

Blue Knights® Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club



# Sword & Shield

1st Quarter 2022

NEWS • FRATERNAL SPIRIT • COMMUNITY



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RIDING WITH PRIDE*

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*BROTHERHOOD AT  
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# From The Publisher

**RANDY GRACY, AL VIII** • publisher@blueknights.org

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

By now, a lot of you know of my situation and my fight with this terrible disease, CANCER. It is a new fight I never thought I would have to fight personally, yet here I am and now I understand that it not only affects me, it also affects my family, my friends and everyone around me. It's a fight I intend to win... I will NEVER, EVER, GIVE-UP!

I am dedicating this letter to my wife, Kristin Gracy, knowing that most every member has a spouse or another half and that they play a huge role in your membership as a Blue Knight® and as a good person. She has been my rock through my heart surgeries and now this fight. She is, beyond a shadow of a doubt, the best decision I've ever made in my life. I thank God for her every day.



Because I have this disease,



taken over by the spouse, and in this case, Kristin. It is extremely hard to get everything done around the house, especially when I am the one that had been able to do all those things in the past.

Kristin now has virtually 3 jobs: Real Estate, housework w/outside ranch stuff, and being my caretaker. I know she is tired; I see it. She hasn't complained (YET) but I know this is wearing her down. I can't do anything much of anything until we get ahead of this disease. But I wanted her to know, and you all to know, I do understand her sacrifices for me, and her trying to get stuff accomplished. Saying that, I asked for another favor to be able to show my wife just how much she

and not knowing if I would survive another year, I decided to do something special for my wife on our 14<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. I planned a special dinner with friends at a nice restaurant for everyone. There, I would make my presentation and give my heartfelt speech to my wife.

As we were in the middle of dinner, a seven-foot-tall man came into the restaurant. You could have heard a pin drop. Every eye was on him as he walked through and eventually came to our table. I stood and began my speech as follows:

"We are never promised tomorrow and that has never been more evident than today. I wanted to do something a little extra for my wife for our 14<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, just in case I do not get to do this again. Everyone knows by now that I have had two heart surgeries that put me out of action for some time. Then a month ago, we discovered I have bone cancer, and it's aggressive. My doctors are trying to get ahead of it so that we could possibly kick it into remission, but that's another story for another time.

Kristin & I have tremendous family and friends who have gone, and are going, above and beyond what has ever been asked of them, and I am so thankful for those people, most of them at this table right now. While I am at home and sick, not able to do normal stuff, all of those chores and tasks still have to get done. Being a care provider is usually

means to me. When we first met, I watched wrestling whenever it was on, and she would "watch" with me. After we got married, not so much. It may seem like a small gesture of what she has meant to me since we met that day at the Chrome Pony, but that's also when God intervened and told me to go and get her — that she would be my Champion for Life. She has become a whole lot more. In order for everyone to understand this, Kristin is and always has been my Women's World Champion. She has never faltered, she has never wavered, and she has ALWAYS stood by me, even when maybe she shouldn't have. LOYALTY, HONESTY, LOVE... That is everything to me. There has never been another like you... it just took a while to find you. You are, and always will be, my Champion.

I asked someone to come and do my presentation for me, just to show her how much this means to me. My presenter is the former 3-time Champion of the World and a 2021 Hall of Fame inductee to World Wrestling Entertainment — Kane. Today, he is known as Knox County Mayor, Glenn Jacobs."

At that time, Kane (Mayor Jacobs), presented Kristin with the WWE Women's World Champion belt. There were cheers across the entire restaurant. Me... I just cried and hugged her.

We all have spouses, family, and friends we care deeply for. Do not let another day go by without telling them you love them. I mean, say "I love you". Say it so much it makes it weird. You will see, it will spread like wildfire.



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**SWORD & SHIELD MAGAZINE IS ONLINE**  
in members' section of the International  
Website [www.blueknights.org](http://www.blueknights.org)

### Photos & Articles

Help your photos get published. When using your cell phone camera, select the highest resolution (at least 640x480) and quality available i.e.: "Fine." Other digital photos must be at least 300 dpi jpgs. If mailing photos, write captions on a separate piece of paper and send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for their return. News may be sent as Microsoft-Word (.doc) format files. Start your article with both your state and chapter city, i.e. "FLIX, Daytona Beach." Include photo captions and identify group subjects left to right. Articles in capital letters will be returned to the author. Submission of articles DOES NOT guarantee publication. Articles are edited at the Editor's discretion. Advertisements are accepted via e-mail as high-resolution (300+dpi) jpg files ONLY. For rates and to reserve space, email: themagman@southernbiker.us

### Publication Deadlines

February 5 • May 5 • August 5 • November 5

Those folks, too, will begin to say it — and mean it, too.

Looking forward to the Blue Knight's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary coming in 2024! RWP!

PS: My body is responding to the double-chemo every week remarkably and my body, for whatever reason, is still fighting it harder than before. The doctors have no idea why and I have stem cell surgery coming the first of May. I know why I am doing so well so far... Prayers. Thank you for all those prayers across the country, across the ocean and to everyone, please continue to pray for me. It is working. Thank you.



## International President

**DJ ALVAREZ, TX XXXI**

dj@blueknights.org • +1(281) 642-8716

Greetings Blue Knights,

As I write my letter it has been less than 24 hours since our Ukrainian Blue Knights have come under harms way with their country being invaded. We worry about our members' safety who still work the job, but never would I have ever thought we would have members in harm's way because their country has been invaded. I can only hope and pray that by the time this is read that the situation has been resolved but only the good Lord knows, time will tell.

Renewals are under way and the majority of the organization has renewed for 2022 but there are those who still need to complete the paperwork and pay dues. We extended the renewal deadline to February 13 this year, and with the passing, any chapter that has not renewed will be assessed a late fee per member, unfortunately. If you're having trouble with doing the renewal online, please get in touch with Jana at the International Office for assistance.

Speaking of our Office Manager Jana, I'd like to thank her and her assistant Darlene for the great work they're doing on a regular basis for our members and organization. They've done an outstanding job and often go unnoticed, so the next time you call the office, let them know! The Policy and Procedure Committee and I assembled to create a policy, procedure, and operations manual for our office and employees. Remember this not only protects the organization but our employees as well.

As we move into the warmer months in the northern hemisphere many of our members are preparing to start riding again, while many of us are blessed with warmer weather year-round. For those just now getting back into the saddle with the passing of winter and upcoming spring, be sure to do a safety check of your bike to make sure everything is in order and it is ready to ride again. Remember, safety first!

I'm looking forward to this year being able to spend more time riding with other Blue Knights which includes a trip from Texas to Alaska this summer. Life's too short and you never know when the good Lord will call you home, so make the most of life while you can. Fellowship plus camaraderie equals brotherhood and sisterhood! Remember there's nothing like it.

In closing I'd like to thank our faithful members for once again renewing with this great organization. Your dedication to the Blue Knights is greatly appreciated and to be applauded.

Ride with Pride!



## Vice President, N. America

**RORY MacCONNELL, FL XVIII**

mac71037@gmail.com • 941-270-0367

Greetings Blue Knights sisters and brothers.

I hope that your New Year has kicked off well. As we roll into spring and get ready for the roads to open, for most of our organization. Let us prepare the bikes properly for the riding season.

Though some have had the opportunity to ride all year in some parts of the world, let us all double-check those tires. SAFETY being paramount tighten things up, check fluids, and check your riding equipment. If the helmet is at 5 years old let us think about replacing it with a new one, that is about the max recommended life, especially if it has been dropped a few times over the years.

I have not traveled much as there have been only a few events over the winter, I have attended the Mason Dixon Conference in Maryland, booked for the WCC in Reno, I will attend the SRC Presidents' meeting in April, and international in June.

Great job on renewals so far emails have been sent out to the conference officers to work on those that have not completed the online process. Please let us work on completing these the deadline was extended by 2 weeks and has since passed. Thank you to all that have completed them and to the office staff for getting the packages of new cards and stickers out quickly.

RETENTION is a key to recruitment be seen riding and this will help recruit and retain those members when your chapter is active.

Fraternally — Ride With Pride!



## International Secretary

**JIM BORZA, FL XXX**

secretary@blueknights.org • Cell: 396-847-1200

Greetings to my fellow Blue Knights.

Riding weather is soon upon our members up north and throughout the world where the weather is cold. Lucky, here in Florida, we enjoy year-round riding weather.

Things are getting busy preparing for Bike Week 2022. I enjoying seeing members' posts saying they will be in town. I would encourage attending members to reach out

to the local chapters for any planned rides or gatherings. My chapter has been very active with gatherings and we have been enjoying every minute of it.

Renewals are in full motion at this time. As in the past, contact me if you have any problems completing the renewal process. In the past few years I have been able to assist many chapters with the process.

When out riding, wear your vest and show the world we are the PROUD BLUE KNIGHTS LAW ENFORCEMENT MOTORCYCLE CLUB.

As always, contact me with any concerns.



## International Treasurer

**JOHN BULL, MD I • treasurer@blueknights.org**

The 2021 Budget year has closed and we continue to be healthy, finishing the year in the black. We finished last year a little more than \$58k in the black. The yearly audit was finished by the accounting firm, and I am glad to report we passed with flying colors. A copy of the audit can be found in the members only section of the website, along with the 2021 year-end report.

As we move into 2022, the budget has been approved and placed on the website for all to see. I would like to thank Luis Sosa (TX XLII) and Leonie Tromans (Eng XIII) for joining the committee this year, along with Jana, D.J. and myself. If you have any questions or concerns about the budget, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

As all the U.S. Chapters know, it is time for the government to reach out for their cut. Chapter Treasurers need to remember to file the form 990. You can file electronically (990-N) if you have \$50,000 or less in annual gross receipts. For those that cannot file electronically, you must do the regular form 990. If you fail to file three (3) consecutive years, you will lose your tax-exempt status.

With the renewed effort on recruitment and retention, I would like to remind everyone that each conference has up to \$500 in reimbursement from the International available to them in the 2022 budget. This money is on a first-come first-served basis, unless your conference has additional rules in place for a more equitable distribution. The deadline for requesting a reimbursement for the 2022 budget funds is January 15, 2023.

The reimbursement process is simple. When your chapter spends money on recruitment and retention you can send your receipts and request to your Conference Treasurer. Once the Conference Board reviews and okays the request the Conference Treasurer simply emails the request with receipts directly to me. I will then review and approve it. The funds will then be sent directly to the chapter from the International. Please do not send the information to me directly; that will only delay the reimbursement while I send it back to you to resend through the proper channels.

Ride with Pride!



## Blue Knights® Executive Board

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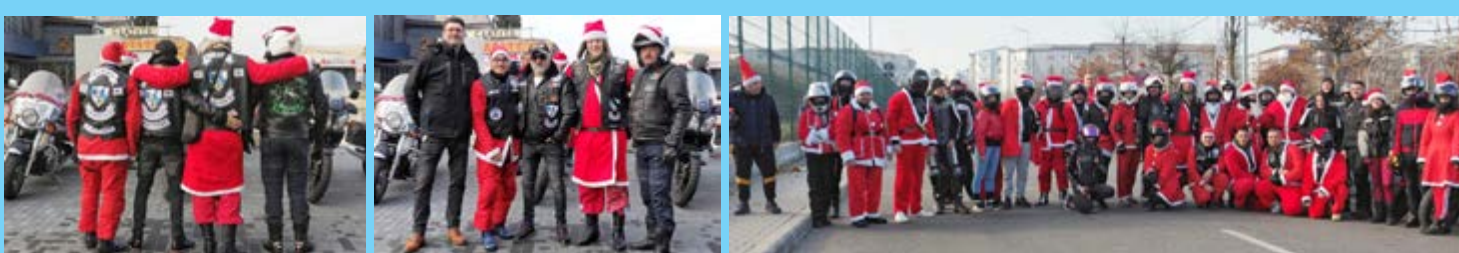
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## Crăciun Fericit! Merry Christmas! BLUE KNIGHTS ROMANIA 2

În Ajunul Crăciunului, pe străzile Slatinei au răsunat din nou caii putere pe 2 roți, Blue Knights România II împreună cu Prietenii Green Knights România I, cât și cu alți Prieteni Motocicliști au Oferit în Sunet de Motoare, Jucării și Dulciuri Copiilor aflați pe străzile orașului!

