

Gold Wing Road Riders Association

FRIENDS FOR FUN, SAFETY, AND KNOWLEDGE



**Texas District
Chapter N2
Humble, Texas**



South Central Region H

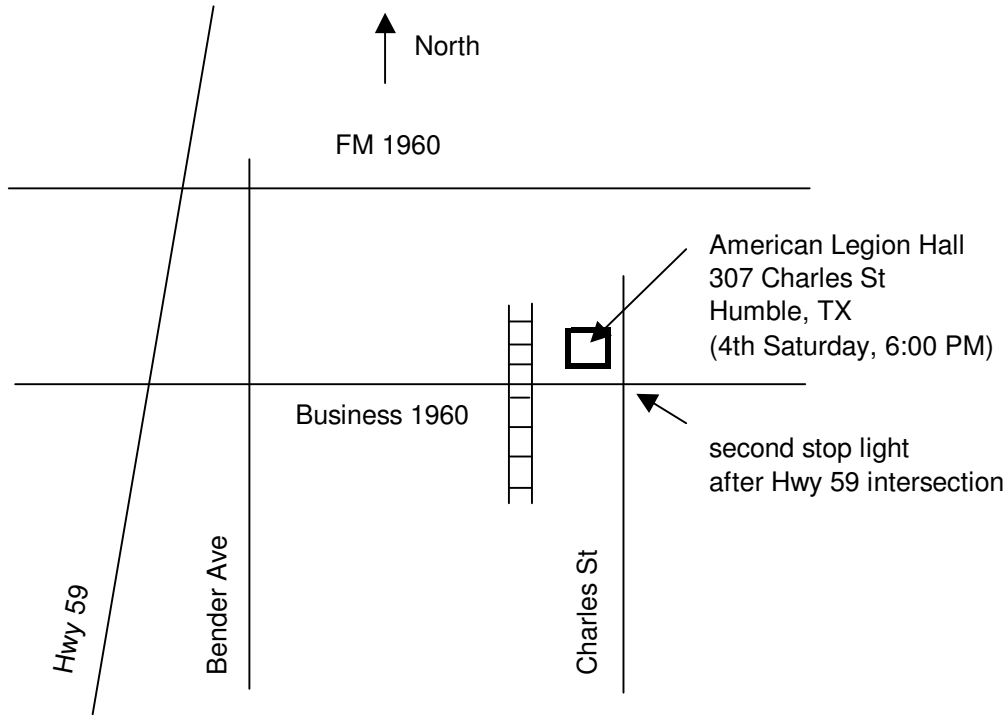


The N2 Buzz

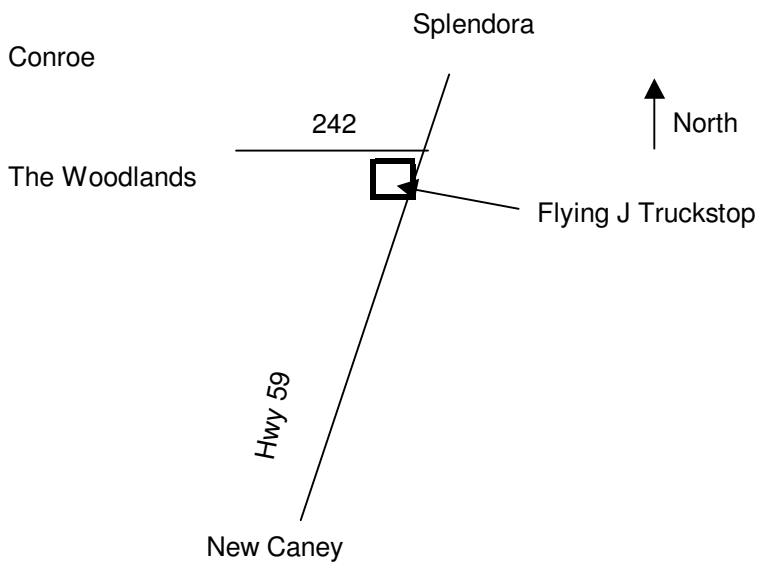


August 2010

MONTHLY MEETING PLACE



RIDE MEETING PLACE



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Couple of the Year

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NEWS FROM THE CHAPTER DIRECTORS

