

We Get Letters

August 10, 2009

I cannot express what an amazing site the Patriot Guard Riders were at the service for Lance Cpl Jonathan Stroud on August 8, 2009. I have never seen anything so beautiful, so respectful and so filled with love for a Fallen American Marine. Should I live to be 100 years old, I am not sure that anything will ever move me the way that your presence moved me on that day. Your display of respect was admired to the extent that I don't believe that words alone could express the appreciation I feel in my heart. For me, the war and war heroes were "over there" and no one I knew; a reality I didn't comprehend. Seeing the PGR made me realize that American heroes, both living and deceased, are right here .

Not being directly tied to the military, I believed that most Americans had become too complacent and lacked the "Proud American" mentality. But, seeing the PGR on that day showed me that it is I that has become complacent and lacking American Pride. Because of the display and example set by the PGR, I will never again allow myself to forget the sacrifices that have been made by American Soldiers.

I did not know Lance Cpl Jonathan Stroud but I have been a part of his wife, Lacie, life since she was 5 years old. My heart aches for her and their unborn child. Of course, the family and friends will be available to help Lacie through the pregnancy and raising her child but, my heart melted as I heard what I believe to be an absolute truth when the PGR extended their hand to Lacie and offered help at any point in time.

In this day and time, it is not often that one is blessed by watching another's generosity and unselfishness so close and so personal. But that blessing, I did witness. I now realize that only the American Soldier and its brother/sister hood could do it so eloquently.

Thank You for all you have done on the battlefield and off. Thank You for believing that it is your responsibility to fight for me and to defend me. Thank You for having the courage to follow through with your orders and missions. Thank You for setting the ultimate example of American Pride. Thank You for coming home and holding your head high knowing that you have completed a "job well done." And most importantly, Thank You for being "MY AMERICAN HERO."

My name Debbie Hatterman. I had the pleasure of meeting Gerry Stephens, his wife, Sherry and 3 of their children on Sunday, October 26, 2008, when they came to my home in Shattuck, Oklahoma..

They came to erect a flagpole that I had been given in memory of my late husband, Curtis Hatterman. He was a Vietnam Veteran and several of his friends had donated the flagpole to me.

It was a great honor to meet Gerry and his family. I didn't know very much about the Patriot Guard Riders but now I know they do so much for so many people.

Thanks to all of you for all you do.
Debbie Hatterman

The family of SSGT Jamey D. Finch would extend our most heartfelt appreciation to each and every member of the PATRIOT GUARD RIDERS for your love, support and honor offered during this most difficult time.

We are blessed to have had Jamey in our lives for his brief 32 years, and cannot adequately express our gratitude to those who came to support this family, and honor our Marine. THANK YOU is simply not enough.

For those who rode in sweltering heat the 200+ mile trip to help bring him home, those who stood to honor him in the flag lines, and those who bled with us as we said our goodbyes, please, please know these memories will never dim.

Please know each and every condolence is yet another treasured gift for Mason as he grows and remembers his father, and to Vicki and Bill as they remember a son they so very love.

Jamey was our gift in life and he so honored his family and friends who love him. He truly was one of the few...one of the proud...

We are most honored to be a small part of the Patriot Guard Riders, and are so very grateful to each and every one of you.

GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

Hello, I don't know who put the flag at my fathers grave, but THANK YOU. I am glad you guys did not forget about him. His Name is Richard BlueJacket. So if you could pass this message to the person or persons. Thanks for all you guys do. Ben BlueJacket

Dear Patriot Riders,

We would like to express our greatest appreciation to you and your cause. The selflessness you ~~poss~~ possess and hold high is absolutely beautiful. We cannot express enough gratitude. Keep up your cause because you have touched our hearts as you will many others. Thank you for honoring Joshua Pearce and all fallen soldiers. Thank you for giving us another opportunity to celebrate his life. It's comforting to know you celebrate him just as we do Daily.

Deepest love & Appreciation
Becky, Rick, Shanese Hilliard
Trina & Jeremy Pearce

It was very nice meeting you and the other PGR members today.

We appreciate what you and the others do for our HEROES and their families. It means so much that others remember them and realize they did not die in vain. (I will never accept that anyone who served to protect us and our country did so in vain. They all are TRUE HEROES).

You and the other PGR members are True Heroes to our families as well, because you do what you do and you do not have to. You are still sacrificing for others and in my book that is what a True Hero is. God bless all of you and Thank You from the bottom of our Hearts.

Russ and I are looking forward to seeing you in Purcell. He is hoping to have found a Harley by then. I think my computer is going to explode from all of the searching I have been doing to find him one (lol). He wants to be able to ride it to Purcell so I have to search hard to find the bike of his dreams.

Again, it was so nice to have met you today and Thank You.