Multă Sănătate și Împliniri Alături de cei Dragi Vă Dorim! Crăciun Fericit!

Pace în Suflet, în Familie și la Hotare!

On Christmas Eve on the streets of Slatina, the two-wheeled power horses echoed again. Blue Knights Romania II, together with their friends, Green Knights Romania I, as well as other motorcycle friends, offered the sound of engines, toys and sweets for children along the streets of the city!

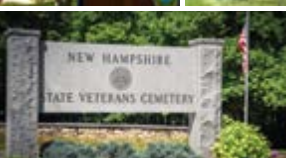
We wish you good health and fulfillments together with your loved ones! Merry Christmas!

Peace in the soul, in the family, and at the border!



Azi, în Ziua Sfântă a Nașterii Mântuitorului, membrii Blue Knights România II împreună cu Prietenii Motocicliști, au Împărțit Zămbete și Dulciuri Copiilor Aflați pe străzile Craiovei! Crăciun Fericit, Tutoor!

Today, on the holy day of the Savior's birth, the members of Blue Knights Romania II, together with their motorcyclist friends, shared smiles and sweets with the children on the streets of Craiova! Merry Christmas everyone!



## NH IV HONORS OUR FALLEN HEROES

By Vinnie Baiocchetti, NH IV President

Marking the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 9/11, on September 11, 2021, Blue Knights New Hampshire IV dedicated our memorial honoring our fallen brothers and sisters who served in the military as well as law enforcement and have been laid to rest at the New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery in Boscawen, New Hampshire.

Our outgoing Northeast Conference Chairman, David Nielsen, was present to offer a few words and our guest speaker was our former New Hampshire Attorney General and former State Senator, Kelly Ayotte. TAPS was rendered by our Charter Member, Lee Hirtle, and Amazing Grace was piped

by another one of our members, Chris Wyman.

The day started with the Chapter Officers of New Hampshire IV leading a ride of more than 30



bikes around Central New Hampshire and arriving at the cemetery, where more than 50 Blue and Red Knights from NH, Maine and Vermont, the American Legion Riders, as well as members of the New Hampshire Army National Guard, were on hand to celebrate our dedication. We raised over \$8,000.00 for the monument with generous donations and through the sale of challenge coins. This monument will stand for those that have given of themselves serving our Country, State and Communities.

New Hampshire IV would like to thank all of those that participated in our ceremony and those that helped make our dedication a huge success.

If you want to watch the ceremony, you can watch it at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FM0QT1wjcPE>





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# TX 42

## DONATES SCOOTERS & BICYCLES TO NEEDY CHILDREN

By Gilbert Losoya, TX 42 President (G-Man)



**B**lue Knights Texas XLII Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club (LEMC) Brothers and Sisters gave out toys to a total of 125 kids who are enrolled in the Brownsville Independent School District's (BISD) Homeless Youth Project. Aside from a toy, four (4) of these lucky children won a nice Scooter and eight (8) of them won a really nice Bicycle.

### TOYS DISTRIBUTION:

Our Club's Toys Distribution began in South Padre Island, Texas where Cameron County Pct.1 Deputy Constables escorted Members of our Club, the Grinch, our Blue Santa, along with a couple of vehicles full of toys to the Sam's Club Parking lot in Brownsville, Texas. Upon arriving at Sam's, we met up with other Club Brothers, to include Blue Knight Members out of the McAllen Texas II Chapter. Officers from BISD's Police Department also showed up to assist with the escort. From there, we were escorted to the Gymnasium



When Santa exited his vehicle, the crowd got excited and welcomed Santa and the Grinch. It was an amazing feeling!! Once inside, our Club was Welcomed by BISD's Superintendent and BISD Staff.

Shortly thereafter after, I was given the opportunity to say a few words. I took that time to speak about who we (Blue Knights® LEMC) are and what we represent as an organization. It was my honor to also introduce all of the Blue Knight club members and the Lady Knights to the crowd.

### THE GRINCH GETS ARRESTED:

Before the toys were handed out, a brief meaningful "SKIT" took place. In short, the Grinch showed up to this event with the intention of stealing toys that were going to be given to very nice boys and girls. When the Grinch saw that our club members were not looking, he grabbed one of Santa's bag of toys and made a run for the door.

Luckily, Cameron County Pct.1 Deputy Constables were quick to arrest the Grinch before he got away. The Grinch was then presented before Cameron County Pct.4 Justice of the Peace Juan "Judge" Mendoza for his crime. The Judge did not send the Grinch to Jail. Instead, at the request of the children, he sentenced him to "Community Service". The Judge ordered the Grinch to help Blue Santa give out gifts to all the children. At the end, the Grinch was no longer mean or angry.

Afterwards, our chapter's Blue Santa, and believe it or not, yes, even the Grinch himself helped Santa hand out toys to all the children in attendance! It sure felt great to see the smiles on the faces of all the good children.

across BISD's Central Administration Building in Brownsville, Texas. As we rode into the parking lot, we noticed a large crowd cheering us on. The crowd consisted of many happy and excited children, their families and several BISD Representatives/employees.







## BOARD OF GOVERNORS CHAIRMAN

### AS YOUR ELECTED BOG CHAIRMAN, I FULFILLED ALL MY GOALS AS PROMISED:

- \*Completed the full term as your BOG Chairman
- \*Was your "checks and balances" on the International Board of Directors
- \*Maintained transparency and connection with the BOG Executives, and the BOD & membership
- \*Listened to/followed up with all concerns raised by Chapter Presidents & members

### WHEN RE-ELECTED AS YOUR BOG CHAIRMAN I WILL:

- \*Continue to keep the Blue Knights organization and members always in mind in all I do
- \*Be your "checks and balances" to ensure accountability
- \*Continue as your leader with core values of PURPOSE, INTEGRITY & HONESTY

### QUALIFICATIONS:

- \*As a 40-Year member of the Blue Knights, I have served at the Chapter, Conference, and International level
- \*I am familiar with our International and BOG Constitution & Bylaws
- \*For 42-Years I have been a safe and courteous motorcycle enthusiast
- \*I use all means of communication to connect with Blue Knights around the world

Thank you in advance for your support.  
The BOG executive election will once again be  
outsourced electronically to your Chapter  
President's personal e-mail address.

Please contact me directly at  
610-888-7877 or [bkbightime1@comcast.net](mailto:bkbightime1@comcast.net) to  
discuss my objectives, clarify questions, or provide  
comments to address concerns.  
Thank You in advance for your support.

**"RIDE with PRIDE"**

*Dominic Squillace*





# Cross Country Colors

By Eric D. Radwick, VA II Vice President

As I read through the issue of Sword & Shield that arrived in December, I was struck by a comment made by N. American Vice President, Roy MacConnel. In a greeting he talked briefly about recruitment and included this comment, "...so get out, get active, wear your Blue Knight vest, and RIDE." Wear your Blue Knight vest. Such a simple thing, that is often the source of much discussion and controversy in the organization. When should we wear it? Should I wear it when riding alone? What if someone says something about it? It's so hot when I wear it. Our motto is "Ride with Pride". Nothing shows our pride more than wearing our colors. So when the International meeting got moved again due to COVID, and we decided that three executive board members of Virginia II would ride out to Prescott, Arizona to attend the 2021 meeting, Secretary/Treasurer John Burns and I put an idea we had been working on into action.

Prescott, Arizona in July...did someone say hot? Knowing that we would be riding in some extreme heat, John and I finally got around to ordering the mesh vests we had talked about getting for a while. Our chapter does a lot of rides with our brothers and sisters of Virginia I. In 2019 I rode up to a Summer Christmas charity event hosted by New York V with the president of Virginia I, Vic Calloway, and Iceaman. I wore my leather vest the whole time while Vic and Iceaman wore their black mesh Virginia I vests. To say I was jealous of the ventilation their vests provided would be an understatement. A seed was planted...

John and I ordered our new blue mesh vests along with a set of reflective colors. A couple of weeks before our departure, everything arrived and we were ready to Ride with Pride.

On July 2, my ride began as I donned my new colors and pointed my bike south to head to an academy classmate's home in northwest Georgia. John and our chapter President, Bob Robertson, would start the following day and we planned on meeting up in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Some members of my chapter, who knew we were heading out to Prescott asked about wearing colors. "Will you guys be wearing them all the way out there, or just when you get there?" It's a typical discussion. Personally, anytime I am going to, coming from, or participating in any event that is, or could be associated with the Blue Knights and Law Enforcement, I wear my colors. Riding alone to a Chapter meeting? Colors on. Riding alone to Memphis, Tennessee for the Mason-Dixon Conference meeting? Colors on. Riding up to New York V's charity event with Virginia I? Colors on. Riding in Law Ride or the Officer Down Memorial Ride? Colors on. Riding to a law enforcement funeral? Colors on. You get the picture.

Speaking of getting the picture. About 15 years ago, I put getting a picture of my motorcycle in front of a "welcome to" every state in the lower 48 on my bucket list. In 2015, I checked that goal off my bucket list as I got a picture of my 2011 Kawasaki Voyager in front of every single one that year. Having grown accustomed to stopping at the "welcome to" signs, I modified that into a new bucket list item. Now I am on the quest to get a picture of my bike with my colors in front of every "welcome to" state sign, and I am making good progress. Now back to the ride to Prescott...

I was happy to see Bob and John in the Cracker Barrel when Will and I arrived. Reason 1, they already had a table and we didn't have to wait in the growing line; Reason 2, our ride was officially beginning; Reason 3, they were wearing their colors. Let's ride! After our breakfast, we pointed the bikes west. Our route had us pretty much avoiding the interstates as much as practical. I got the group into the new bucket list mission and we started stopping at the "welcome to" state signs and other interesting signs and places to take pictures of our bikes with our colors. As the

temperatures went up, a pattern began to form and Bob would remove his traditional leather colors between the signs. Even with vest extenders allowing air in, the extra layer of leather is great in cool/cold weather but can become unbearable on a hot summer ride.

John and I kept ours on for the duration of our ride. Along the way, people passing by would sometimes toot their horns and give us a thumbs up, or our gas stops would get extended as we talked with troopers, deputies, and officers from state and local departments along the way. While I can't say that our conversations got any of them to reach out to their local chapters and maybe join, I do know that conversations like these go a long way for promoting our organization among the law enforcement community.

Several times along the way we would be in a restaurant or in a gas station and hear someone say, "Blue Knights huh?" The first time we heard this we turned a bit wary not knowing who we were dealing with. But as the ride progressed, we realized that the 1% encounters, like the 1% themselves, are few and far between. Most of the people who acknowledged us were fellow Knights, or former Knights or were law enforcement or had family in law enforcement. We met a few former Honoraries who spoke of their time with their chapters with pride. We directed a few relocated former Knights to the International web page to find a local Chapter and re-establish their membership.