Steve & Linda Seligman
 Master Tour Rider 6748 & 6747
 Chapter N2 - Humble, TX

I have to admit that this month I was having a horrible time coming up with something to write about in my article. Linda and I had a couple of conversations reflecting on what the chapter has done in the past 7 months. We have had some great rides, attended some fun conventions and had fun playing many games. What stuck out for us the most is all of the awards and recognitions Chapter N2 has earned so far. The year began with being named the 2010 Texas District Chapter of the Year. How awesome was that recognition???? Then I began to list the awards and recognitions won by the Chapter and the members:

- Members won awards in the Amazing Team Challenge at Region H
- Members won Dress Competitions - TX District, Louisiana, and Region H
- Chapter won 2nd place in the jeep races at TX District
- Chapter won 1st place in the jeep decorating at TX District
- Chapter won 2nd place for the newsletter at TX District
- Members were certified as Parking Lot Practice facilitators

A member won 2nd place in Top Gun Novice at Wing Ding
 Members have shown their bikes at bike shows and won
 Our Ride Educator was certified to conduct safety classes like the Co-rider course

It has so far been a very successful year for Chapter N2 and I am sure the awards and recognitions will continue to be earned. So, in closing, just a note of thanks to all the members for their support of the Chapter, the District, the Region, and most importantly of each other.



**July 2010
 RIDE/EVENT PARTICIPATION REPORT**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>#OF BIKES</u>	<u>#OF PARTICIPANTS</u>
7/2/2010	Game Night	0	17
7/10/2010	Golden Corral	2	7
7/11/2010	Breakfast - Skeeters	12	12
7/14/2010	Chapter Dinner-Ranchhand	21	1
7/17/2010	Progressive Dinner Ride	13	7
7/24/2010	Scrapbook work party	9	0
7/24/2010	Chapter Gathering	35	6



2010 COUPLE OF THE YEAR

Rex & Ann Nix
Master Tour Rider 4167 & 5964
Chapter N2 - Humble, TX



It is that time of year when the heat dictates how much riding Ann and I are doing, and may I say, it has been awful hot for a couple of months now. This means our riding miles are down to a couple of hundred a month or so. Ann and I weren't able to go to Wing Ding, but we did go to the progressive ride lead by Randy. He picked a day when we would be able to have a nice salad, and then we managed to sit under a canopy while the lightning was dancing all around us. But when the storm cleared, we had a nice ride to Phil's in Montgomery. They can make a darn good steak.

When we first arrived, there was a couple watching us pull in and they became very interested in our trike. After a bit of talking and asking Ann if someone could sit on her seat, the young lady climbed on and instantly fell in love with the seat, the feel of the co-rider area, and the looks of the trike. Now I had to push things a bit and mentioned that a man that cared about his lady should treat her like a queen and give her the best there is. She really liked that. So to go a bit further, I said a real man that really cared for his lady should get real acquainted with the words, "yes dear". She liked that a whole lot. Then to finish the conversation, I mentioned that a real woman that appreciated a man caring enough to treat her so well should buy him the bike. He really liked that part.

That is when I found out they were on their first date. Go figure.

The ride home was my favorite part though. The storms had dropped the temperatures down to a nice 78 degrees. This made the evening ride home seem all too short. I really felt like going out for a couple of hours, but it was already past eleven pm.

We haven't planned for much simply because of the heat and keeping up with day to day issues. But we do have hopes and concerns about some friends of ours. Lynn has been involved with some medical issues that have her full attention. She is having some surgery done and we hope everything is going to work out for her. I know Jim and their family are praying for positive results as well as all the bike family they have. Also, Sharon Rainwater's mom has had some medical issues that have Sharon spending a lot of time out of town. We pray her mom and the family also find a comfort in outcome God has in his plans. I haven't spoken to Ronnie and Doris in a long time but I hope they are doing well too.

Until we see each other again, please be careful out there in this heat. Carry water, and a fully charged phone with you. Also, carry a small umbrella on the bike, it might be the only shade you have until help arrives during a flat tire.