Sincerely,

Danna Malone and Russ Hendrix

On behalf of my daughter, Daphne Hagerty (wife of Major Scott Hagerty) and myself, I want to thank the Patriot Guard Riders of Oklahoma that showed up at the arrival of Scott's plane at the Stillwater Airport on Wed. June 11, 2008 and to all the riders that showed up for the funeral services on June 13. The heart felt showing of your organization was well felt and sincerely appreciated. I personally would have liked to shake each and every hand of those that showed up to honor this true hero, but was not able to. I did have the pleasure and honor to meet Mr. Lakey and Mr. Wells, whom I had the honor of talking to after the graveside services had concluded. Their heart felt condolences and appreciation of Scott and his family were indeed heart warming and well received.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those that have posted their loving and prayerful comments on your forums and to those that expressed their feelings by showing up for the services. Your tribute to the fallen heroes and their families brings a warm feeling to our hearts, knowing that there are those still out there that know and appreciate the pain and suffering families go through after losing a loved one in the line of duty. Again I want to thank everyone from the bottom of our hearts for your tribute to Major Scott Hagerty. God Bless all of you and God Bless the United States of America.

Garry

THANK YOU so much for your appearance today...I was in the downtown area of Stillwater with my flag and was THRILLED to hear the rumble of the PGR riders. MANY of my co-workers were thrilled to know that you all were going to be there for Maj. Hagerty and his family.

Thank you again for all that you do for those who serve and have served...it truly is appreciated!

P.S. I've joined the PGR.

Sylvia Young

I wanted to say thank you for showing support today in the funeral procession. As thanks, please see attached photo of the riders. Your effort and support is amazing.

Sincerely,

Angela McLaughlin
Stillwater, OK

I know this is the wrong forum but I am sure someone will be able to post it in the correct one for me. I did not want to send a card or email I wanted this to be very public so everyone involved can read it.

My name is Angelia Phillips. I live in Ardmore , OK . On 02-24-08 my son SPC Micheal "Pokey" Phillips was killed in action in Iraq . A week later we brought him home and the line of guard who rode that ride with us was comforting, heart warming and touching. When we first got the news I told my other three children that they had our permission to grieve how ever they saw fit and to ask for anything they wanted to honor their brother and

their own scarf. My 14 yr old daughter took the loss of her brother very hard and she wanted the world to know that her brother was her hero. It was she who first requested for you all to ride with us. We the family were honored to have you with us.

My son Pokey always respected what the Patriot Guard does. It made him proud to know he was fighting for people who appreciated the job he did. He too would have been overwhelmed at the number of people who came to say good bye to him and show their respect.

Again thank you all for what you do. Not only for my son but for all those who have fought proudly for this nation.

Words simply can not express how we feel.

Angelia

The family of Jerome H. Watts wish to thank the members of the Guard who stood for our Brother yesterday at Pettit, Ok. You stood with quiet dignity and uplifted the spirits of everyone present. God Bless you all.

Wayne Watts
Paris, Texas

SIR my name is Carl Abbott and my son is Lcpl Geoff Fisher you rode lead in his funeral on march 10, 2007. My wife and I can never thank you enough for what you have done for us.

i saw the video " they ride in respect" for the first time today, and you will never know the pride i felt seeing that especially today being the 1 yr anniv. of his death. Myself and 3 other members of my family rode in the procession, we are the last 4 bikes in front of the hearse.

My son's squad told me that they had never seen anything like that before. They were amazed as was I. Thank you again sir and if you ever have room for a couple more bikes please contact me @ bikerman452004@yahoo.com

it would be our honor to ride with you and support the families as we were supported.

SEMPER FI
CARL ABBOTT

I can never find the words of thanks that the family of Sonny Hill wished me to express to each and every member of the Patriot Guard. The Family wanted to thank everyone who took the time away from their families on such a beautiful day to come here to honor Sonny Hill.

The family said the Flag line was so fitting, because Sonny loved the American Flag and was proud to have fought for it. He would have very pleased.

The family of Richard (Sonny) Hill.

Again I personally want to thank you for help. Please pass this on to everyone. God bless each of you and ride safe.

Mustangman

Dear Patriot Guard Riders,

I do not know how to express my sincerest appreciation for what you do. Just this past weekend, I was unfortunately at the services of a wonderful and long time friend of mine, AW2(AW/NAC) David L. Davison (US Navy) in Edmond, OK. As we pulled up in the limos, the first thing I saw were all of you posted along the walkways by the church with American Flags. It was one of the most beautiful and moving images I've ever seen. After the church ceremony, I heard an earth shattering sound that gave me the chills, all of you fired up your amazing motorcycles then proceeded behind us. I believe there was a half a mile of just Patriot Guard Riders.

I am so grateful. David deserved the best, and you all were there to provide that. His family and the rest of the military members in attendance, were brought to tears by your services. I wish I could have gone up to every single one of you and given you a hug.