While some people knew who we were, others asked what the vests meant. We would explain our organization and the people would generally thank us for what we do and leave knowing about the Blue Knights. I think all of this is why Rory included that benign comment in his December greeting to us,



"wear your Blue Knight vest, and RIDE." Standing on a corner in Winslow, Arizona — we were a fine sight to see. And we were seen wearing our colors. We were seen by several people walking past as we took pictures at the famous corner. We also

seen by Sheriff Mark Lamb, of Pinal County, Arizona. Sheriff Lamb was in town shooting film for his television show and, largely because we were easily identified as friendly brothers in law enforcement, we got to chat with him, and got pictures with him on the corner. Our interaction with Sheriff Lamb probably wouldn't have happened if we were just three guys riding motorcycles. Our colors identified us and provided us with commonalities and discussion points as he asked about the organization. So, whatever



Arizona chapter covers Pinal County, reach out to him, ask him about Winslow, and try to recruit some of his deputies.

A gas stop in Winslow was also the only place along the way that we heard anything negative about our Colors. Bob and John were inside and a patron saw their



colors and kind of scoffed. He asked them what the local outlaw motorcycle gang would have to say about the three-piece patches. Apparently, this guy had tried to form a small motorcycle club and was approached by the OMG and convinced to do away with their three-piece patch. While we did see an occasional OMG member sporting their colors along the way, there were no exchanges, except for the wary eyes on one another and a nod of acknowledgement to a



fellow rider.

When we got to the Grand Canyon, it was HOT. The weather apps said it was 113 degrees, the thermometer on my bike

was nearly pegged at 120 in the sun. We walked the canyon rim in our colors, and were proud to see a fellow Knight, Myron Joseph, New York IX and Tri State Conference Vice Chairman wearing his Tri-State colors as he walked the rim with his family. Riding in the heat, Bob took off his colors when he could to try to cool off, but John and I kept ours on as the mesh made it like we weren't even wearing them. The mesh vests were a good investment!

When we got to the International meeting, several people asked John and I about our vests. A seed was planted. That seed would be nurtured at the Blue Ridge Rally in September. The Blue Ridge Rally is the longest standing rally in the organization and is hosted by our Chapter each Labor Day weekend as we host the fall meeting of the Mason Dixon Conference. If you haven't been to one, put that on your bucket list! John and I wore our vests throughout our Rally as well and several people asked about our blue mesh vests. As a result, we have obtained a permit to sell them in our catalog, so, inserting a shameless plug in this article, if you want a mesh vest in blue, black or high-viz, visit our website for details on ordering!

Now, back to our cross-country adventure already in progress. Personally, I am fond of our original baby blue, and the blue of our mesh vests over the black or dark blue leather. Why? Because it easily identifies us even from a distance. Anyone who knows anything about motorcycle clubs knows that the blue vests identifies the rider as a Blue Knight.

I remember the first time I saw Blue Knights' colors. I was driving with my dad down the Merritt Parkway in Connecticut when three Goldwings passed by us. The riders were all wearing the light blue colors of a Connecticut Blue Knights chapter. I was 13 or 14 at the time, and I asked my dad what the vests meant. He told me they were the good guys. If you're ever in trouble, my dad said, you want one of them around. They know what to do and will help you through.

That came into play while riding east out of Winslow on our way back home. Earlier in the day, while passing through Happy Jack, Arizona, my bike and I had hit a huge milestone. We had ridden together for a couple of days over 10 years and logged 100,000 miles together. I was proud to be wearing my Blue Knights Colors as this milestone was achieved. Later that day, we were humping it on Interstate 40 passing through Apache County when we saw what we thought was a huge dust devil spinning by just ahead of us, so I grabbed my camera and tried to

Continued on page 12



BOARD OF GOVERNORS SECRETARY

# RE-ELECT



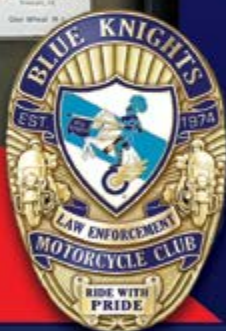
## GLEN WHEAT

As your BOG Secretary, it's been an honor to serve you. I am proud of the accomplishments we have made as a team in the Board of Governors. I have helped to increase communication between the BOG and all Blue Knight Members.

I still feel today, that a BOG Officer should lead by example and in person. During my time as your BOG Secretary and as a member of the Blue Knights, I have helped start new chapters, personally sponsored over 110 new members, and have attended over 1200 Events, Conferences, Meetings, Weddings, Funerals, and other Blue Knight Events. My wife Linda has always supported me with my Blue Knight endeavors and helped many chapters with charity events, rides, and other Blue Knight functions.

Just holding the position is not enough for me. I will be engaging our club membership daily.

**RE-ELECT GLEN  
AS YOUR BOARD  
OF GOVERNORS  
SECRETARY**



### LEADERSHIP ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- \* I HAVE HELD ALL CHAPTERS POSITIONS (EXCEPT TREASURER)
- \* A COORDINATOR FOR THE 2002 INTERNATIONAL IN INDIANA
- \* MODERATOR FOR THE GLRC YAHOO DISCUSSION GROUP
- \* MODERATOR FOR THE BOG YAHOO DISCUSSION GROUP
- \* IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT INDIANA XIII
- \* IMMEDIATE PAST GLRC INDIANA STATE REP
- \* IMMEDIATE PAST GLRC SECRETARY
- \* ADMINISTRATOR GLRC FACEBOOK PAGE
- \* CURRENT ADMINISTRATOR FOR BOG FACEBOOK PAGE
- \* CURRENT EVENT COORDINATOR FOR BOG FACEBOOK PAGE



I Appreciate Your  
Trust & Support.  
I am available 24/7 to  
work for you and  
your chapter.

*Glen Wheat*

**GLEN WHEAT, INDIANA XVI - VICE PRESIDENT**  
**CELL 765-860-1876 OR INDIANA.BLUE.KNIGHT@GMAIL.COM**



Continued from page 10

take a picture. But traffic ahead started slowing fast, braking hard actually. Vehicles were going to the shoulders, and I noticed the west bound lanes were behaving the same way. Looking over to the west bound lanes we saw the car that had just come to rest after tumbling over a couple of times. Without much thought, all three of us knew what the others were doing. There was a cut through just ahead, I activated the strobes on my bike that I use while providing escorts for triathlons and marathons and took the lead while Bob and John hit their hazards. Surprisingly, the traffic in the west bound lanes saw us and stopped to let us through the crossover and across all lanes to run down the shoulder. We were all surprised with how fast three old guys dismounted and ran to the occupants of the car. With our trauma kits in hand, we tried our best to keep them both still, though the young girl was too excited to sit still. The driver, a young 21-year-old guy, looked worse than he was. He was covered with blood, and likely had a bad concussion. Looking at what was left of the car, it was nothing short of a miracle. We helped the young man stop the bleeding and clean his wounds until the rescue squad arrived. Again, with the three of us wearing our colors, we were easily identified as the helping hands we were. We briefly talked to the responding deputy who thanked us for stopping and helping before we packed up our kits and rode off.

It's funny, I've been a Blue Knight for over 10 years and never really thought of that long-ago conversation with my dad until we were pulling away from the scene of that wreck. As I thought of this, I realized that the next day would mark 30 years to the day that my dad passed on. I'm not sure if that had something to do with sparking that memory or not, but I hoped would be proud of who I am, what I stand for and what I have become. I know I am proud to be associated with my brother and sister Blue Knights.



OK, we got this far, time for another shameless plug. Anyone who rides with John or me quickly realizes that we have a thing about visibility. While we always practice the theory of riding like we are invisible to others, we both are believers of adding lights and reflective materials to our bikes to make them more visible. We ran to Madrid, New Mexico, yeah that Madrid, of Wild Hogs fame. We just had to visit Maggie's Diner. Due to the activity of the day, by the time we got there, the diner was closed. But since it's not really a diner, rather is a souvenir shop, we found another place to grab dinner, the Mine Shaft Tavern. While it didn't earn the top spot as "Best Food of Trip", that distinction went to the Cowboy Café in Roswell, New Mexico, it was definitely "Best Dinner of Trip". Leaving Madrid, well satiated from the amazing burger, it was dark out. I was riding third man with Bob leading and John between us. I have to say the reflective colors that Wisconsin XI provides really light up at night and make the rider so much more visible. If you are on the fence about ordering them, do it! You won't be sorry.

I must say that wearing our Colors across country added a whole new dimension to the ride. The conversations they sparked, the thumbs up of passer-bys, the sense of pride they gave, all contributed to the 15 days on the bike being one of the best motorcycle trips I have had. Of course, the company I was travelling with had a lot to do with the success of the trip, but the colors definitely added to the experience.

My story doesn't end with the end of our 6,317 mile journey. Not long after we got back home, I got word of the passing of one of my State Police Academy classmates who had succumbed to COVID. The funeral was a good 7 hours away in southwest Virginia, so I put on my colors, got on my bike and rode down. While stopped to gas up and take care of business about 4 hours down the road, I was standing at a urinal in a vulnerable position when I heard a voice behind me, "Blue Knights huh?" Not being much of a conversationalist while doing what I was doing I just nodded and said, "Yes, sir". As I was finishing up, he said, "You guys are the good guys" and went on to tell me about his son who, when he was a motor officer was involved in a bad wreck many years ago. He said the Blue Knights Chapter in the area did a fund raiser and helped take care of him. The man said his son was outside and he wanted to introduce me to him and his grandson. I was humbled by the charity of my predecessors as he introduced me to them and told the story of how the Blue Knights helped. The story he told his grandson, who was about 13-14 years old, reminded me of how my dad portrayed the Blue Knights to me so many years ago. The crash had happened a few years before I became a Blue Knight. When I realized that the guy was from northern Virginia and the chapter that helped him was my own chapter, I couldn't have been prouder. This moment would never have happened had I not been "Riding With Pride" and wearing my colors.

So what is it about wearing our Colors that turns some of off? If it is the whole 1% thing, is there some truth to that? Yes. Is there an inherent risk associated with identifying as law enforcement when you are just out riding? Yes. Is there a way to take away the mystique of the three-piece patch, or at least get it to not be associated primarily with OMGs? I think there is.



The first way easy, we are the 99%. We don't succumb to the vocal minority and we wear our colors with pride. The next way may be to legitimize the three-piece patch. Get it associated with the good guys and the 1% will find another way to represent. How you ask? Another one of my state police academy classmates has done quite well for himself and is highly ranked within the department. Being a former motor man, I ran an idea by him. What if police departments started using three-piece patches for their motor officers. Reflective patches on the back "State Police", "Motor Officer", "Deputy Sheriff" or whatever across the upper rocker, their badge, municipal seal, the motorman's winged wheel or something similar in the middle, and the name of their locality on the bottom rocker. Marketing, that's what it's about. If enough departments were able to do this, especially larger departments, the bad boy image of the three-piece patch would quickly change to be associated with the good guys, leaving the 1% to find another way to identify themselves.

Each of us needs to make a conscious decision about the risk, as we do every day about many things, and weigh the risk with the benefits. For me, the benefits, both for me and for the organization, outweigh what I view as a minimal risk. So anytime I am riding to, from, or in any ride even remotely associated with law enforcement, I will be riding with pride and wearing my Blue Knight colors.

## BLUE KNIGHTS FL IV DONATE BLOOD

By Juan DelCastillo, FL IV Vice Pres.

The Blue Knights FL IV participated in the C.O.P.S. Blue Blood Drive that took place at Miami-Dade Police Headquarters. This blood drive was organized by the South Florida Chapter of Concerns of Police Survivors in conjunction with Law Enforcement Appreciation Day. The blood drive took place at over twenty law enforcement agencies in South Florida.