August Facts:

August's flower is the gladiolus or poppy.

August's birthstone is the peridot, sardonyx, or sapphire.

August contains no United States holidays.

August in the Northern Hemisphere is the seasonal equivalent to February in the Southern Hemisphere.



RIDER EDUCATOR
Mark Smith
Master Tour Rider 7153

Summer Riding

What's up N2, boy oh boy its either hot outside or I'm starting to have hot flashes. I guess that means Summer is here. And with Summer comes lots of heat. A lot of us always brag about how nice it is to be able to ride year round here in Southeast Texas because we never have much snow or severe cold weather. But we never really think about the summer months and how dangerously hot it can get. It's always very important to stay hydrated and take a lot of breaks during the day. But there are also quite a few other ways to help us stay cool while riding in the hot weather. Such as cooling vests, neck wraps, doo rags, wrist wraps, ball caps, cooling pants and they even have undergarments that help soak up perspiration and keep you dry and cool. I did some research on some of these things and I would like to share what I found out with you. There are several types of cooling apparel on the market today.

For example there are the kind that have to soak in cold water which activates the gel inside and it stays cool for an hour or so. They also have a tendency of leaking a little and getting slimy. But they will keep you cool. Then there are the cold packs that need to be put in the freezer and you might want to carry a cooler so you can keep spare packs on ice. These seem to be work a little better than the first ones. Next is the Phase Change Cold Pack, it works like the previous cold packs, but they can recharge in ice water and not the freezer. And last but not least is the Active Cooling, with this the vest has tubing running throughout the entire lining and has ice water circulating from the ice chest to the vest and back. This is really a nice idea, but you need power and an ice water reservoir. These cooling

vests cost between \$45 and \$500. So there is one for everyone. If you need more information about anything mentioned please just ask me or search online.

If you're not interested in the cooling vest there are the Cooling neck wraps and maybe an ice water mister. I purchased a water mister from my local Academy Sports and Outdoor. Just add water and ice, replace the lid and pump it up. I also learned something new this last weekend from one of our very own Chapter members if you don't have a vest, neck wrap or any of the other things I mentioned, just pour a bottle of cold water down the front of your shirt and ride on. It must have worked well because there were no complaints about the heat and all the cars passing by were honking and waving.

Whatever you decide just make sure to try and stay as cool as possible.

So until we ride again, ride safe and have fun!!! And if you're traveling this Summer remember to ride upwind of the cattle trucks.



Progressive Dinner Ride - July 2010

by Randy Rainwater

The weather was questionable but 13 riders, 7 motorcycles, and two automobiles met at Little Mexico in Humble for our annual Progressive Dinner Ride. The rain was suppose to be coming in from the West so I had planned to go East and hoped that the rain would die out before we headed back home. At least I thought that it sounded like a good plan earlier in the day, but you can't trust weather forecasters any more.

We rode down FM 1960 to I-45 and got off at the FM 2920 exit to make our salad stop at Wendy's. After our salads Dolly decided that it was time to head home. The rest of us rode East on FM 1920 towards FM 2978. As we got closer to FM 2978 the rode into the rain and lightning and I decided that it was time to stop and let the weather pass.

We solved some of the world's problems and waited out the storm and then rode North on FM 2978, FM 1488, and Hwy 149 to our dinner destination of Phil's in Montgomery. We were running late due to the stop for the rain and I knew that we would not be able to make the dessert stop at Marble Slab Ice Creamery in Conroe so we stayed on 105, Loop 336, and FM 1314 on our way home for the evening. It would have been nice to not have the rain delay, but it's things like the rain delay that makes trips memorable.

My thanks to everyone who were troopers and added another chapter to everyone's memory book. By the way you'll have to ask Kenny and Diane about their memory maker – because what happens on the road stays on the road.

AUGUST OBSERVANCES

Harvest Moon

National Catfish Month

National Eye Exam Month

National Foot Helath Month

National Romance Awareness Month

Golf Month

Cataract Awareness Month

National Heritage Month

Fair Month

National Mustard Month

International Clown Month

National Parks Month

Lemon Month

Peach & Watermelon Month

Maine Lobster Month

Relaxation Month

The Progressive Dinner Ride

By Carolyn Thomsen

Level IV Rider 2893

I have looked forward to the Progressive Dinner Ride for the whole month of July, well at least since it came on the schedule. But that Saturday started out with having my air conditioner cleaned and thanks to Ricky it all went pretty smooth. Then when they were leaving, Ricky asked me if I was going on the ride and by that time my response was, "What Ride"?

