

Courage, Loyalty and Love

By: Skypilot

First I'd like to say it took me several days to compose this article and through a lot of tears, memories and thought here it goes.

This story is about a young Marine, his wife and his ordeal. He is United States Marine, Ty Ziegel, known as "ZIGGY". This man is a true American in every since of the word. He served three deployments in the sand pit (Iraq) and on his third tour was hit by a roadside bomb. It burned his left hand off, burned all his face, neck, upper arms, sent metal fragments through his head and brain. He woke up at Brooks Medical Center and spent 18 to 19 months there. During which time had countless surgeries and rehab. During this time his high school sweetheart Renee was at his side, Renee and Ty had a bad time before this happen because during one of his other deployments Renee's father crossed over.

Ty has stated that "little kids will look at him and come up and ask what happen, and he tells them the bad guys got him". What I think is bad is he says grown adults will stare forever, so he finally ask "what do you want to know, obviously there is something on your mind". Being a Vietnam Vet and spending some time in VA hospitals I can sort of think how he feels. People instead of the stares walk up to Ty and thank him for preserving our freedom.

During my time of war a lot of my brothers who really got messed up, their girls or wife's left. So to Renee I say "You are an Angel" and GOD has meant for you two to be together forever. By the way, Ty and Renee have gotten married and are thinking of their future home, work and as Ty says "have a bunch of little Marines running around.

Walter Brothers Harley Davidson of Peoria IL. and DFT Trikes of Addison IL. got together and built and presented Ty with a Trike so he can keep riding.

Ty and Renee I hope all your dreams come true and God bless your household with many babies, just remember



what you both said "We have been through so much and made it, everything else will be easy" I love you both and pray that the GREAT SPIRIT will always be with you.

There are several people I'd like to thank for helping this "TRUE AMERICAN" that has more grit then John Wayne ever thought about having. First and most important is SGT TY ZIEGEL USMC for his service and sacrifice to his country, second is Renee for sticking by him (you know this marriage was meant to be), Walter

Brothers Harley Davidson of Peoria, DFT Trikes of Addison, Fisher House, Brooks Medical Center and the thousands of people who helped with "The ZIGGY Feast" and showed their love and respect for this HEROE.

Being a native of Illinois some day I hope to meet you Ty and Renee. Ty thank you from the bottom of my heart for serving our country and this comes from a U S Army Retired Ranger "HOOAH". Keep the faith Brother.

These are the kind of articles that should be in the Veterans Corner so if any of you have one e-mail me at vietnambiker@aol.com subject line Vet Corner Story.

Until next month be safe may the Great Spirit ride with you and "KEEP ON TRIKEN' ". Please pray for our men and woman deployed that they return home soon, and please pray for our POW~MIA and their families. I love you all and thank you for reading my stuff. God Bless America!!! Skypilot

Black and Chrome Now Designing Their Own Line of High-Quality Leather Goods

Black and Chrome Motorcycle Leathers and Accessories has recently launched a new division called Black and Chrome Custom Leathers and Repair Service. "This was just sort of a natural progression from our leather patch sewing and repairs," states Jackie 'Puff' Strassburg, Black and Chrome's owner. "With all the repair services that we have been doing over the past few years, we just put the experience together to actually make some new products, and then I started putting some designs together of items people wanted but couldn't find anywhere else, along with some standard items." said Mark 'Wizard' Tilkens, B & C's leather expert.

"Many of our custom items that get a lot of wear are made to very high standards. We only use high quality buffalo and cowhide skins that we select ourselves, along with some exotic leathers when we can get them. We double-stitch seams with heavy-duty nylon upholstery thread and also rivet any stress points." states Tilkens. Some of B & C's custom items include biker/trucker wallets, belt-loop purses, draw string purses and bags, business card holders, ID/credit card holders, key rings, knife sheaths, wide range of stock and custom bike fringe, bike pouches, belt keepers, etc. They soon hope to get out some women's halter tops and other select clothing items made out of super soft deer-skin leather by this summer.

However, their main service will still be the leather repair work since there is still a big demand for fixing good leathers that will add years of service to the item's useful life. Some of these services include:

Custom Leather Design and Manufacturing Apparatus Keepers for Law Enforcement, EMS and Fire Services Custom Knife Sheaths and some types of Weapon Holsters Custom Braiding and Lacing Work Custom and Decorative Fringe Work Patch and Emblem Sewing on Leather or Cloth Leather Sewing and Leather Repair Snaps and Fastener Replacement on Leather or Cloth Decorative Snaps, Rivets, Conchos and Spots Available Zipper Replacement on Leather or Cloth Repairs on Heavy Leathers such as Belts, Holsters and Keepers Rivet Replacement or Reinforcement on Existing Items Grommet and Eyelet Replacement Heavy-Duty Velcro® Installation or Replacement

If you're interested in seeing some of their stuff, they will soon be available on their new website at www.blackchrome.com hopefully in a few weeks – it is currently under design. Otherwise stop by their store location at 8401 Schofield Avenue in Weston and have a look for yourself. They're open Tuesday-Friday 11:00 am to 6:00 pm, Saturdays 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, and are closed Sundays and Mondays.

And don't forget about their Tuesday Night Fun Bike Rides throughout the summer months (except July 3rd). It's a nice 50 to 70 mile run through the country side to a local watering hole for dinner and/or a snack, and something to wet your whistle. It's a lot of fun and a good way to meet new people and to break up the work week. Call 715-355-3720 for more details and the current week's ride destination.

NOTE: If it calls for rain - we don't ride. This is a fun ride and there's nothing fun about riding in the rain.

From Tomahawk, Wi, Bad News- Good News

After 31 years at the While-A-Way, Bob and Beth sold. They would like to thank everyone who has patronized them over the years. It's nice to be able to get on the bike now and ride. We hope to see you on the road or at fall ride.

Mike & JoAnne Apitz have bought the business and it is now called "Mike and JoAnnes Walleye Lodge". They plan on continuing to sell the same great Mexican food and are looking forward to meeting everyone. Everyone- as always- is welcome. They are very biker friendly. Mike and Joanne are looking forward to the summer and of course Fall Ride. We wish them all the best and also all the best to our Brothers and Sisters.

***We here at Free Riders Press wish you the best and hope you get them miles on now. It has been a pleasure working with you both and I look forward to the same with Mike and JoAnne. It's just hard to mention Tomahawk with out the memories created from While-A-Way coming to mind. But we'll get over it. Have a great time.

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