

KEYSTONE NEWS



A Publication of The Pennsylvania American Legion
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Oct/Nov/Dec/Jan 2011 Edition

Wounded Warrior Ride 2011

The Dallastown Post 605 & Mt. Joy Post 185 1st Lieutenant Daren Hidalgo Wounded Warrior Ride was held on June 25, 2011. Pictured to the left is Post 605 American Legion Rider Secretary, Brian Junkins holding the Wounded Warrior Project banner with Post 605 American Legion Rider member, Scott Keech in the background. It was a great ride with a lot of success as the bikes road though Dallastown to the first stop at Free Byrd custom Motorcycles in Brogue, PA.



The entire group enjoyed the delicious food prepared at the last stop which was the Stewartstown American Legion. This gave everyone a chance to hang out and have some chat. The picture below is the Post 605 Committee members. They worked very hard to make this event a success. Shown (l to r) are Brian Junkins, Scott Keech, Gina Grove, Andrea Junkins, and Tyler Boyce. This benefit raised over \$4000.00, which was donated to the Wounded Warrior Project representatives in Washington D.C.

Founded in 2003, Wounded Warrior Project's purpose is to raise awareness and enlist the public's aid for the needs of injured service members, to help injured service members aid and assist each other, and to provide unique, direct programs and services to meet their needs. WWP began when several veterans and friends, moved by stories of the first wounded service members returning home from Afghanistan and Iraq, took action to help others in need. What started as a program to provide comfort items to wounded service members has grown into a complete rehabilitative effort to assist warriors as they recover and transition back to civilian life. Thousands of wounded warriors and caregivers receive support each year through WWP programs designed to nurture the mind and body, and encourage economic empowerment.



KIA Bracelets

Following a public outcry, Marines can now wear KIA bracelets that honor fallen comrades, according to a Corps official. Marine Corps Commandant Gen. James Amos made the decision Tuesday to allow Marines to wear the bracelets, the official told Stars and Stripes. A formal announcement about the decision was expected later in the day.

Amos visited Marines returning from Afghanistan on Monday at the Marine Corps base at TwentyNine Palms, Calif., during which he talked to Marines about the bracelets, the official said. The issue came to a head after troops told Marine Corps Times they were angry at a crackdown on wearing the bracelets. The items were prohibited by Corps grooming standards, which do not allow most forms of jewelry.

However, the grooming standards allow Marines to wear POW/MIA bracelets, which are nearly identical to the KIA bracelets. That prompted complaints that the ban on KIA bracelets was illogical and unevenly enforced.

The bracelets are common -- President Barack Obama wears one -- but they particularly prevalent among soldiers and Marines, who often have multiple names inscribed upon them.

"This is the right move by the Marine Corps because wearing KIA bracelets is an important way to commemorate fallen

friends," said Marine veteran Timothy Kudo, who now works for Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America. "Marines often joke that common sense is an uncommon virtue in the corps but today we've seen that's not true. Marine leadership knows that honoring our fallen brothers is at the heart of what it means to wear the Eagle, Globe and Anchor, and I'm glad they're not letting regulations get in the way of that." In addition to those lost in combat, many troops and veterans also honor those lost after returning home.

Marine veteran Bill Kibler wore one in memory of Lee Norton, a survivor of the 1983 Beirut barracks bombing, who committed suicide upon returning to the States.

"I would wear it with honor to raise awareness to PTSD and survivor's guilt," Kibler said. "I salute Gen. James Amos's decision to wear those bracelets of honor while in uniform."