Now, I was really glad that circumstances put Ricky at my front door that morning. Otherwise I would not have made the ride.

We started out with 7 bikes and 2 four wheelers and headed off to Wendy's in Spring for Salad. This ride reminds me of a story about a fork and the meaning behind it which is the best is yet to come. That being said, and the fact that I was nursing a toothache; I decided to just get a drink and looked forward to the next stop.

After leaving Wendy's, due to an unwelcome downpour while heading down FM2920, Randy pulled into a gas station to wait it out. Of course, the rest of us followed. You know, the rain!

I can't tell you how long we were at the gas station because we were all busy solving the problems of the world and laughing about how wet we were. We finally decided that there shouldn't be any problems left in the world since we had just solved all of them. So we decided to continue the ride. Plus the rain and lightning had stopped.

We had our main course in Montgomery. All of us were so busy talking and laughing about our parking lot experiences and the rain and how wet we had gotten that I didn't even look at the name of the restaurant. I can tell you that Randy's meal was called Road Kill and Wade had a plate full of BBQ Ribs that made me wish I had ordered them but my steak was really good.

Anyway, because of the rain, we had to and fun ride. I know you must have an in with Mother Nature. Without the rain, we would not have as many stories to tell and we would not have been able to solve all the problems of the world.

Till the next ride

DATES TO REMEMBER...

8/13-14	Texas Chapter I Convention - Marshall, TX
8/21	Texas Chapter M Convention - Mansfield, TX
8/26-28	Kansas District Convention - Eldorado, KS
9/11	Texas Chapter R Convention - Keller, TX
9/17-18	Texas Chapter Y2 Convention - Tyler, TX
10/2	Texas Chapter T Convention - Killeen, TX
10/7-9	Oklahoma District Convention - Muskogee, OK
10/9	Texas Chapter U Convention - San Antonio, TX
10/16-17	Texas Rider Education - Killeen, TX
2011	
1/15	Texas Mid-Winter Round-up - Killeen, TX
3/24-26	Region H Convention - Plano, TX
4/2	Texas Chapter O Convention - Fredericksburg, TX
5/12-14	Texas District Convention - Killeen, TX



What is the PGR (Patriot Guard Riders) submitted by Mark Smith



There were zero PGR a year ago today. As of now, there are over 60,000. The PGR has doubled since May. This growth has not come easy, and it is not perfect. And in case anybody misunderstands, I thought I should make it clear who the PGR are to me.

The PGR is the Hell's Angel that has held a flag for three hours in honor of a fallen soldier.

The PGR is the Christian Motorcyclist Association rider that is standing next to him.

The PGR is the elderly lady with a flag draped over her walker that is standing next to him.

The PGR is the biker that will ride over 300 miles, praying to God to give him strength, so he can make it in time to have the honor of standing the flag line for the wake of a hero...Alone.*

The PGR is having 250 bikes show up the next day in a town of 3500 people: Some riding hundreds of miles, starting at 0400...In the rain.

The PGR will be humbled when the color guard comes out to shake his hand for standing there alone, and tell them with confidence there will be more tomorrow.

The PGR is spending hours in a flag line in 90 degree heat, only later to find out the son of the guy standing next to you had committed suicide 6 months after returning from Iraq.

The PGR are the couple that served lunch to 286 bikers, refusing all donations. They are the grandparents of the soldier that killed himself.

The PGR is "freebird57" from IL who drives around in his van, loaded with 135 flags and coolers of water and supplies for those standing the line along with him. The PGR is the Viet Nam vet that was spit on when he returned, or the lady next to him whose brother was in the Battle of Bulge. Or it is 12 year old Taylor Batten, who had her first heart surgery at the age of 6 months. Taylor has had many surgeries in her past and will have many more in her future, which may not be that long. She is now a PFC USMC, and an honorary MI PGR Ride Captain.