Participants were given a \$20 gift card, OneBlood Long Sleeve T-shirt, and a wellness checkup which included blood pressure, pulse, temperature, iron count, and cholesterol screening. Chapter members had a much-needed lunch after giving blood.

Florida IV Chapter members included Florida IV Chapter members standing with Miami-Dade police director Alfredo Ramirez in front of the blood mobile, Bobby in the blood mobile giving blood, VP Del and Rigo giving the all good thumbs up in the blood mobile.

Background: C.O.P.S., Concerns of Police Survivors. Each year, between 140 and 160 officers die in the line of duty and their families and co-workers are left to cope. C.O.P.S. provides resources to help them rebuild their shattered lives. <https://www.concernsofpolicesurvivors.org/aboutcops>

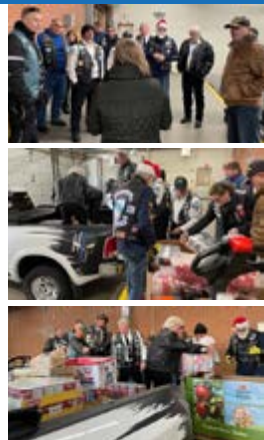


## RHODE ISLAND 1 DONATES FOOD

By Rico Santopadre, RI I

President Frank Vessella and members of RI I donated 1,617 pounds of over 100 canned and dry goods to the RI Community Food Bank. Their mission is to improve the quality of life for all Rhode Islanders by advancing solutions to the problem of hunger — with a vision of a state where no one goes hungry. Throughout the pandemic, the Food Bank has continued to serve over 54,000 Rhode Islanders each month. In 2020, they distributed 15.1 million pounds of food. 90% of the food distributed was healthy food.

In attendance were 14 RI I members along with President Gerald Zollo and his wife Tammy, of CT XI. Please let it be known that President Zollo and his wife rode 2.5 hours in 30° weather to attend this event. They should be commended for their support.







# GLRC 2022 SUMMER CONFERENCE

HOSTED BY WI XV  
JULY 15-17, 2022



## WISCONSIN XV

"Wisconsin XV welcomes you all to Marshfield, for the Summer 2022 GLRC. Located in the heart of Wisconsin. Our Summer GLRC is being held at the Central Wisconsin State Fairgrounds, located at 513 E 17th St. Home of "The World's Largest Round Barn."

Our chapter is working hard to have great raffle baskets, as well as delicious homemade desserts for the weekend. Being in Wisconsin, we just may have some beers as well as some other brown liquor for enjoying the evenings together.

### ITINERARY

**Friday:** Delicious dinner and Classic Rock with the Cottonmouth Band

**Saturday:** Breakfast, Business meeting, Motorcycle Ride, Special Event, Catered Dinner, and live music

**Sunday:** Light breakfast and farewells

## HOST HOTEL

### HOTEL MARSHFIELD

2700 S. Central Avenue  
Marshfield, WI 54449  
715-387-2700



HOTEL  
MARSHFIELD

**Room Rates:** \$109/room beginning July 13th (under Blue Knights)

### Camping Rates:

\$25/night - \$35/night

(depending on your electrical needs)

Call 715-387-1261 for camping reservations.

### REGISTRATION

**\$75/person (early)**

**\$90/person after June 1st**

### MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:

**BLUE KNIGHTS WISCONSIN XV.**

**MAIL TO DAN SALACINSKI AT**

**1035 W UPHAM ST MARSHFIELD, WI 54449**

*For more details contact Wayne Schulz, President @ 715-486-6513 or [schulztrio@charter.net](mailto:schulztrio@charter.net)  
Visit our website at [www.blueknightswixv.com](http://www.blueknightswixv.com) or follow us on Face Book under Blue Knights Wisconsin Chapter XV*



# Ontario XIV Member Travels through Europe

By George Krug, ONT XIV



Heiligeblut



Pasterze Glacier

giant campfires. They left nothing out. There were chocolate-covered ice cream bars the first night, champagne the second and late-night sausage barbecues to provide additional sustenance. They also had a well-stocked bar to keep the festivities merry and bright.



Luxembourg Castle

Being a retiree and living in Colorado, two years of COVID lockdown and no travels, my Wanderlust had returned! With COVID finally on the wane, and Germany opening her Borders, I planned a quick trip to the Alps for May 2021. However, it soon extended from Luxembourg to Italy, and north to Gdansk, Poland. I picked up my bike in Heidelberg and rode to my favorite Penzion, nestled between the Austrian Alps and the Italian Dolomites. It provides wonderful mountain roads and the opportunity to be misunderstood in two different languages! I rode the Austrian mountain passes and lounged by Glaciers. When the weather brought a cold driving rain, I had only to journey a half hour south, over the Dolomites, to explore the warmer regions of Italy.

I arrived at the Penzion Stockmühl late, due to weather, but was unexpectedly greeted by Huub, a brother Knight (Netherlands 2), with a cold beer. During his stay he learned, from the owner, of my unplanned visit and posted it on a BK Facebook Page. The owner welcomed me with a warm platter of steak and potatoes and her cell phone. She had just received a call from another Knight, J.B. Pohl (Germany 12), inviting me to join his Go East group touring Slovakia, Poland, and Czech Republic. So, my two-week vacation suddenly became four.

I spent my first week motorcycling north, over the Alps, or south, over the Dolomites depending on the weather. I spent an entire day traversing, and returning, Grossglockner Pass. Grossglockner is Austria's highest peak and like the Tail of the Dragon, at Deal's Gap, a draw for adventure riders who want to "Tame



Staller Sattel Down



Staller Sattel Up

to travel down into Italy. After fifteen minutes traffic is stopped and at the bottom of the hour it is permitted in the reverse direction going into Austria. It is a motorcyclist dream for a tight Alpine Road with no oncoming traffic. Each end has a traffic light had a gate and a countdown clock. The motorcycles are all permitted at the front of the line of cars just waiting for the green light. As the excitement builds you sit enjoying the view of the cloud covered mountain range that lays before you. Glorious!



Grossglockner

owner had received. After a week at home, I headed for Luxembourg where Blue Knight's Luxembourg 1 was celebrating their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary at Chateau Hollenfels. They provided an instant COVID test upon arrival, and masks as well.



Luxembourg

There I spent three days socializing with Brother Knights from as far as Ukraine. Their buffet meals were served in the Castle's Courtyard, which dates from 1129 AD and was warmed by

Heading east I spent nights in the medieval German cities of Cochem and Bamberg. I strolled their cobblestoned streets and photographed their buildings. In Cochem



Cochem



Cochem Castle

my room's balcony overlooked the Old City and the castle. I toured the castle and photographed it after dark from my balcony. Bamberg is a walled city where I strolled its ramparts and photographed it from on high. At night it was like wandering through Disney World after closing.

Moving on to Czech Republic I spent a night at a Chadovar Beer Spa/Brewery. There I soaked in a rejuvenating beer bath (warm) followed by being wrapped in a thick warmed comforter in a candle lit alcove.

The next day I met my traveling companions in Jindrichuv Hradec, Czech Republic. We moved on to Bratislava, Slovakia a huge old city with many beautiful buildings. Then came two weeks of traveling to ancient cities by day and exploring them by night. In Breslau, Poland I joined a German Knight and an Italian friend, with their wives, climbing Breslau Bell tower to view the city before strolling its medieval byways. We boated the canals of Gdansk and searched for the little traveler Gnome statues of Wroclaw, all in the search for food, drink, and adventure. I may have been the fifth wheel,



Rothenburg







Sopot, Poland



Bydgoszcz

but I didn't care because they all spoke English.

There was a festival in the town of Mielno, Poland the night we stayed. Located on the Black Sea with an amusement park, it was three miles from our gated lodging. So, we visited the local food store and loaded up on bread, meat, cheese, and beverages. Then, when our neighboring children went to bed, we brought our picnic out

to our patio and enjoyed the camaraderie. A violinist performed poolside that night. I do not know why he was there, but we enjoyed his performance and shared our Polish Vodka with him after he was done. That night was a true example of the Brotherhood of the Blue Knights. We ate picnic, we drank Polish, and they spoke and laughed in English for me.

In Szczecin, Poland the hotel opened a side door, covered the floor in plastic and invited all forty motorcycles to park in one of their conference rooms. I watched in amazement as the bikes rode up the sidewalk and martialed into the carpeted room.



Szczecin

There we were met by members of Blue Knights 1 and given a tour of the city ending at an amusement park. Many of us viewed the lighted city across the Oder River from the top of the Ferris Wheel.

After the group disbanded, I visited a few more feudal cities on my return trip. In Quedlinburg, Germany I stayed on the main square and enjoyed a local festival for two days. Each evening they had a vast assortment of music performers. For me, the most memorable was either the marching drum band or the Irish Folk group made up of Germans singing in English with an Irish accent!

From a brother Knight, I learned of the Panzer Museum in Munster, Germany, before learning there are TWO Munsters in Germany (NOT Herman and Lilly) and they are nowhere near each other. I spent the whole of one morning's breakfast trying to learn the difference between Munster and the other Münster, trying to figure out which one had the Panzer Tanks. Locating the correct one I booked a room and enjoyed an afternoon wandering through history. I then returned to Heidelberg and visited the Technik Museum Sinsheim, a transport museum, which had everything from cars of the 30s, 40s, and 50s to Tanks and Planes. I depleted a fully

charged camera battery, just taking photos, but I was happy.

I was grateful I had had the COVID inoculation last Spring because it

was required for my travel. Europe requires special masks, but Lufthansa provided me with one and I purchased several more when I arrived. Most of the Western Countries require masks everywhere, so I kept one mask right next to my wallet and passport. Some hotels required showing proof of vaccination before checking in. At one gas station I was instructed to take my coffee outside, as I was unmasked while drinking. In the Eastern Countries the requirements were a lot more lax. In Heidelberg they have testing stations that give you a response in 18 hours. So, for a fee, I had an e-mail confirmation I was COVID free for my return to the United States. By the way, Lufthansa was very understanding when I tried to rebook my flight. However, they could not get me a return flight until a week after my intended departure. Another week on my bike? I had no complaint. So, my two-week mini vacation finally ended five weeks later.

The Blue Knights' Brotherhood is still alive and well. I was warmly greeted, by old friends, and met many new ones from all over Europe. English is widely accepted, in Europe and I rarely had a problem. I am grateful for the comradeship which the Blue Knights provide and the new destinations which their events offer. Ride With Pride!



Italy

## SOME THINGS TO CHECK WHEN YOU GET YOUR BIKE OUT OF WINTER STORAGE

By Bud Overby, International Safety Officer

**CHECK THE TIRES** — After sitting for a while, especially in colder temperatures, your tire pressure has likely gone down. Check both tires and make sure you have correct PSI. While you're down there, inspect the sidewalls and the tread for wear.

**CHECK/CHARGE THE BATTERY** — Hopefully you remembered to remove the battery and bring it inside to charge, or you hooked up the battery tender to the bike when you put it away for the winter. If so, a quick once-over should be all that's required; look for corrosion around the terminal posts and evidence of leaks

**INSPECT THE DRIVETRAIN** — You may have different things to check depending on if you have chain, belt, or shaft.

**CHANGE THE OIL** — If you didn't change the oil when you stored the bike in the fall, you definitely need to do it now.

**PRE-RIDE CHECK** — Start it up and check to make sure everything to include bulbs, headlight, horn etc. are still functioning correctly. Squeeze those brakes too. Make sure that everything is working as it should be and no animals chewed up anything.

**NOW TAKE A TEST RIDE.** You might want to make your first ride of the season a short one just in case something happens (like a battery decides it's had enough).



