

News For Thought



Thousands Of Angry Bikers Clog French Streets In Protest

Once again, France was the scene of enormous demonstrations with thousands of motorcyclists gathering in every city across the nation on April 12 and protesting at the newly proposed speed limit of 80 km per hour (50 mph) on the national road network.

The angry bikers accuse the government of wanting to impose draconian measures in the sole attempt to cash in extra euros from road users who simply won't respect the proposed speed limits.

Paris alone saw more than 5,000 angry bikers blocking the city centre for hours and bringing it to a complete standstill. Other cities across France also saw massive protests with thousands of irate motorcyclists showing their opposition to the reduced speed limit. Lyon, the second largest French city, was also paralyzed with thousands of bikers blocking that city's centre in revolt against the new speed restrictions. Protests took place in 80 towns and cities across the country and were all organized by regional branches of the extremely respected and powerful Fédération Française des Motards en Colère (FFMC) also known in English as the French Federation of Angry Bikers.

The French government will further discuss the proposals and a decision will be made by the end of the year. The bikers are prepared to take up the streets again if need be to express their on-going ire.

American Legion Riders Discriminated Against By "No Colors" Policy

Bikers all across South Florida are threatening to boycott and protest a restaurant after a member of the American Legion Riders said he was discriminated against for riding a motorcycle and wearing patches that proclaim his military service.

Proud Navy veteran Robert Thompson of Pompano Beach told WPTV Channel 5 (NBC) that a manager at the Old Key Lime House told him to remove his leather vest because they do not allow "gangs or colors" and that "his kind" was not welcome.

Within days of the incident, hundreds of veterans and bikers began sharing what happened through social media. A Facebook page was even created to boycott and protest the Old Key Lime House. Fearing backlash, management at the restaurant suspended the employee who made the comments, and the owner has apologized, calling it "a terrible misunderstanding."

A manager at the restaurant told the TV news station that their "no colors or gangs" policy should not have been applied, claiming that the restaurant welcomes bikers and veterans; although a sign still hangs at the bar that states: "WELCOME ALL BIKERS – NO PATCHES or CLUB AFFILIATION ALLOWED – LEAVE IT ON BIKE"

Thompson said he did not speak out to cause controversy but to stop discrimination, no matter what someone looks like, from happening again anywhere.

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of new policies aiding Mayor de Blasio's quest to end traffic deaths, modeled after a Swedish philosophy that treats all road deaths and serious injuries as inherently preventable, the initiative has become the centerpiece of the new administration's transportation agenda.

Among the changes approved, which includes misdemeanor charges or loss of license for hitting a pedestrian or cyclist, certain "exhibition behavior" from motor

cyclists will not be tolerated under the law. The new rules governing motorcycle behavior outlaws "wheelies, doughnuts, burnouts and revving" -- a first offense would be punishable by up to 60 days in jail.

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laws," effectively overturning a ban against such federal lobbying on the issue that has been in place since 1995.

But on June 9th, by a voice vote on the floor of 229-192 (10 absent or abstaining), the U.S. House of Representatives approved an amendment offered by U.S. Representatives Tim Walberg (R-MI) and Jim Sensenbrenner (R-WI) to strike that provision from the House's version of the legislation; titled the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act (H.R. 4745).

The full bill was approved by the House the following day, with the offending language in Section 102 of H.R. 4745 successfully eliminated, but the Senate version of this highly politicized and largely partisan transportation funding bill is still under consideration.

The Administration "strongly opposes House passage of H.R. 4745," and "looks forward to working with the Congress on an orderly appropriations process..."

Minnesota Approves Purple Heart Motorcycle License Plate

Few U.S. states offer the option to get a personalized motorcycle license plate. Minnesota just approved a bill to create a special motorcycle license plate for wounded combat veterans which will be a shrunken version of the Purple Heart plates that car owners can get.

Weird News: Tiny Pooch Takes Down Hog

Police in Riverton, Wyoming were called to the scene of a motorcycle accident where a 45-year old man reported that a Chihuahua dog had chased him down the road on his Harley-Davidson, attempting to bite the front tire and causing it to crash.

Answering the age old question, "What's he going to do with it when he catches it," the pooch fled the scene but was later apprehended and its owner cited for having a small dog at large.

QUOTABLE QUOTE: "You ought to be extremely cautious, watchful, jealous of your liberty; for instead of securing your rights, you may lose them forever..."

~ Patrick Henry (1788)

U.S House Votes Down Federal Helmet Law Push

The Obama Administration's proposed GROW AMERICA Act, a four-year \$302 billion transportation funding measure, contains a provision to allow NHTSA to begin lobbying states and state legislators "to consider proposals related to motorcycle helmet use

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