The PGR is not a service group, we are not lobbyists.

There are many fine organizations that do this work, and we heartily encourage your support.

The PGR is the biker that will ride over 200 miles in rain so bad he can barely see, and rides only by the taillights of those ahead of him, because the protestors will be at the funeral of PO1 Jerry Tharp in Galesburg IL. And he will not only consider it a privilege to have protestors scream in his face, shielding them from the family, but will consider it one of the proudest days of his life. And there are 329 people standing next to him feeling exactly the same way.

The PGR is the rider who could not think of any place he would rather be at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, than to stand at the gravesite of a friend's father, on the anniversary of his passing. A father who earned the Silver Star in Korea for gallantry above and beyond the call of duty: A father whose family had no ideal what he had done and the award he had won, until they went through his belongings after his death.

If you do not fit in anywhere in the above, or you have another agenda, you might reconsider if you are in the right place. If you do, it will be my honor to stand with you anytime, anywhere.

And when the organizers of this parade ask how many PGR will be there, I will tell them there might be 100, but I will only guarantee one.

And if there is an Honor Mission for a fallen hero that I should attend, I will not be there either.

Being a PGR is not fun. It may well be one of the hardest things you will ever do.

You may have the mother of a fallen soldier cry on your shoulder, thanking you for being there.

You may have a Marine, who has escorted his buddy from Afghanistan, stand at attention and salute you, with tears streaming down his face.

Being a PGR may not be fun, but you will never stand with better people. It may be one of the most rewarding things you will ever do, and without a doubt, it will



From the Campsite

by Rex & Ann Nix

I ask to be the camping coordinator for the chapter a long time ago and since then, things just haven't worked out to get the tents and campers out for some outdoors fun. So I am making plans to start camping with the chapter and maybe neighboring chapters to start having some campfire time.

I would like to start by laying out some basic ground rules. Everyone is welcome to join us. I encourage bringing your family out to have fun with us. They probably would like to have some fun too. You don't have to have a tent or camper to join us. I will do the best that I can to mention motel and hotels close by so we can include everyone. I would like to have our first few camping adventures within three hours from home. I would like to have fun at the campouts, so games are always welcome. I will try to include some riding with each campout. I enjoy outdoor cooking but don't want to dedicate too much time to it. Quick camp meals will normally be on the menu, so start putting the camp cooking ideas together.

My next issue will include some basics to have on hand during a campout. This will include items needed for short campouts and weeklong campouts. I hope to also announce the location and date for the first chapter campout next month.

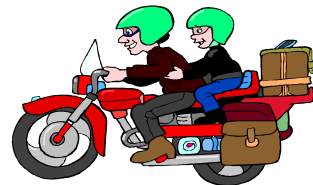
We may do some short hiking and walking trips to enjoy the quiet and sounds of the outdoors. Some may want to fish, or swim when there is a pool available. We can even have campfires when it cools off and have s'mores. It is always nice to have lots of treats while camping. Some even enjoy reading a good book while relaxing.

Possibly this coming spring, I would like to have a medium distance campout, possibly in the Arkansas mountains. We can get there in a decent day and easily have a nice camping adventure over a three day weekend. It is possible also to put together a long distance camping trip

which may include the Smokey or Rocky Mountains. I will always listen to the chapter for possible camp spots and ideas.

Ann and I have looked at 13 campgrounds to find places that had nice sites, cabins, possible close by hotel and groceries, clean restrooms and showers. We found several places that would fit our needs as a group. Several were found around San Rayburn Reservoir, others were found around Martin Dies state park. There are a couple around Lake Livingston, and lots to be enjoyed in other areas of Texas and beyond.

I look forward to hanging out by the fireside with everyone, telling tall tales and just having fun. Until next month, ride safely.



August Dates to Celebrate:

- National Smile Week - August 1 - 7
- Ice Cream Sandwich Day - August 2
- National Sandwich Month
- Lucille Ball's Birthday - August 6
- Kite Day - August 11
- Hawaii Admitted to the States - August 21
- Mae West Birthday - August 17



GAME NIGHT

Friday, August 6
6:00 p.m.

