

**Bikers for Americas Bravest  
by Wally Wersching**

On Saturday June 8th, 2013, a piece of New York's World Trade Center came through the Carolinas. On June 1st, it was escorted from Greenville, SC to Gaffney, SC. Now it was time to escort it from Gaffney, SC to Charlotte, NC. The symbol of freedom has been on its way back to Ground Zero since early May visiting twenty-two firehouses along the way. This trip and fund raiser is the brain child of US Marine Corporal Todd Love (a triple amputee when he stepped on an IED



Guardians", "Patriot Guard Riders", "Wind and Fire", and "Christian Motorcycle Association".

I wasn't sure where the firehouse was exactly. I checked a map on-line and rode through Gaffney, and then south on Rt 150. After about six miles, I arrived at the firehouse at about 11:00AM. It was hard to miss. The road was lined with small American flags for the last couple miles.

I was surprised to see only a few bikes. There should have been more - hundreds more for such a noble cause. There wasn't a lot of advertising for the run. I found a brochure at Spartanburg Harley-Davidson a few weeks ago but heard nothing else about it. I'm sure that if more bikers knew about it, there would have been more at the run.

At a little before noon, there was a pledge of allegiance, prayer and short meeting before heading out. During the meeting, Todd became an honorary member of the Goucher-



White Plains Fire Department. He was given a fireman's helmet as a token of his membership. It was easy to see that Todd was surprised and honored as he accepted the helmet. He seems like a very likable and dedicated young man who is trying to live with his hardships as best he can and still give back to his fellow service men.

All the money raised from these events goes to the Stephen Siller Tunnel to Tower Foundation's "Building for America's Bravest" which builds custom homes for the wounded service members to assist in their day-to-day living. They have given all but the ultimate sacrifice so this is a way to support their needs, and make their lives a little easier and more comfortable.



The Goucher-White Plains firehouse just south of Gaffney, SC was the site of the event. Bikers from all over the Carolinas came to escort Todd and the piece of the World Trade Center to the next firehouse in Charlotte.

Many were members of groups but that wasn't a requirement. Many were just concerned bikers. Some of the groups represented were the "Americas

this will be an annual event. Maybe it will be like every other biker event, and get larger every year. I hope so. It's for a great cause! All in all, there were twenty-eight bikers who escorted Todd and the piece of the World Trade Center to Charlotte. To find out more about the inspiring stories behind the Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation and Todd Love, go to: [www.tunneltotowersfoundation.org](http://www.tunneltotowersfoundation.org) and [todd.love@tunnel2towers.org](mailto:todd.love@tunnel2towers.org)



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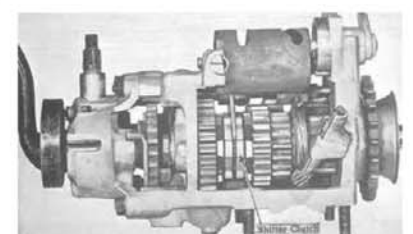
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