*Ride Safe,  
Ride Often &  
Ride with Pride!*



# Connecticut XI Blue Knights®



By DJ Alvarez, International President

**T**raveling north to Connecticut from Texas, we dropped about 25° but the Blue Knight Brotherhood was just as strong. Gerry and Tammy Zollo along with the CT XI members put on an outstanding event. Billed as a Saturday evening event, Blue Knights began arriving Friday night for the weekend. I flew up on Friday evening and met a group of 25 Blue Knights for a fabulous dinner, arranged by the Zollos as well. That evening, the “usual suspects” gathered outside for good cigars and camaraderie even

though it was 29° which is a bit chilly for the Texas boy!

The good times continued the next day as Blue Knight members and friends arrived from all over the country and Canada for some hospitality and talking about what has been going on each of our lives. Pictures became a common occurrence around the huge, custom Blue Knight

backdrop provided by CT1. The cigar circle, or rather “The Brotherhood of the Leaf,” had some extra attendees and grew to a good size.

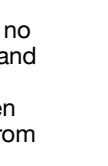
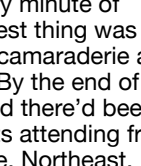
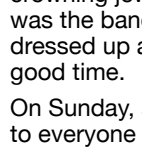
Several members toured the area on excursions to the local Harley-Davidson dealerships and the PEZ factory. Many opted to just enjoy each other’s company at the host hotel. The crowning jewel of the weekend was the banquet. Everyone dressed up and had a really good time.

On Sunday, saying goodbye to everyone was just a hard thing to do. I enjoyed every minute of each day there, and the best thing was no stress, no business—just camaraderie and

friendship. By the end of the weekend there’d been Blue Knights attending from the Tri-State, Northeast, Rio Grande, Southern Regional, and Southwest Conferences. TSC, NEC, RGC, SRC, SWC (from their homes in Texas, Arizona,

Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Florida, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Maine, and Rhode Island).

What a great weekend with old and new friends and if you’re from the region and didn’t go it’s safe to say you missed one heck of a time! I cannot wait for next year’s event and in closing may hats off to Gerry, Tammy, and the members of CT XI again for a fabulous weekend.





# 2022 Rio Grande Conference

Hosted by  
Texas XXXI



MAY  
12-15  
2022



## Rio Grande Conference

**HOST HOTEL:** HILTON HOUSTON NASA CLEAR LAKE  
3000 NASA Pkwy.  
Houston, TX. 77058 PHONE: 1-281-333-9300 (Direct)

**ROOM RATES:** Standard, Double or King \$96/night + tax  
Suites are available at a higher rate, must contact the hotel.

**AMENITIES:** Connecting Rooms (when available), On-site Restaurant and Bar, Free Parking, Designated area for Blue Knights, including trailers, Digital Room Key, Outdoor Pool, Fitness Center, Business Center. **No Pets allowed.**

The Hilton Houston NASA Clear Lake hotel is on the banks of beautiful Clear Lake. Most rooms face the lake and have their own balcony. The hotel is just down the road from the Johnson Space Center, and a short ride to the Kemah Boardwalk. Surrounded by numerous shops, stores, and various restaurants, and is only 30 mi minutes from Galveston Island.

### REGISTRATION:

On-line \$70 per person by May 1st, 2022 <https://blueknightstx31.org/>  
On-Site \$80 per person

### FOR MORE INFO:

Go to our website for online event and hotel registration  
at <https://blueknightstx31.org/>

Roger Byars, Texas XXXI, Director, Rio Grande Conf. Intl.  
Rep. Cell: 1-713-344-8147



### ITINERARY:

Chapter Sales & Vendors  
Daily Hospitality Room  
(Exclusive Penthouse VIP Room)  
Beverages, Snacks, Games, Music  
& "Brotherhood"  
Friday "Lite Social" Meal  
Rides Friday & Saturday  
Chinese Raffle Items  
Nightly 50/50 Drawing  
Full Banquet  
Awards (Largest Chapter in  
Attendance, Longest Distance)



**BOOK NOW!**

**281-333-9300**

HILTON HOUSTON  
NASA CLEAR LAKE



## COLORADO 1 SUPPORTS OFFICER KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

By Dave Speer,  
CO1 Past President

On December 18, 2021, members from the Colorado-1 Chapter of the International Blue Knights Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club met with slain Boulder Police Officer



Eric Talley's wife and family to present a check from the funds raised by our Memorial Patch fundraising effort that was designed by Past President, current Chapter Director and recently retired Boulder Police Sgt. Dave Seper.

Officer Eric Talley paid the ultimate sacrifice in responding to an active shooter at the Boulder King Soopers store on 03-22-2021. Eric is survived by his wife and seven children. To Honor Eric's Courageous Spirit, a Memorial Patch fundraising campaign was facilitated by CO-1 to help support Christmas for Eric's family. In the spirit of Christmas, CO-1 will continue the Memorial Patch fundraising campaign to give annual financial support to the Talley family for many future Christmas to come.

You too can join in honoring Officer Eric Talley's courageous spirit by making a donation to the Memorial Patch fundraising website. By donating a minimum \$100 pledge, you will receive a Memorial Patch to proudly display. Know that any and all donations to the fund website are greatly appreciated and will go directly to Eric Talley's family to support their Christmas!

DONATION WEBSITE: <https://blue-knights-colorado-1.square.site/>  
For more information, contact Dave Speer at [gunsnhoses@live.com](mailto:gunsnhoses@live.com).

## QUEBEC XIII HONORS FALLEN MEMBERS

By Denis Racicot,  
President Quebec XIII

On September 19, 2021, several members, friends and families of the deceased from all chapters gathered to honor the memory and memories of these people in a spirit of brotherhood. Once again, it was a very emotional day.

Since the inauguration on May 8, 2008, the annual ceremony in memory of our deceased active members has been held in Nicolet, very close to the "Quebec national police academy".



Le 19 septembre 2021, plusieurs membres, amis et familles des défunts de tous les chapitres se sont retrouvés pour honorer la mémoire et les souvenirs de ces personnes dans un esprit de fraternité. Encore une fois, ce fut une journée vive en émotion.

Depuis l'inauguration du 8 mai 2008, la cérémonie annuelle en mémoire de nos membres actifs décédés se tient à Nicolet, tout près de "l'École nationale de police du Québec".

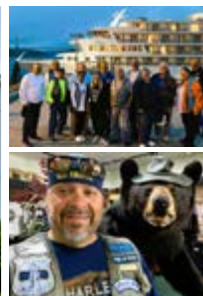
## MAINE LOBSTA BLUE KNIGHT STYLE

By Pam Poisson

In 2020, with COVID taking over, we had our challenges to getting any events to take place. Maine being comparatively one of the safest states with low infections, the offer was put out to come to Maine for a guided tour ride, eat Lobstas and get out of lockdown. Discounted hotel rates and

ride routes were quickly obtained. It was on.

NY members Myron & Donna, Marc, Jim, Dale (Long Island), Keith (Newburgh) and Margie and Tommy (Bronx) came and enjoyed steak and /or Lobstas and all the fixings with a social time on the hotel patio. The ride next day was to the Lovejoy Covered bridge, up to Height of Land seeing a momma and baby moose, lunch on the park at Rangeley Lake, going by Sugarloaf Mountain ski area and down to the last wire suspension bridge in the world. Day 2 we went on a Jana lead tour of the BK International office. After stopping by Stephen King's unique home, we had Lobsta rolls for lunch and a ride to our motel in Bucksport on the coast. The fire pit was our favorite spot for the evenings after rides to Acadia National Park and a stop in Bar Harbor. The last day was a trip to Lubec, to Quoddy Head Light house which is the eastern most point in the USA and a stop at the Worchester Wreath company, where Wreaths Across American began.



2021 came and the plan was to invite the same group, add a few more and do different ride routes. In total we had orders for 19 steaks and 23 Lobstas. A few weeks after our date was picked, we learned that the burial of our founding father, Ed Gallant's ashes, would be at the same time. We did not hesitate to change the day of the dinner.

Our escort group, made up of 31 people on 24 motorcycles and one car, was escorted to the BK International office by two different police departments who blocked the roads as we headed 90 miles to the Blue Knights office in Bangor, where we joined the group escorting Ed to his final resting place (members including: Guy O'Conner AZ, NY's Mike Rickard (BOG) and Teri, Teresa, Margie & Tommy, Myron & Donna, Dominic, Ralpie, Marc, Joe, Charlie, Rich, Dale, Patrick, Mikki and Frank. Micki, Tom, James and Teri from Pa., Uncle Joe NH/NS (and Jana) and Mike MA, Gerald and Tammy, Jim and Jody, Mike D from CT and myself from Maine/QU I.

After Ed's graveside service, we had a ride to Bucksport to our hotels. Limited wait staff caused dinning problems, but Warren's Warf opened after hearing what we just had done. Do you wonder why I love my state? Everyone had a wonderful time and plans were made for 2022.

Despite COVID, Blue Knight Brotherhood finds a way.





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# BOARD OF GOVERNORS AWARDS

## DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

### Lee Hirtle NH IV

Lee Hirtle is a retired New Hampshire State Trooper, was a member of both the Army and Air Force and retired as an E-8 (Senior Master Sergeant) from the New Hampshire Air National Guard as a member of our Security Forces. Lee is a member in good standing in NH IV and is one of our Charter members who is still very active in our Chapter. Lee plays TAPS at the New Hampshire State Veteran's Cemetery for Veterans funerals. Lee has said often that it is his obligation to play a live version of TAPS for our fallen Vets so that no Veteran's family must listen to a "fake" trumpet that plays a recording. To demonstrate his commitment to our Veterans, in 2007, he sounded his first TAPS at a military funeral.

On May 3, 2017, Lee performed military honors at a ceremony for his 3,000<sup>th</sup> time as a volunteer and on June 21, 2020, he performed military honors at a ceremony and played TAPS for his 4,700<sup>th</sup> funeral. He continues to render honors to date. Lee will go anywhere to play TAPS for any VETERAN and will not accept any payment for his services. He has set up a ride for our Chapter for this August to attend the New Hampshire Veterans' Cemetery where he will play TAPS. We have invited New Hampshire I to also attend and then we will go to our State Law Enforcement Memorial in Concord, where he will play TAPS. We then expanded the ride and invited the Chapters of the New Hampshire Red Knights, where we will then go to our State Firefighter's Memorial in Concord where he will play TAPS there as well. The New Hampshire Red Knights will have



their own annual ceremony at the NH Veterans' Cemetery later in August, and Lee volunteered to play TAPS for them as well. We, as a Chapter, will also attend and support our brothers in red.

Lee continues to be active in our Chapter, heading up our committee to design and purchase a monument to go on display at our New Hampshire Veteran's Cemetery that will recognize our Brothers and Sisters who have dedicated their lives to both our military and law enforcement services. Lee is extremely humble and would much rather work in the shadows as opposed to being out front but his service to our country, our state, our Chapter, and the Blue Knights in general really requires us to bring his acts out in the forefront. We have many members in the Blue Knights that do just what he does, great work, but his length and regularity of his commitment demonstrates the need for us to recognize someone like Lee.

He is also a member of "The 100 Nights of Remembrance", an organization made up of volunteers who, nightly, from Memorial Day through September 11<sup>th</sup>, show respect and honor for all Americans who have sacrificed and served our country honorably in any branch of the United States Armed Forces by sounding TAPS at our New Hampshire Veterans' Cemetery. Lee, having dual service in both the Army and the Air Force, wears both uniforms when he sounds TAPS, either as an E7 in the Army or as an E8 in the Air Force. Lee does all of this for no pay, volunteering his time and his skills for others. Lee's actions go above and beyond their duty and is certainly, the "cream of the crop", making him an asset to our community, the Blue Knights, and someone that should be recognized for his actions.