American Legion Hall
307 Charles Street
Humble, TX



The concept of our monthly game night originated as a group activity that could take place within the chapter--rain or shine or hot or cold. Let's face it, not every month of the year provides ideal riding weather, depending on where you reside. It has become a favorite event within our chapter. Come join us for fun, fellowship, and food. Bring a snack to share...most of the time our spread is equivalent to a sit down meal...ha. Game Night is a fun way to "tax" your brain in a good way!

Another Free Concert Series

Thursday, August 5
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.



Keller Williams Realty NE presents another free concert. Bring your lawn chairs, coolers, and your dancing shoes. Kings Harbor is located at 1660 West Lake Houston Parkway.



Free Concert Series

Friday, August 20
7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Keller Williams Realty NE presents another free concert. Bring your lawn chairs, coolers, and your dancing shoes. Kings Harbor is located at 1660 West Lake Houston Parkway.

Breakfast @ Skeeter's Mesquite Grill

4121 W. Lake Houston Pkwy., KW
(located just south of Northpark)

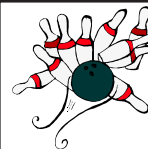


Sunday, August 8
9:00 a.m.

- * Breakfast buffet * * Basic breakfast *
- * Pancake Plate * * Huevos Rancheros *
- * Breakfast tacos *

Bowling & Lunch

Saturday, August 21



We will meet at the Wilson Road Bowl on Wilson Rd jus South of Will Clayton Pkwy and East of Hwy 59 at 10:00 a.m. and go to lunch afterwards.

Bring your bowling skills or just come to have a good time.



Texas Chapter I Convention

Saturday, August 14
Marshall Civic Center

6:00 a.m. departure from Flying J (Hwy 59 & SH 242), breakfast at Charlie's, South of Livingston. Some will come back that evening and others are planning to spend the night in Marshall.

Chapter Gathering

Saturday, August 28
6:00 p.m.



American Legion Hall
(307 Charles Street, Humble, TX 77338)

Social Dinner

Wednesday, August 18
7:00 p.m.



Dolly Ards has chosen Baytown Seafood on Beltway 8 and Mesa Road just East of Hwy 59 for or Social Dinner for August. Linda Seligman will ask for a headcount of those that plan to attend as we get closer to August 18.

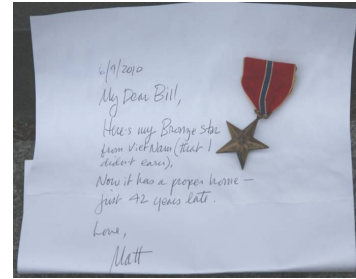


GOT NEWS...Forward your articles, etc., to Sharon Rainwater at rainwatersharon@yahoo.com.

See if you can find your GWRRA number in the newsletter. Let *Steve Seligman* know before the next chapter meeting and win a little something!

More than Names on a Wall

On a recent visit to the Viet -Nam Memorial in Washington DC we found this note at the wall from a man remembering a fallen comrade. I could only imagine the anguish that moved Matt to write this note.



As I stood there at the wall, I was overcome with a flood of emotions while remembering the young men who were my classmates, teammates in Little League, family and friends that had given their all. I thought of the hopes and dreams they would never see come true. I thought of the loss of one of our nation's greatest asset, a large portion of the next generation. "More than Just a Name on the Wall" kept running through my mind. I was so moved that I knew I would never be able to put it all into words. This is but a pitiful attempt to do so. It is so many different things to so many different people. The depths of human

emotions are a very hard thing to ponder due to the complexities involved. Everyone visiting the Wall has personal reasons for going there and will experience it in a different way. This was my second visit and it was far more difficult than the first. New depths of sorrow and a feeling of great loss bubbled up from deep inside me. Maybe it is just maturity but I see things so much differently now. To add to those feelings, my wife found her uncle's name on this visit.

More than 58,000 Americans put their futures, their dreams, their hopes and aspirations on hold to do their duty when our country called them into service. These heroes did not run off to Canada despite the great unpopularity of the war; they gave their all. I remember the war protesters, Hanoi Jane and the pelting with rotten fruit and vegetables along with the hurled insults and verbal abuse that our troops were welcomed home with if they managed to survive their tour of duty.



