

Sent: Thursday, June 05, 2008 3:09 PM
To: Keiser, Andy; Ward, Mike; Haynes, Schuyler
Subject: Veteran Update: A Ride to Remember

I write to you today to draw attention to a recent article printed in the *Livingston Daily Press & Argus*. As a fellow veteran, I appreciate the opportunity to write to you on this important issue.
May 11, 2008

Hundreds ride, remember fallen - with videos and photo gallery

By Amelia Skimin
DAILY PRESS & ARGUS

Saturday was a day to remember fallen soldiers in Livingston County.

Hundreds of people gathered on the lawn of the historical Livingston County Courthouse in Howell at noon to remember nine fallen soldiers with Livingston County ties, as part of the fifth annual Ride to Remember motorcycle cruise from Brighton Township to downtown Howell. The ride was organized by Rolling Thunder Michigan Chapter 5, a veterans support group.

The nine troops honored at the event were Pfc. Jason Myers, Lance Cpls. Michael Hanks and Andrew Kilpela; Staff Sgts. Paul Johnson, Tom Christensen and Greg McCoy; and Army Spcs. Andrew Daul and Wilson A. Algrim; and Maj. Gerald Bloomfield, all of whom died in the Iraq war.

Several hours later, hundreds of people gathered again for the unveiling of the county's second Lest They Be Forgotten monument in memory of Daul, formerly of Brighton Township, and Christensen, formerly of Brighton, at Brighton Hills Cemetery in Brighton.

Many people - including veterans and family members of fallen soldiers - attended both events.

"This is not a blue function or a red function, but an American function," chapter President Randy Galbraith told the crowd at the Ride to Remember ceremony.

Though the event was marred slightly by a lack of electricity until the very end, Galbraith was happy with the day.

"I would have rather had sunshine than electricity," he said.

Galbraith estimated that, during the ride, the motorcycle procession stretched down Grand River Avenue for a mile and a half.

"I was really overwhelmed by the motorcycles today," said Robert Wilson, master of ceremonies.

The ceremony's speakers included County Commissioner David Domas, U.S. Rep. Mike Rogers, R-Brighton, and Arnie Arnold, a World War II veteran.

Rogers was on hand again as a speaker at the monument unveiling, officiated by Fallen Heroes Memorial Foundation president John "Skip" Bushart.

It was the 14th unveiling for Bushart, a Gold Star father himself.

His organization aims to place a Lest They Be Forgotten monument in the hometown of every Michigan soldier killed while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

"It's our job to keep track of losses," he said.

A reception at the Brighton Church of the Nazarene followed the unveiling.

Contact Daily Press & Argus reporter Amelia Skimin at (517) 552-2847 or at askimin@gannett.com.

Thank you again for the opportunity to contact you regarding this issue. If I can be of assistance in the future please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Mike Rogers
Member of Congress

[Click Here to Visit My Job Resources Page](#)

[Click Here To Visit My 24-Hour Online Office](#)

[Click Here To Unsubscribe From This List](#)

This mailbox is for outgoing mail only and is unattended; please do not respond to this message. If you have further comments, questions, or concerns, please email me through my website at <http://www.mikerogers.house.gov/Contact.aspx> or call my toll-free number at 877-333-MIKE.

Please feel free to forward this message on to family and friends. To sign up for my Legislative Email Updates, please click here: <http://www.mikerogershhouse.gov/Email.aspx>

|

|

|