Lee's actions are in keeping with the finest traditions of the Law Enforcement Profession and reflect credit upon himself and the Blue Knights International Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club.

*Lee Hirtle was recommended for the Blue Knights Distinguished Service Award by: NH IV President Vinnie Baiocchi*

### Mladen Pavlek Germany XLI

Mladen Pavlek, President of Germany XLI, started as a member of a Croatia Chapter and integrated himself very quickly into the Blue Knights family. Well known for his blue colored beret, which he is always wearing, he has become an essential part of the club. He is known as the Croatian, who can manage everything concerning Croatia.

After he and his family settled over to Germany, he did not cut the line to his home country, and acted as usual as a connection between Croatia and the rest of Europe. With his friendliness and enthusiasm, he developed not only into a contact for Croatia, but gradually for all countries around the Adriatic.

Mladen has been an essential part of the Renewals for years, as he is in contact with the chapters and translates all important emails



if necessary. In addition, he always used his information to ensure that the chapters in this economically weak part of Europe feel part of the family and more than once saved a chapter from being dissolved. With his perseverance, he ensured that the now defunct Serbia 1 Chapter was reestablished after three years of stagnation and returned to the family. His commitment does not just end in keeping in touch. He is currently initiating a fundraising campaign for the earthquake victims in Croatia. Due to tax law hurdles, he had to carry out the campaign as a private person. Even when he was advised against by the official side of the German state, he persisted and finally found the support he needed to be able to collect the donations.

With his commitment to the Blue Knights, Mladen goes beyond the normal range and without him, the Blue Knights International would lose many chapters.

Mladen's actions are in keeping with the finest traditions of the Law Enforcement Profession and reflects credit upon himself and the Blue Knights International Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club.

*Mladen Pavlek was recommended for the Blue Knights Distinguished Service Award by: International Vice President Andreas Hohendorf*



# DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

## Raymond Petersen VA XVII

Brother Raymond Petersen and his wife Cathy moved to Virginia from New York in 2014 and became members of Blue Knights Virginia XVII shortly afterward. Starting as a founding member and a past president of NY XV of New York I, Brother Peterson is a Silver member #1902; having been a Blue Knight since the mid-1970's. Brother Petersen retired from Suffolk County New York as a Police Captain in 2003 with 38 years' service.



While working at Suffolk County, he was active with the Medford Volunteer Ambulance Service and is a life member of the Manorville Community Ambulance Service. In 1977, he earned his license as a Registered Nurse and has worked with several New York Hospitals between 1978 and 1992. He has kept his certifications current which has made him an asset of the Virginia Department of Health,

Medical Reserve Corps, serving in Chesterfield County and the city of Petersburg. This organization was created to help during any type of disaster. Ray is also a volunteer with Pathway's Inc, of Petersburg, Virginia since 2017. As such he helps provide medical care to inner city peoples who otherwise might go without medical care.

Brother Petersen has now been called upon to assist during the pandemic giving COVID-19 tests and vaccinations. He is working three to four days per week, often as much as 10 hours per day, providing vaccinations to as many people as possible. He said, "We are all doing whatever we can, working as hard as needed to try to get this thing under control so we can return to our normal lives. We are very proud to have Brother Petersen as a valued member of BK VA XVI. He represents the best of Law Enforcement and Emergency Services. We commend Brother Petersen for his sense of Duty and Dedicated Service to his community during this ongoing crisis.

Raymond's actions are in keeping with the finest traditions of the Law Enforcement Profession and reflects credit upon himself and the Blue Knights International Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club.

*Raymond Petersen was recommended for the Blue Knights Distinguished Service Award by: VA VII President Teddy Knight*

# MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARDS



## Brian Adams NY 27

While leaving NY X's Monthly November 2020 meeting with pouring rain, Brian was traveling N/B on the Meadowbrook Parkway at 8:30 PM when traffic suddenly came to a screeching halt. Brian observed a white van with extensive front end damage facing S/B in the center of the N/B lane. Brian pulled over just north of

the van and ran over to the van. While people were gathering on the scene, there were 2 FDNY fireman trying to open the passenger door. They managed to pry open the passenger side door to find the passenger unconscious and pinned inside the vehicle.

After accessing the vehicle and determining there was no risk of fire, they stabilized the passenger until an ambulance arrived on the scene. The driver was inaccessible due to the extensive damage to the van. They also checked the driver to find out he had a pulse. Brian managed to break the rear window to the van to gain access from the rear, but the back of the van was covered in open cans of spilled paint, as there was a divider between the front and rear making it impossible to reach the driver.

Once the FD arrived, Brian assisted with traffic, removing the trundle out of the ambulance while the paramedics were working on the driver. Once the driver was removed from the van, he was pronounced DOA at the scene. NY X Treasurer Brian Adams went above and beyond the call of duty. It was unfortunate that a life was lost at the scene, but it should be recognized that Brian, along with the two FDNY fireman also saved a life.

Brian's actions were in keeping with the finest traditions of the Law Enforcement Profession and reflects credit upon himself and the Blue Knights International Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club.

*Brian Adams was recommended for the Blue Knights Meritorious Service Award by: NY X President Vinny Calderon*



## Richard Paulhus NH IV

On 2/24/21, Richard Paulhus, of the Tilton Police Department, along with two Deputies from Belknap County Sheriff's Office, responded to a broken-down vehicle in the middle of the intersection of Route 3 by Exit 20 (I-93). While pushing the vehicle out of the intersection, officers heard a woman scream from across the

road. Officer Paulhus ran towards the woman, suspecting that some type of emergency was taking place. As he arrived, the woman frantically told him that her 8-month-old baby was choking and could not breathing. Handing the baby to Officer Paulhus, he immediately flipped the baby over and performed the child style Heimlich maneuver.

After multiple thrusts, the item became dislodged, clearing the airway and the baby began to cry. Tilton/Northfield Fire Department responded, treated the baby, and she was transported to a local hospital for precautionary measures. It is very clear from all parties involved that Officer Paulhus turned to his training and experience that ultimately saved this eight-month-old baby's life. Officer Paulhus is a 37-year veteran of the Tilton Police Department, retiring in 2014 at the rank of Lieutenant and now working as a part time officer. Richard "Dickie" Paulhus is also an active member of the Blue Knights NH IV and we as a Chapter are extremely proud of him for the actions that he took.

Reginald's actions were in keeping with the finest traditions of the Law Enforcement Profession and reflects credit upon himself and the Blue Knights International Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club.

*Richard Paulhus was recommended for the Blue Knights Meritorious Service Award by: NH IV President Vinnie Baiocchetti*





## MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARDS



### Randy Gracy AL VIII

Approximately four years ago, Randy and his wife, Kristin, witnessed a car roll over on the rain-slick highway while they were traveling to visit family. Randy immediately stopped, had me dial 911 and ran to the scene. Randy took control of the situation. Inside the car was an elderly lady who

was not wearing her seat belt and we found her lying in the back seat. The car was crumpled but Randy managed to pull open the passenger side rear door with some others help. He crawled into the back of the car and began first aid.

Other people came to the crash and asked what to do. Randy began telling folks what to do, including traffic control as the police and EMT's would need a path to get to the scene. All the windows were broken so he had several get coats and umbrellas to stop the rain from rolling into the car, he took off his coat and put it over her to try to prevent shock. He attended to the lady's cuts and injuries and kept her awake asking her questions and talking to her. There was no room for anyone else to get in the car, so he had to hold her up straight and not allow her to move fearing back, neck and/or internal injuries.

About 20 minutes later, the fire department, EMT's and state patrol arrived, and Randy gave them a quick assessment of everything he knew about her and her injuries. He helped in the extraction and loading of the lady applying neck and back braces under the EMT's instructions.

As they loaded the lady in the ambulance and left for the hospital, it was apparent the professionals appreciated what he did. One asked what department he worked at, thinking he was an EMT, fireman or police officer (maybe because he was wearing his Blue Knight t-shirt). Randy told them he was not any of them but an honorary with the Blue Knights. Several firemen and the police officer shook his hand or patted him on the back letting him know what a great job he did. He was exhausted mentally and physically. I was never prouder of him than that moment.

Later that following week, he felt compelled to check on the lady not knowing if she survived or if she had already left the hospital. Asking a few friends to check on the lady's accident, he found out she did survive and eventually found the lady was in a room at UT Hospital in Knoxville. There he met her and her brother. Both were from up north and that day of the accident, the lady was traveling alone to see her daughter and grandchildren. The lady did not remember the accident or anything until she woke up in the hospital.

She said, "When I wrecked, I asked God for help, and I only remember seeing an Angel that God had sent me who kept telling me everything was going to be OK". That is what Randy kept telling her during the entire time in the car. She knows that God had sent Randy for her. Randy has now taken accident scene management classes and certified training to be able to help injured people during accidents and to become more knowledgeable how to treat and what to look for.

Randy's actions were in keeping with the finest traditions of the Law Enforcement Profession and reflects credit upon himself and the Blue Knights International Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club.

*Randy Gracy was recommended for the Blue Knights Meritorious Service Award by: His wife, Kristin Gracy*



### Kenny Vancott NY VII

On Wednesday March 3, 2021, BK NY VII went for a ride and a mishap struck. James Burghardt, President NY VII, went down with his bike. It was one of the worst. James has had five operations since and is now home. Kenny Vancott sprang into emergency mode and took care of James while

waiting for an ambulance. Kenny acted with professionalism, stopping the bleeding, keeping Jimmy as comfortable as possible and directing the rest of us on what to do. Jimmy had three bones out of his skin above the ankle. Kenny was holding them place while stopping the bleeding. We thank Kenny for keeping a cool presence. The doctors at Robert Woods Johnson Hospital told Jimmy that whoever took care of him probably saved his foot.

Kenny's actions were in keeping with the finest traditions of the Law Enforcement Profession and reflects credit upon himself and the Blue Knights International Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club.

*Kenny Vancott was recommended for the Blue Knights Meritorious Service Award by: Tony Cuccia, NY 7*



### Reginald Washington GA XII

February 24, 2021. Sergeant Reginald Washington, Bibb County Sheriff's Department. According to a news release, it happened Wednesday at 9:20 a.m. 2021, at a home on Ponce De Leon Circle. Macon, Georgia, USA. Sgt. Reginald Washington received a call of

a baby choking and in need of assistance. Upon arriving at the scene, Sgt Washington found a 5-weekold baby not breathing and turning red. Sgt. Washington immediately began CPR. Sgt Washington picked-up the baby, recognized the difficulty in breathing, turned the baby over, cradling the baby in one arm and did several "palm to back blows" on the infant. The officer cleared the blocked airway, which allowed the baby to begin breathing normally again.

Investigation by deputies at the scene think the baby was choking on formula mix. The infant was taken by ambulance to the Beverly Knight Olson Children's Hospital. The baby has since been discharged from the hospital. Sgt. Washington is a retired 20-year veteran of the US Army with the 101st Airborne, with several tours in the war zones in South-East Asia. Sgt. Washington is a member of the Blue Knights, Central Georgia, Chapter XII.

Reginald's actions were in keeping with the finest traditions of the Law Enforcement Profession and reflects credit upon himself and the Blue Knights International Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club.