I met a lady at the entrance to the Wall from Stapleton, Nebraska. Her name is Monica Harvey and she approached me to ask if I was a veteran. When I told her yes she asked if she could give me a hug and handed me a small heart pin with a Band-Aid in it. She explained to me that it was a small token of appreciation from a grateful nation for my service to our country and she added that it was long past due that someone say "thank you" and welcome home big brother from little Sis. I

(continued on page 13)

(continued from page 12)

broke down like a three dollar watch remembering my family and friends and that dark time in our country's history. I could not speak. She was there the whole time we were at the Wall and I saw her approaching men in my age group asking them the same thing and giving them pins. After we had made our walk along the Wall and visited the beautiful bronze statues, we were heading back to the Lincoln Memorial to catch our tour bus; I went back to her to tell her thank you. She hugged me again and then sang me a song which I have never heard before. It was, as you might guess, Welcome Home Big Brother from Little Sis. Just when I thought I had the watch put back together, she shattered it again and all I could manage to say was thank you, you're an angel.

The unsung heroes of our country have always risen for the cause of freedom. From Bunker Hill to Yorktown; Goliad to San Jacinto; Normandy to Berlin; Pusan to Inchon; Saigon to Hue; Kuwait to Baghdad; Qandahar to Kabul; Where ever oppression and tyranny raise their heads, an American soldier is just as likely to be found defending those who cannot defend themselves. When they call for help, we come to their aid. Sometimes we ask ourselves why but the truth is that it is just the right thing to do. So we do it.


Willie Nelson sings a song that says his heroes have always been cowboys. My heroes have always been the American fighting man. Men like Paul Rich, Jim Flournoy, JR Ragley, Jim "Hollywood" Fleming, Jerry Barnett, Steve Seligman, Mark Smith and so many others I have known through the years, who put aside for a season some personal aspirations to don a uniform in service to our country. But it doesn't stop there; it also goes to the men and women who serve here at home, our police and firemen. One of the things I admire about the Gold Wing Road Riders Association, something that makes me glad to be a member, is that I see these values reflected at gatherings and rallies. The Pledge of Allegiance and the recognition of these heroes are things that we should never forget. The nation that forgets those who give service in defense of that nation is a nation that will soon perish.

Even with all of our troubles, I'm glad to be an American and proud to have served.



Steve Fleming, SSGT
United State Air Force 1969-73

**GWRRR CHAPTER N2
HUMBLE, TEXAS
August 2010**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					Game Night American Legion Hall 6:00 PM 	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Breakfast Skeeters in Kingwood on Lake Houston just South of Northpark 9:00 AM					TX-I Convention - Marshall, TX	
8	9	10	11	12	13	TX-I - Marshall, TX Flying J - 6:00 AM breakfast at Charlie's south of Livingston
			Social Dinner Ards 7:00 PM Baytown Seafood Beltway 8 & Mesa Road			TX-M Convention Mansfield, TX Bowling & lunch Wilson Road Bowl 10:00 AM
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
						Chapter Gathering American Legion Hall 6:00 PM
					Kansas District Convention - Eldorado, KS	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Birthdays

Michael Elrod	8/1
Gary Rabalais	8/2
Gary Sanborn	8/15
Donna Uphoff	8/16
Darla Ingram	8/18
Carolyn Thomsen	8/27

Anniversaries

Steve & Linda Seligman	8/2
Randy & Sharon Rainwater	8/9

**GWRRRA CHAPTER N2
HUMBLE, TEXAS
September 2010**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	<i>Labor Day</i>	7	8	9	10	TX-R Convention Keller, TX
12	13	14	Social Dinner Frazier 7:00 PM	16	17	TX-Y2 Convention - Tyler, TX
19	20	21	22	23	24	Chapter Gathering American Legion Hall 6:00 PM
26	27	28	29	30		

Birthdays

Ricky Frazier	9/5
Stormy Young	9/5
Rex Nix	9/15
James Ragley	9/16
Jim Hatley	9/30

Anniversaries

Marty & Donna Uphoff	9/14
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