an unprecedented bid by the U.S. government to seek control of a gang's name and its identity - via its logo - through a court order in a case involving the notorious Mongols motorcycle club," according to the Associated Press report regarding an eight-page ruling by U.S. District Court Judge Otis Wright, II who wrote on June 28, 2011 that he must "regrettably" rule in favor of the Mongols because the group itself was not named in a 2008 racketeering indictment.

To summarize the Court's findings, Aid to Injured Motorcyclists (A.I.M.) Attorney Boyd Spencer of Pennsylvania wrote:

Since the Mongols Nation Club was never indicted, much less ever convicted of any criminal act, then the criminal forfeiture of the trademark owned by the Mongols Nation was in total error.

The Mongols Motorcycle Club, or Mongol Nation, owned the trademark of the club colors since 1969.

Any assignment made by any member of the club to himself or any other individual was void. This is because the trademark was a collective membership mark which can only be owned by the organization for which the Mark stands. Only the Mongols Club, or Mongols Nation could have a property interest or own the patch, colors, or trademark for the patch or colors.

Since the Mongols were not indicted in the criminal action, the property of anyone other than the defendants in a criminal action, cannot have their personal property forfeited. This order, and the prior litigation that led up to this order, is a victory for the rights of motorcycle clubs to own, display, and fly their colors, without forfeiture by the government. www.ON-A-BIKE.com

QUOTABLE QUOTE: "What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us."

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882) American Poet & Philosopher

11th Annual Highground Ride to Remember Motorcycle Rally Comes to the Highground

The Highground's Ride to Remember motorcycle rally dedicates itself to remembering our veterans, POWs and MIAs. Our Friday night August 19th opening ceremony begins at 5:30 pm at The Highground. That ceremony will touch the hearts and souls of all participants as only a shared experience on The Highground can. Hardee's will be on hand selling chicken, burgers and ice cream treats. All their proceeds will come to The Highground's Ride to Remember Motorcycle Rally. Entertainment at The Highground that evening will be provided by Country Music Entertainers Paige & Kim, along with Vietnam Veteran Dave Sky providing easy listening music. The public is invited to come out, have dinner and enjoy the entertainment.

Saturday morning a breakfast buffet will be available at the Neillsville American Legion beginning at 8:00. Registration begins at 10:00 am at WCCN Pavilion, Neillsville on Saturday, August 20th. There are three guided rides that depart at 11:00 am, 12:00 noon and 1:00 pm. Saturday's ride will provide the best day your bike has to offer. A procession to The Highground at 3:00 pm follows the tours where a celebration picnic makes the day complete. Add the element of honoring those whose service makes our way of life possible and this rally is an event you won't want to miss.

Stick around town Saturday night and come back to the Legion for Sunday Morning breakfast. What more could one ask for on a weekend get away and just getting out.

For more information and pre-registration, contact The Highground at 715-743-4224 or email at highgrnd@tds.net. For additional information and registration forms, visit our website at www.thehighground.org.