*Reginald Washington was recommended for the Blue Knights Meritorious Service Award by: GA XII President Scott Crosby and Bob Awtrey, GA XII*





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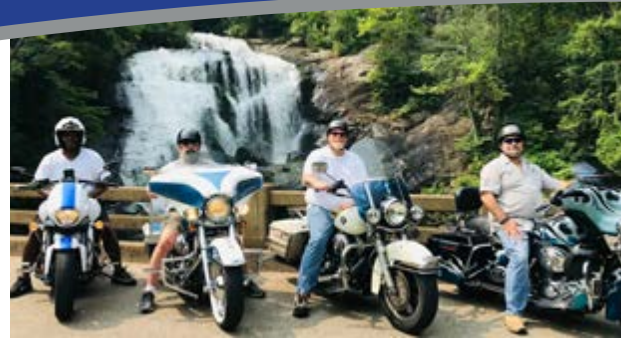
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# Blue Knights at a Glance











## Madeline Gallant Receives Official Blue Knight Vest

By DJ Alvarez, Blue Knights International President

During my visit to the Blue Knights Headquarters in Maine, I had the honor and privilege of presenting Madeline 'Maggie' Gallant, the lovely wife of Blue Knights Founder Ed Gallant, with her International Honorary vest. Office Manager, Jana Clark, was also in attendance.

Kudos to Georgia XVIII for donating the vest to her.

## AL VIII Celebrates Members' 20-25 years

By Bobby Barnes, AL VIII Dir., AL State Rep

Congratulations to AL VIII President, Jay Loring on his 20 years of dedication to our club. Also, congratulations to Richard "Butch" Riley for his 20 years and 25 years of dedication to our club. They both received their certificates and pins today at our chapter meeting.



## Australia IV Donates to WA Police Legacy

By Paul Iriks, Aus IV



23 Jan 2022, a good attendance for Australia IV's AGM and then a cheque presentation in the amount of \$2,000 was made to WA Police Legacy's Manager, Jill Willabee. A great time was had by all.

## Australia VI Welcomes Two New Members

By Ron Halliday, Aus VI

AUST VI held our monthly lunch ride and President Rob formally welcomed our 2 new members Ian & Steve, then 8 of us headed out with Rob leading from Ian & Karen, Bob, Kev, Steve, me & Gary at the rear as usual. Through Walloon, Amberly, Peak Crossing, Harrisville, Mt Walker, Rosewood, to Marburg for Coffee and eats. Very pleasant ride although getting warm by this stage. Then off through Hatton Vale, Glenore Grove, Atkinson Dam, Corminya, Lowood, Fernvale to Glamorgan Vale for lunch, (where we) saw a welcome air-conditioned dining room at the Bottle Tree Hotel.



## CA IV Presents Scholarships

By Chris Curtis, CA IV Sec.

On January 22, 2022, California IV members were proud to present four scholarships to four Explorers from the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department Rancho Cucamonga Station Explorer post #501.



## CA XVII Santa Brings Joy to Children

By Mark Englander, CA XVII President

California XVII has been providing their charity toy ride to this organization for the past five years. Our club provides Santa as well as over 75 toys so that these kids so they can have a very special day. We started this several years ago. The gymnasium we hold the event is for those children with special needs. It is truly amazing to see the parents and kids enjoy this day.



## CA XVII Rides for Underprivileged Children



By Mark Englander, CA XVII President

California XVII members took part in another charity ride the chapter participates in with the Bikers for Christ for the underprivileged children from the migrant farm working families in Ventura County. We have been doing this for over 10 years and look forward to continuing our support of this program.

## England V President Gets Married

By John Radcliffe, European Editor

On 14 November 2021, Blue Knights from across the United Kingdom came to attend the wedding of England V's President, Bob Ferguson to Vickie.



## England V Celebrates Christmas



England V held their Christmas party on 20th November 2021. Because of a number of COVID related cancellations the attendance figures were down to 16, but this did not prevent those who could attend from having an enjoyable evening.

## USA Brotherhood Welcomes England XIV Member



By Ian & Donna Cater, ENG XIV

New Orleans has been a blast and fair to say, only made possible by the generosity and resilience of Blue



Knights Louisiana II (Especially Brigitte and Pres, Ed). Much appreciation and thanks for your hospitality. It was a great evening attending your ride dinner. We were made to feel so welcome, immediately included in the banter...just like old friends. Blue Knights at their best!

## England XVIII Cheque Presentation

By Lisa (Compo) Pawsey, Eng XVIII VP

4th December 2021, on a sunny but chilly morning members of England 18 and England 14 proudly presented a cheque for £510 to Ruth at Children's Hospice South West which is in Barnstaple, Devon. The money was a result of the 24-hour ride undertaken earlier in the year.





## England XVIII Holds Annual Christmas Party

By Lisa Pawsey (Compo), Eng XVIII VP

England 18 (Devon) held their annual Christmas party at the Carlton Hotel, Torquay, over the weekend of 26–28 November 2021. Blue Knights from all over England, Wales and Jersey attended the English Riviera for a very enjoyable weekend.

The weekend started on Friday with drinks and dinner followed by some serious competition in the bowling alley. Saturday evening saw the main event, a formal dress evening with a



wonderful four course meal, a table quiz, the infamous England 18 raffle and auction. The evening concluded with the biggest game to date of the dice game LRC — Left, Right, Centre — where the winner, Stuart Hall, kindly donated all the winnings to our charities.

Together, we proudly raised £2000 for our chosen charities, Children's Hospice South West and DocBike. The England 18 board members clearly did not get the email for the Saturday evening dress code (dressed like Super Heroes)!



## Florida IV Take Part in Archbishop's Motorcycle Ride

By Del, FL IV Vice President

Florida IV participated in the annual Archbishop's motorcycle ride

on Sun. Jan 30, 2022, in Doral, Florida. Hundreds of bikers from all clubs and walks of life participated. Blue Knight members also had an opportunity to take a photograph with Miami-Dade Commissioner Pepe Diaz. Commissioner Diaz is a strong police supporter and motorcycle enthusiast.



## Florida IV Welcomes Two New Members

By Del, Florida IV VP

During our first chapter meeting of 2022, we welcomed two new members Sean and Rich to our family. Sean is currently a Coconut Creek field training officer and Rich is a retired NYPD officer. Also, Florida IV member Gerry welcomes his son Sean to the club along with chapter president Lee and vice president Del.



## Florida XVI Donates to Families at Christmas

By Thomas Gravagna, FL XVI President

Members of the Blue Knights International Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club, Florida Chapter XVI made the holiday season brighter for two families with children requiring special needs. The families, from Port Charlotte and Cape Coral, were greeted by



Chapter Members bringing much-needed non-perishable food items and toys in a year filled with many unpleasant events. This is the eleventh year the Chapter has provided hope and joy to families during the holiday season.

## Ireland 1 Presents Little Hero Bike

By David Buckley, Ireland 1

Ireland 1 Vice President Feargal O'Neill with GDA Lee Ryan, Santry Station, presented a Bike to Little Blue Hero Jimmy Quail.



## New Zealand 1 Rides the East Coast

By Steve Chung, President New Zealand 1

These are a few photos of our East Coast ride.



## New Jersey XV Donates NYPD Foundations

By Steve Cataneo, NJ XV

I was honored to present the donations which were raised from the Blue Knights New Jersey XV Rockefeller Center Christmas Toy Run & Police Charity Ride to the New York City Police Department Widows & Children's Foundations of the NYPD Sergeants Benevolent Association & the NYPD Detectives Endowment Association. A check was also mailed to the New Jersey State Police, State Troopers NCO Association. I was unable to present their check to them in person due to their Union President being out sick.

Rockefeller Ride Shirts were also gifted to several people who were an essential part of helping me put this whole Ride together. Also got to hang out with another good friend whom I was once "his boss", Chief Mike Baldassano... It was great getting to see everyone today and from the bottom of my heart I thank each & every one of them for helping me make this Wonderful & Worthy Charity Ride possible! Special thanks to PO Jarrod Zinnanti of the 123 pct, Lt Joe Bell, Sgt James Gatto & Sgt Rob Serra of the NYPD Highway Division, Sgt Matt Forestire of the NYSP & Sgt Al Donato of the NJSP!

Pictured: Deputy Commissioner Robert (Bob) Ganley & his assistant Tara Glevay, SBA President Vincent Vallelong & the SBA Board Members, DEA President Paul DiGiacomo & DEA Treasurer Jeffrey Ward, and a great Cop who I had the pleasure of working with 36 years ago, my friend NYPD Chief Salvatore Comoda.



## NY2 Donates to Charities

1 Tower-2-Tower 100% percent proceeds from patch: Scott FDNY, Michele-BK NY 2-President and Tristate Secretary, Frankie-BK NY 2 VP, Liz -Tristate Treasurer and PP NY XV111, Bobby-BK NY 2 Sgt of Arms







2 Our holiday party and run donation to NYPD Poppa, Kevin-Poppa, Michele-BK NY2 President and Tristate Secretary, Frankie-BK NY2 VP, Liz-Tristate Treasurer and PP NY XVIII, John NYPD Poppa



3 Our donation to the Blue Knights Cops Run: Michele-BK NY2 President and Tristate Secretary, Frankie-BK NY2 VP, Liz-Tristate Treasurer and PP NY XVIII and organizer for Cops Run, Dave-BK NY-Quartermaster



4 American Legion Donation: Michele-BK NY 2 President and Tristate Secretary, Frankie - BK NY2-VP, Tom -American Legion, Dave-BK NY 2 Quartermaster.

5 Our holiday party: Scott, Frankie, James and Eddie



## Long-time Poland VI Member Gets Married September 2021

By Agnieszka Kacprzak

My dearest brothers and sisters, we had wonderful moments at the wedding of a special member (September 2021), who is one of the first members of Blue Knights Poland VI. We had special guests from Blue Knights Poland VIII and Poland III.



## Poland VI First 2022 Meeting

By Tomasz Juszczak



Poland VI begins 2022 with their first bonfire meeting and first BK VI PL birthday.



## Poland VI Member Protects the Border

By Agnieszka Kacprzak, Poland VI

Greetings from BK POLAND VI. Away from home...including a Christmas holiday... protecting East Polish border from illegal immigration coming from Iraq, Dubai etc.



## NY XXIII Presents Awards

By Jen Connolly, NY XXIII President

NY XXIII presented three membership awards and pins; Ed Cole received his 20 year service pin, both Chuck Titus and myself (Jen Connolly) received our 25 year pin, and not pictured is Tom Stirton who received his 30 year service pin.



## PA VII Uses Raffles to Raise Money for Charities

By Tom Duranko, PA VII Webmaster

Pictured are PA VII President Jim Odenheimer and tenured Honorary member Carole Schmid selling PA VII Sports Memorabilia raffle tickets at a recent gun show in Pittsburgh. PA VII holds two fundraising raffles each year.

A gun raffle for a gun each day in October, and the Sports memorabilia raffle over a 9-day period during the Holidays to benefit veterans charities. The profit raised by these two raffles is \$17,000. In 2021 because



of the hard work by the members of PA VII, our chapter was able to donate \$14,270.00 to various local charities. We take great pride not only in protecting our community, but also in supporting it. Blue Knights are the good guys!

## PR1 Rides with NY Member

By Alfredo Delgado, PR1 President

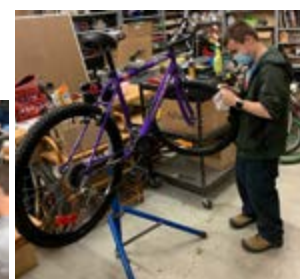


Blue Knights PR1 rode out on a Sunday ride. We also had a visitor from BK NY Tony Alamo who had a blast with the crew. Brotherhood, that's what is all about. RWP

## Quebec XIV West Island Member Supports Bike Shop Program

By Rosario De Biasi, Quebec XIV, West Island

As the COVID hit us, bicycles were picked up from donations in the community, repaired and given to students so they can stay off the buses and a little physical activity can







only do some good. It started in my garage and with an invitation it snowballed to a Bike Shop Program at CFER Riverdale school where students help out and learn how to maintain/repair a bicycle.

