

June 25th 2011 “The Last Ride”



The bikes started arriving early and by noon we had filled a single line from end to end on Washington Street. Before the Capitol police showed up to block the street for us we had a good start on the second row of bikes.

At 12:30 sharp a call to assemble was made and Kevin Chappell began his call to order with his bagpipes.

Linda Allen addressed the growing crowd of 250 plus and reminded us the purpose of our meeting.

Dave Wilson with the CMA led us in prayer and Linda led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The sun was hot overhead as Theresa Morton and Marlin Johnson delivered a beautiful Gospel Song that kept everyone's attention to the meaning of the day.

Jerry McDaniel delivered a message noting the need for better and more frequent awareness messages and programs from our government, yet he also let those in attendance know that ABATE of Georgia needed to grow its membership to get the attention of those in charge.

As Jerry ended his message, some of the crowd began to seek shade on the steps of the Capitol and in the shadows of the church across Washington Street.

There were many tear filled moments as 92 names were read by Sue Duggan and Brian Purnell and a bell was rung by Ali after each name.

The CMA led us in a prayer to remember the riders lost, as well as their families, and his prayer concluded with the lonely tones of the bagpipe playing Amazing Grace. Theresa delivered another powerful song and closing remarks were delivered by Linda Allen and Dan Forrest.

As we began to depart, there were many hugs shared and a few tissues shared as well. The moment of the day and the purpose of our gathering together were carried with us as we made our journey home.