

The Man, his machine and a legend formed...

A story of Dave Zien...

As a newly patched club member, I sat at a Federation of Clubs meeting watching this loud speaking Senator from Wisconsin jumping on a chair speaking about a variety of issues. Bikers rights, Veterans issues, Gun legislation and so on. Noone seemed to mind that this guy clad in his leather vest and blue jeans kept on passionately yelling for what seemed an eternity. My eyes were wide open to the style this guy was bringing, and I admired him for it.

For ten years now I have run into Dave off and on at a wide variety of events. Swap meets, shows, and meetings. I understand why he is such a widely sought after speaker. He's charismatic, loud and knowledgeable on a wide range of issues and involved in many different groups.

Are you an NRA member and believe in your right to carry? Dave was one of the driving forces at the state capitol as an assemblyman and state senator on gun owners rights, including the right to concealed carry that lost in an over ride vote by 2 votes. Are you a motorcyclist that's in fear of losing the right to choose to wear a helmet? Dave was at the lead of the helmet issue back in the early 70's. Are you familiar with the 2005 Wisconsin Act 466? Dave was the main author of this bill that in my opinion raised a bikers right to ride above road kill status.

What about you veterans that need a friendly hand going through some of the red tape of the V.A. I have seen him speaking tirelessly to people about what they or their families have coming to them in the line of medals and honors. Dave is adamant about veterans getting what they deserve for their service to this country. Being a Marine in Vietnam himself and former Chairman of the Veterans Affairs Committee, Dave knows what a veteran is feeling and knows the pain our soldiers go through.

Even after he lost a re-election bid in 2006, I sat and watched prior constituents call him at his home for advise on a variety of issues and spend hours trying to be of service. Dave is in no means a selfish man. In fact, the out pouring of generosity he gives is immeasurable. Considering the time, knowledge and persistence to be the best person he can be keeps him driving full speed ahead at all times. His spiritual knowledge and faith has enlightened him to be a servant to mankind. With a bible sitting on the dash of his record holding Harley, this is testament to his belief in the Lord.

I mentioned world record holding Harley in the previous paragraph, well that's an understatement. Dave is a serious long distance rider. As a member of the Iron Butt Assotiation (www.ironbutt.com), Dave holds a whopping 118 motorcycle riding records on his 1991 HD. These accomplishments includes the unprecedented 1 Million miles on the same Harley, that ended in Milwaukee at Hal's HD (www.halshd.com). With the odometer rolling 1,000,000 as it pulled on stage for the ceremony, a large crowd turned out to witness the event with cheers, flags and whistles of approval.

I have ridden with Dave over the last couple years to Washington D.C and Houston, racking up nearly 6,000 miles myself. I have seen the shining of boots while doing 70, the silliness of a person that puts banana peels on his engine for fragrance and the drinking of a cappacino while going through a toll. I have heard about the carrying of a memorial headstone on the back of his bike to DC and then sleeping on the wall so it is not tampered with. The friendliness of a man that slept in the woods and emerged with wild flowers for all the ladies.

I have seen first hand his commitment to his beliefs. His saying "God Bless You" to many gas stop attendants, eatery and store employees. The outstanding patience he shows with the multitudes of people that want to know about his flagged and lettered motorcycle. The unbelievable pace Dave keeps to not let anybody or group down by not keeping a scheduled meeting or speech. The stories he will tell to anybody that is willing to listen, of his adventures and the tales of times he has enjoyed that seem to be only attainable in a fiction story.

Lastly and probably most important is Dave's commitment to family. With 4 kids, 3 step children and 7 grand kids, I can't imagine where he finds time to attend their functions, but with all he does for the rest of us, his family is #1, which seems to be a lost character trait in today's fast paced world.

I plan on many more years of being able to call Dave my Brother, Friend and fellow rider "on the Wings of Angels" as he say's. "May you run many more years with the zest for life that you shower everyone around you with, and never get a flat on your open road."



Dave & Sue at the Harley Museum after the Landing Party



Dave Zien, Preacher, Tommy Thompson and Tony "Pan"

Tattered & Torn

*My Flags, my Harley and me. Tattered and torn.
To God's Greater Glory,
We do adorn.*

*Oh-All along trails traveled.
Threads of our being do lie.
Each as one, and all together,
Praising God- High to the Sky.*

*May crisp, clean cool winds
Caress Charisma.
While cleansing refreshing rains
Purify powerful potential.*

*God Bless You,
Your loved ones & our Troops!*



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