

### Wheels of Freedom

On Saturday August 4th I was invited by Wayne Kizer, the President of the local Wheels of Freedom MC, to attend the rededication of the Veteran's Monument in Carbon Cliff, IL. The club had raised the money to restore it. They had to work fast since the town of Carbon Cliff was going to be celebrating its Centennial on that day and wanted to have it ready. Some of the money raised was from the run they held



during this past Sturgis on the River Rally. Another way they raise money is by holding "mouse races" at local events bike nites. There are two lanes with mice representing different branches of the US Military in addition top mice representing the MIA & POWS

The mice run mini drag races. The rededication was well attended by motorcycle riders and people of all ages and from every walk of life. A full color guard with bugler, Robert F. Fitts, completed the ceremony. The monument was in bad condition with rotting wood and faded paint. They did a great job of restoring it to its former glory and it shows. Wayne told me they have plans to provide lighting and to update the names since it only covers those up to WWII. This local chapter of the Wheels of Freedom MC, now entering its 3rd year, is one incredible group of motorcycle riders and proud Americans. Without their efforts and others like them we

would lose our history and soon forget all of those who GAVE for OUR FREEDOM.



And now I would like to share with you the following words from President Kizer himself. Wheels of Freedom was founded in Wilkes Barre PA. I met one of the members from PA. when his job (truck driver) transferred him to IL. where he was a member at

large but he missed having brothers to ride with (time permitting). I liked what the club stands for, so I prospected under Bob. As people heard me talk about our mission and saw that we believe so strongly in the issue that it is emblazoned in our center patch that the IL. chapter was formed. Since those early days we have participated in the Healing Fields for 2 yrs & the homeless veterans stand down for 2 years. As of Sept. 07 we will have donated \$1,000 to the Hero Street Monument in Silvis IL. for its up keep, volunteered to do some events at the LaSalle Veterans Home and ran security at the All Veterans Traveling Tribute which was the inspiration for our 2007 memorial tribute run leading us to this years project the rebuilding & rededication of the Carbon Cliff veterans monument all Nobile causes geared towards veterans and the sacrifices they have made to allow us all to enjoy our freedoms and we continue to deliver our message to the public (FREEDOM IS NOT FREE) ALL GAVE SOME/ SOME GAVE ALL





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### Scholarship for Heroes Ride

On Saturday August 18, 2007, Rolling Thunder Inc. Chapter 3 WI, held our signature ride to raise funds for veterans and to promote POW/MIA awareness with our Scholarship for Hero's Ride. We had about 70-80 bikes with passengers (about 150 total participants) and rode through a 100-mile route in northern Wisconsin with 5 stops along the way. It was a cool, cloudy day in the low 60's but everyone had a great safe time and we raised about \$1800.00.

Of particular interest were the 2 "guest" vehicles that went the whole route on our ride and stayed after for the celebration and fun. The attached photo shows all of our Chapter members who were on the ride and the two guest vehicles.

The Freightliner Truck Owned by Schneider National of Green Bay, WI with a custom Rolling Thunder POW/MIA paint job that was debuted at the 2007 Memorial Day "Run To The Wall" in Washington DC this year was brought in for our ride. Also, the winner of the 2007 Rolling Thunder Road King and Sportster raffle bikes brought down the Road King bike with the custom paint job on it from Menomonee, MI and he also went on the ride with us. Where ever we stopped, both vehicles drew much attention and we got to talk to a lot of people about Rolling Thunder and what we do. (How about that for attracting attention to a fundraiser and promoting Rolling Thunder?)

Mark D. Tilkens, President/ Rolling Thunder, Inc. - Chapter 3 WI

