



From: HOPE FOR THE WARRIORS™

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2nd Annual Grand Rapids Warthogs Poker Run Benefits Hope For The Warriors™

GRAND RAPIDS, MI, July 28, 2009 - On the morning of July 11, the roaring of motorcycles was heard across the Greater Grand Rapids Region as the Grand Rapids Warthogs Poker Run rolled through town. This 2nd Annual Poker Run was in memory of Officer Mike “Chet” Winchester, a brother Warthog and police officer who was killed in 2007. Monies raised from the poker run benefited Hope For The Warriors™, a national non-profit organization that assists U.S. service members and their families nationwide who have been adversely affected by injuries or death in the line of duty.

The 100-plus miles kicked off with the United States Marines presenting colors before the wounded service members and police escorts led the participants down the streets that were lined with fire engines, police cars and cheering patriots. Four local watering holes and four playing cards later, the poker run reached its final destination, McFadden’s Restaurant in downtown Grand Rapids.

“Hope for The Warriors™ is incredibly grateful to have such dedicated people support their organization,” stated Danielle Ryan with Hope For The Warriors™. “From providing an outlet for the wounded so they can look beyond their recovery and have a day on their motorcycles, to donations that will help grant a Warriors Wish™, the impact of the support here is irreplaceable. Thank you to everyone involved for making the 2nd Annual Grand Rapids Warthogs Poker Run such a success.”

The Warthogs hosted a dinner at the Fraternal Order of Police Hall the night before the event. Honored guests included the Winchester family; wounded service members, A.J. Tong and Zach Briseno; Joe Bowser, Staff Assistant to the Secretary of the Army; Tina Atherall, Hope For The Warriors™ Executive Vice President and Hope For The Warriors™ NY Office staff members, Danielle Ryan and Emma Riley. David Smith, President of the Grand Rapids Warthog Chapter presented an award of appreciation to Con-way Freight for their overwhelming generosity. Con-way Freight shipped the wounded service member’s motorcycles to Grand Rapids so they were able to ride the entire 100-plus miles of the poker run on their own bikes. As Smith said, “It would be like taking kids to Disney World and telling them they can’t ride the roller coasters.”

Prior to the poker run, Smith auctioned off an official helmet signed by NASCAR Driver Jeff Gordon, which raised \$3,000 making the total poker run purse \$5,000. Proceeds will go to aid Hope For The Warriors™ in their continued mission of “no sacrifice forgotten, nor need unmet.”

To learn more about Hope For The Warriors™ and their programs, please visit www.hopeforthewarriors.org.



*Hope For The Warriors™ is a civilian organization, with 501(c)(3) non-profit status, is not a government agency and is solely supported by the generosity of individuals, corporations, and foundations in support and appreciation of those who have sacrificed in the name of freedom. Federal Tax Id#20-5182295.
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