

## **Issue: American Legion Riders**

### Message Points:

- The American Legion Riders (ALR) is a dynamic national program administered by the departments and posts in each of the 50 states as well as in several locations overseas.
- The ALR was first established as a local post program in 1993 at Post 396, Garden City, Michigan, and has since grown to over 1,500 local "chapters" worldwide in 2014.
- ALR membership has continued to grow rapidly, bringing many new Legion, Auxiliary, and SAL members into the organization.
- The 2014 current national membership is roughly 110,000 Riders, all of whom are current members of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, and The Sons of The American Legion.
- ALR is a national program administered by the departments and posts of The American Legion.
- The ALR is not a motorcycle club, but rather an association of like-minded Legion Family members who enjoy family activities and the opportunity to advance the aims and goals of The American Legion.
- Riders, nationally, raised over \$1,000,000 for the 2014 American Legion Legacy Run in support of The American Legion Legacy Fund—which provides scholarships to the children of active duty troops who died in the war on terrorism since September 11, 2001. The Riders have raised over \$5.3M for the Legacy Fund since 2006.
- The American Legion Riders attract active duty military members as well as veterans from all war eras since the Korean War. Active-duty members are eligible to join - and they are joining. Many active duty military installations conduct motorcycle safety training programs in which American Legion Riders play an important part.
- Riders raise and donate hundreds of thousands of dollars annually to countless national, state, and local programs and charities for veterans, military families, and local communities.
- In 2005, the Mulvane, Kansas ALR founded The Patriot Guard, a national movement which for ten years has honored families, veterans and fallen warriors at military funerals.
- Riders promote the honorable nature of military service, providing honor guards and flag lines to scores of military funerals, patriotic parades and other memorial events each year.

The American Legion Riders are a key component to the Legion family in support of The American Legion and all veterans.