I speak for myself, as well as everyone else there that sad day, you all are wonderful, courageous, loving, and loved true American patriots. Be proud of what you do; we are proud of you, and so happy to have you.

My sincerest love and appreciation,

AT2(AW) Derragh E. Ewchuk

US NAVY, Active Duty

Norfolk, VA

Thank you... I just have to say thank you to all of the Patriot Guard Freedom Riders for what you all did for Dee and Rodney and my nephew David yesterday. I

have never in my life seen or experienced anything like what I did yesterday. I was so touched when we drove up to the church and saw all of you standing out there with the flags.. My David had the best. I am so proud of him. Dee wanted me to express complete gratitude on her behalf.

Thank you.. Gerri, David's aunt.

1/26/08

Gentlemen,

I want to thank you for your services in the funeral of PS David Davison. I am with one of the fire departments that blocked the intersections for the procession. I really appreciate your actions and your efforts. I thank you for supporting the Davison Family. I'm sure it meant a lot for the family to see you there. It was very touching to see the procession and I am thankful that we all could be part of something special!

Thanks again!

Michael

1/26/08

I just got home from the Davison funeral, and i just thought I'd let you know that it meant a lot to me seeing you there. I love what you're doing. Thank you so much

-Brad Rising

26 JAN 08

I was riding my bike today (cold) between Guthrie, Oklahoma and Edmond, Oklahoma when I came upon some Emergency response vehicles blocking the road. I stopped to ask what was going on and they responded a funeral. I continued to ride South and came upon the funeral presession with many vehicles.

Within the vehicle was a large group of PGR. I did not know what it stood for so I came online to find out. When I arrived here to this web site, I was very proud of your group for their strong support of the deceased. It was a very classy operation of which I am sure the family was appreciative.

I have been appauled at the protest taking place during a funeral of our fine Men and Women of the armed forces. My family has always had a member in the Armed forces to protect this

country. My Son is currently in the US Army.

So in all of this I want to say Thank You for your kindness and GOD BLESS.

Mike Higgins
Guthrie, Ok

Ladies and Gentlemen as you can see we still do make a difference. Thanks to all that made the Mission today.

Jerry

20 JAN 08

Jerry; I want to send you our thanks for help from Harold Magee, your SE OK RC , to you and all our OK PGR Brothers and Sisters. I deeply appreciate your help and if I can return the favor , just call me. My special thanks to Harold Magee , SE OK PGR RC for helping us out of a tight situation on the Ben Bennett mission. I had a trip scheduled to East Missouri , which I couldn't change. Mike Turner, Ft. Smith PGR RC had a death in his family in Calif. and had to leave. Harold Magee agreed to take the mission for us and he did a great job with it. Also brand new PGR member Les Toothaker transported our flags to all three parts of this mission , thanks Les. American Legion riders and Patriot Guard Riders escorted from the funeral home to the Ft. Smith national Cemetery.

Bob n' Lu Olds - - West AR Ride

18 JAN 08

Dear Patriot Guard Riders,

The family of Jesse James Gann would like to say a heartfelt THANK YOU.

We have had two experiences with your group and have been so impressed both times. Last year you were at my uncle's funeral, Kenneth A. Roberds and this year my father-in-law, Jesse. We have never seen anything so beautiful and comforting as the flags rowed up for our loved one. What an amazing group of people you are. We are so proud of you and your commitment to this service. Again, thank you.

Sincerely,
The Family of Jesse James Gann

Hi,

My name is Rena Abbott, and I just wanted to send a BIG Thank You from the bottom of my heart for making my son's wish come true. You met us at the Tulsa airport, on March 2nd when we claimed Geoff's body. Then you gave my Marine the first ride toward his wish to Shipmans Funeral Home in Wagoner. Then you came back on Saturday March 10th to guard and shield us from the protesters. And you did such a good job, because I didn't see a single protester.

And when the family car came into view of the funeral home, I couldn't help but cry. But I was crying, because I was so overwhelmed of the amount of bikes and support that was there. There to honor my son LCPL Geoffrey Fisher. All I could say through my tears was Geoff got his wish. Geoff got his motorcycles.

The next week we went to California to Camp Pendelton to the memorial service they had for him on base. The day before the service we had one 1stSgt and two 1st Lt's take us into their office, and they said to us "Tell us about the bikes". They said the Marines that had come to Oklahoma for the funeral was so impressed. That they went back and reported to them that they would not believe the send off that Geoff got with the bikes and the supporters. The whole base was talking about it.

Geoff would always tell me when he was home, that he couldn't believe how people in Oklahoma appreciated what he did. He said that the people in California would treat you like you owed them. I told him that was because there was so much military in California. And its not just everyday that there is a Marine here in our little home towns.

He loved coming home! So Thank You for helping my son come home for his final time.

Thank You,

Rena Abbott

PROUD MARINE MOM!!!