13th Annual Ride to Remember Motorcycle Rally raises \$15,000 for The Highground

The 13th Annual Highground Ride to Remember Motorcycle Rally took place on Friday, Aug. 16th and Saturday, Aug. 17th, and was dedicated to "Women in Service and Support". Friday night's program at The Highground Veterans Memorial park in Neillsville was led with a presentation of colors by Neillsville Boy Scout Troop #43. Tom Barten led those present for the program in the singing of The Star Spangled Banner. Kirk Rodman, Volunteer General Manager of The Highground, welcomed the Friday night crowd and introduced guest speaker, Ann Schueller.

Ann, a veteran with 21 years of service, gave a heartfelt speech recounting her military service as well as her experience being the support figure while her husband and two sons served deployments. Ann leads a job seekers group at Fox Valley Technical College. Her work allows her to help veterans, some of which are just recently returned from deployment, adjust to their civilian life, create resumes and find employment.

On Saturday, over 175 riders registered for the Ride to Remember at the WCCN pavilion and went on guided rides. At 3pm, the motorcyclists gathered together and began an impressive procession to The Highground. Welcoming the bikers into The Highground were a color guard from the Greenwood American Legion Post 238, members of Neillsville Boy Scout Troop #43, Menomonie Boy Scout Troop #1701 and many members of the community.

Ryan Mairs, a veteran who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, was the guest speaker of the

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Saturday program. Ryan spoke about his multiple deployments and how he and other veterans have had to find skills to cope with how their combat experiences have affected their return to civilian life and the struggles many face with

re-entering into a "normal" family and community routine. Ryan works at The Vet Center in La Crosse and he told of the many programs and avenues for assistance that can be found there for veterans

Nevaeh Kaufman, who holds the title of Royal Miss Humbird and Royal Miss Wisconsin, gave a presentation of a check and a large patch honoring our military to The Highground. Her presentation was a special highlight of the ceremony.

The total raised by sponsors and participants of the 2013 Ride to Remember was an outstanding \$15,000! The Highground would like to thank all the rally riders, committee members, volunteers, Clark County Sheriff's Department and the spon-