Being retired, I got some time and knowledge to give, with a little fund raising, we have a success. Kids didn't forget how to work with their hands, it takes a little patience and someone to show them and hopefully they will show others.

CFER Riverdale is a school/work program where a student has a second chance to achieve a high school equivalent diploma up to 21 years of age.



## Romania IV Gives to Community at Christmas

Continuăm să colindăm și să

donăm împreună cu ajutoarele lui Moș Crăciun cu zămbetul pe buze familiilor greu încercate din Urecheni, Jud. Neamț pentru un Crăciun mai frumos, mai îmbelsugat și mai liniștit!

Am reușit să oferim haine, încălțăminte și jucării copiilor din Vaslui și Rediu.

O zi plină de emoții și bucurie pentru membrii Blue Knights Romania IV și copii deopotrivă.

În ajunul Crăciunului oferim din inimă speranța pentru zile mai bune! Mulțumim by Danina, Centrului de donație "O mana de ajutor" și tuturor

ce ne sprijină în această perioadă plină de bucurie și speranță pentru o viață mai bună!

We continue to carol and donate, together with Santa Claus' helpers, with a smile on the faces of the hardly tried families in Urecheni, Neamt Province, for a more beautiful, more abundant and quiet Christmas!

We managed to offer clothes, shoes and toys to the children in Vaslui and Rediu. A day full of emotions and joy for the members of Blue Knights Romania IV and children alike.

On Christmas Eve we offer heartfelt hopes for better days ahead! Thank you by Danina, to the Donation Center "A Helping Hand" and to everyone who supports us in this period full of joy and hope for a better life!



## Blue Knights Romania V

Aseară a fost ceva special pentru Blue Knights Romania V.

Avem un nou full patch! Darius a fost făcut membru. Felicităări!

A fost o ceremonie reușită! Mulțumim #IPARiders Zalău pentru participare și contribuție.

Am simțit fraternitatea și familia. Mulțumim tuturor celor implicați! Ride with pride!

Last night was something special for the Blue Knights Romania V. We have a new full patch! Darius has been a member Congratulations!

It was a successful ceremony! Thank you #IPARiders Zalău for participation and contribution. Felt the brotherhood and family. Thank you to everyone involved! Ride with pride!

## BK TNIII donates to Officers' Families in Need

By Knox County Sheriff's Office



The Tennessee III Blue Knights presented checks to the widows of Warrants Officer Toby Keiser and Sergeant Tim Laycock as well as Officer Andy Cummings on behalf of his son, Jaxson. The money was raised from TN III's annual 9/11 memorial ride. Presenting for the Tennessee III Blue Knights was their President Jack Lakin.

Sheriff Tom Spangler said, "I'm honored to call many of the Tennessee III Blue Knights members my friends... This is a blessing for some of our blue family members that have either suffered great loss the last year, or in Officer Cummings situation, faced with a sick child... Thank you seems inadequate for the Tennessee III Blue Knights, it's obvious they're difference makers. I appreciate each of you, and I can say with certainty the families represented here today are appreciative."

## Texas 1 – Hurst

By Gene Fuqua, TX1

Heaven #1 gained one of our members in October. Our President was contacted by the widow, and she told him she had discussed a situation with her family and they had decided to donate the late member's motorcycle trailer to the chapter to keep it "in the family!" We scheduled a ride to the family home and it was also the widow's birthday! We bought a cake and punch for the ride out to the house — about 50 miles away. Fifteen members made the trip and the birthday. The widow was surprised with the impromptu party. We took many photos and shared hugs with everyone. Look for Texas #1 at future functions to check it out!



## Texas 42 Recognizes Members

By Gilbert 'G-Man' Losoya, President TX 42

We had a great turn out at our monthly meeting, but most importantly, everyone enjoyed the fellowship that comes when we all getting together. We missed our Brothers and Sisters that weren't able to make it!! Congratulations goes out to our VP Juan Mendoza Jr. (JUDGE) and our SAA Candelario "KANDIMN" Hernandez, as they were both presented with our Chapter's "Retention Achievement Award" and "One-Star Tab" for their 5 years of Distinguished Loyalty to our Blue Knights Chapter.

Special Thanks to our visitors Minnesota IV members, Mr. & Mrs. Bailey. We were also glad to have our friends Raymond Shears & Roger Guerra as guests at our meeting. Raymond is going through our new membership process. We are always looking forward in meeting and hanging out with other fellow Knights! In our Chapter, It's All About The Brotherhood!!

## Virginia I Rides to the Southernmost Point

By Vic Calloway

The Blue Knights Virginia I road trip traveled from the DMV to Key West, FL.







*Board of Governors*

## BOG Chairman

### DOMINIC SQUILLACE

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Happy, Healthy & Safe New Year - 2022 to all our Blue Knights Brothers & Sisters & their Families.

With the start of this New Year the COVID-19 Pandemic is still here and hitting us with a new variant every time we turn around. Hopefully this year Chapters & Conferences will be able to hold their events and not have to cancel them. Looking forward to this year. So far, our International Convention in Ireland is still a go. Contact them to make your reservations and registrations. The dates are June 26-July 1, 2022 with Pre and Post tours. PA-5 has offered to host our 2023 International Convention; more info to follow. Our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee is working on the plans for the 2024 International Convention. We will keep you posted as things progress. In the future we will be looking for suggestions and ideas from our Chapters and Conferences.

This year is an Election for the Board of Governors. Anyone interested in running must submit a letter of intent to our BOG Secretary by May 1, 2022. Chapter Presidents make sure you have your personal e-mail address not a business e-mail address on your renewal package or you won't get a ballot. Correct e-mail address cut-off date is April 30, 2022. Voting will begin May 23 EST and end midnight June 24, 2022 EST. Results will be announced at the BOG Meeting June 27, 2022. Good luck to all Candidates.

At this time we have approximately 16,000 Members. I'm sure everyone has thoughts or ideas that would better our organization. If you do, contact your Chapter and/or Conference Officers with your suggestions so they can pass them on. If I can be of any assistance to our Members Worldwide contact me at 1-610-888-7877 or e-mail me anytime. If I don't have the answer for you, I will get it. Stay Safe, Safe Travels, and as always, "Ride With Pride"!!



## European Editor

### JOHN RADCLIFFE

**Director, England V**

EuEditor@BlueKnights.org

I'm looking forward to the time when COVID no longer looms large over our lives: and I thought the time had come. Ireland 1 has issued a circulation saying that practically all restrictions in Ireland have been lifted, so that the International in Ireland now looks secure. The British government has made a similar announcement, and restrictions have been eased across most of the EU. Belgium IX is taking bookings for their ever-popular "In Flanders Fields" Rally, and Belgium I is getting ready to host the EC Convention.

Then the first crack appeared. The Flanders Field rally is cancelled! At the time of writing very little information is available, but it seems that Belgian restrictions on the numbers permitted to meet indoors is the culprit. This does not bode well for the EC Convention, which is also being held in Belgium, but nothing has been circulated to date.

One hope to cling to is that as the EC Convention is being held in the province of Wallonia, it may be subject to different regulations than Flanders. There is a fair degree of autonomy in the government of the provinces. By the time you are reading this the situation will be clear.

So, there are some reasons to be optimistic, but we are not out of the woods yet. Keep safe and Ride with Pride!

## A Blue Knight Grandson Passes

**The Family was Honored by the Brotherhood and Fraternal Spirit**

By Joe Nazario, President FL III

A sad occasion, December 27, 2021 was the memorial service for our 9-month-old grandson, Seth James Nazario, after losing his battle with liver disease. This circumstance defies the natural order of life, but as believers in Christ Jesus we must accept it with heavy hearts and trust that God has a plan.

The purpose for sharing this story with our Blue Knight family is to reaffirm that the fraternal spirit and brotherhood are very present amongst the Blue Knights.

Florida III, led by VP Al Riccio, along with help from Jim Trachta, Rory McConnell and Al Hickley, found a way to gather Blue Knight members for a funeral escort in south Florida. Our own kids have heard from time to time how we as Blue Knights perform these types of escorts. I offered it, and they gladly accepted the offer.

This was a tough time as the services were being held in LaBelle, Florida some 240 miles from our home base in Ocala, FL, in the middle of the Christmas holiday. Calls went out to FL X, FL XVI, FLXVIII. Between Presidents Tommy Gravagna of FL XVI, and Pat Gibbons of FLXVIII, they managed to arrange 13 motorcycles with 16 souls, for a total of 16 motorcycles, 25 Blue Knight members and family in total. FL III had one member ride down on his motorcycle that morning, all the way from Ocala. Paul Rogale surprised me and parked next to my bike, along with Luis Santiago. Also present was our club photographer/historian Rolf Olson with bride Sioux, and Jay Borstein. The support, camaraderie and brotherhood couldn't have been any stronger on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of December.

Jim Trachta was unable to attend due to a prior commitment but was present in spirit, as he and his wife Gina presented our family with a Memorial Mass enrollment for Seth J. Nazario. We will forever appreciate the heartfelt sentiment.

Sheriff Whidden of the Hendry County Sheriff's Department safely escorted the Blue Knights and Seth to his final resting place.

The Knights present lived up to The Blue Knight Pledge! They all were prime examples of our fraternal spirit and brotherhood by representing the BK organization in a most positive way. On behalf of FL Chapter III and the Nazario family thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Well done by all!

(BK chapters and families in attendance: FL III, FL XVI, FL XVIII, MI X, Quebec XVIII, CO III. To the many others who would have been present, were it not for the time of year, thank you all for your support.)

# SALES CATALOG UPDATE Q1 2022

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**Safety Vest** - Lightweight Safety Vest: Dark blue color; breathable, lightweight. Available Colors/Finishes: Dark Blue Polyester Mesh Fabric durable polyester mesh fabric with horizontal & vertical reflective stripes. Zippered front closer with two interior pockets and one transparent outside ID pocket. Approved International Emblem on back. Available Sizes: LG - 4XL. Costs: \$20.00 USD each (any size), \$19.00 USD each if 11-15 items, \$17.00 USD each if 16-20 items, \$15.00 USD each if 21-30 items. Includes shipping inside USA; see website for information for overseas orders.

Ordering Instructions, Payments & Mailing Instructions: Contact us at: [Blueknights-fl-3.webs.com](http://Blueknights-fl-3.webs.com), link to Safety Vest Order Form. Checks, Money orders, US Funds, payable to Blue Knights FL III, and Zelle, accepted. Send Mail orders to: Blue Knights FL III, 4545 SW 60th Ave., Box 770873, Ocala, FL 34477

### IL XIII

Illinois XIII no longer has Illinois XIII zippo lighters.

Ordering info: Checks or money orders accepted payable to BK IL XIII. Mail to: BK IL XIII C/O John Gagliardo, 977 Whitelaw Ave., Wood River, IL 62095. TX 618-604-6007

### MN VIII

Send Check or Money Order to BLUE KNIGHTS MNVIII, 216 Fredrick Dr, Albert Lea, MN 56007

### NV I

Nevada 1 no longer has sales items available.

### TX XXXI

Ordering Info: Quartermaster, Robert Cissell, [rciss59631@aol.com](mailto:rciss59631@aol.com) or call 713-302-5418 or James Simmons [lonespurranchsantafetx@gmail.com](mailto:lonespurranchsantafetx@gmail.com) or call 832-506-3201.





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