

Crimson Crusaders 5th Annual Biker Breakfast

by Wally Wersching

On Saturday morning June 14th, the Crimson Crusaders Ministry held their 5th Annual Biker Breakfast at the Family Life Center of the Landmark Baptist Church in Shelby, NC. This was a charity event with all the proceeds going to The Fisher House at Fort Bragg, NC.

The Fisher House Program was initiated by Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher to house the families of recovering soldiers. The first Fisher House was opened in Bethesda, MD at the National Naval Medical Center in June 1990. After reading about Zachary Fisher, it's no wonder that he got all kinds of awards from US Presidents and other heads of state. His most prized award was from an Act of Congress when he was awarded an Honorary Veteran of the US Armed Forces. The only other person who got this award was Bob Hope for all the work he did for the troops. Mr. Fisher was one of the great men of our time. He passed away in 1999.

The Fisher House Foundation now has 62 Fisher Houses located on or near military installations and military hospitals all over the US and Europe. These homes enable family members to be close to a loved one at the most stressful times - during the hospitalization for an unexpected illness, disease, or injury. All at no cost to the families.

The Crimson Crusaders have been collecting supplies for the Fort Bragg Fisher House for some time, and will be delivering them on Saturday June 21st with a motorcycle escort.

I arrived at the Landmark Baptist Church at about 8:30. There was already a small crowd of bikers. I was greeted with warm smiles as I approached the group. I knew a few but they are all friends now. We talked, and laughed about a lot of things, and then went in to eat a great breakfast. I watched as the food was being prepared. The food must taste good because the cooks were all smiling during cooking. There was a lot of love mixed in with the scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage and the like.

As we sat at our tables, a lady from the Fort Bragg Fisher House gave a talk with a slide presentation about what the house means to the military personnel and their families. She was in tears during her talk.

After she finished her speech, there was a steady line of people dropping money into the large donation jars. It was a moving presentation. Many of the bikers present were veterans, and wanted to help. I know that I did.

I said my good-bys, and headed home about 9:30. I had a good feeling like I helped make a difference. That's what charity does. It helps those who are in need, and those who give.



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