

Woodbridge Lodge 2355 Supports the Brotherhood Ride



Jeff Morris, Brotherhood Ride founder presents Mary Louise Mawn, Exalter Ruler, Woodbridge Lodge 2355, a plaque of thanks for their support as riders look on.

On a damp, dreary September 5th, 2011, the group of 38 riders pulled in to the Elks Lodge on Minnieville Road to cheers of Lodge Members, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Prince William County First Responders and Prince William County Residents after completing day 17 of their 22 day ride from Naples, FL to Ground Zero, New York City, NY. The day's ride consisted of 93 miles from Charlottesville, VA to Woodbridge, VA. At the end of their 22 day ride on September 10th they will have completed 1600 miles on bicycle.

The cyclists, from up and down the East Coast and as far west as Texas and Arizona, were riding in memory of the first responders who lost their lives on 9/11.

Though arriving almost an hour beyond the scheduled time, with the help of Coles Supervisor Nohe, the Lodge was able to reschedule the times the Dale City Recreation Center would be open for showers, though the center was scheduled to be closed for the Labor Day Holiday.

After showering, the cyclists, settled down to a treatment from the team of Physical Therapists from INOVA Physical Therapy Center. Finally settled in, they enjoyed a meal of smoked brisket, pork and numerous sides while visiting with Lodge Members, Visiting Elks and numerous first responders from Northern Virginia.

While presenting Mary Louise Mawn, Exalted Ruler Woodbridge Lodge 2355 a plaque of thanks for support, Jeff Morris, who founded the Brotherhood Ride in 2008, thanked members of the local lodge for their hospitality and local law enforcement for helping them navigate the roads on their way north.

“It wouldn’t be possible if it wasn’t for the fire and police and the Elks opening their arms to us, providing us a meal, shelter and a hot breakfast the next day. We can’t thank y’all enough,” Morris said. During further conversations with Mr. Morris it was discovered that 20 of their 22 nights on the road will be spent with Elks Lodges on the East Coast.

Day 18 of their trip started with a breakfast provided by the Lodge while packing equipment to be hauled by the support team. Once completed the cyclists completed their morning prayer for safe arrival at their next destination (Severn, MD) and the reading of the names that days ride was dedicated to. Watching the riders depart that morning with the escort of over 30 pieces of rolling stock (from motor patrol to fire engines) from both Fairfax and Prince William County was truly a sight that those present will not soon forget.