

3/16/2006 Moran Introduces Legislation to Commend Patriot Guard Riders

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MORAN INTRODUCES LEGISLATION TO COMMEND

PATRIOT GUARD RIDERS

Honors National Group for Shielding Military Families from Protesters at Funerals

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran today introduced legislation to commend the Patriot Guard Riders for shielding military families from protesters at funerals. This legislation is to express the U.S. House of Representatives' deepest appreciation to Patriot Guard Riders across the country for protecting military families and preserving the memory of our nation's fallen heroes.

"I first experienced the power of the Patriot Guard last year when hundreds of riders showed up to the funeral of a Kansas soldier who gave his life serving in Iraq," Moran said. "Regardless of one's opinion of our country's military commitments, we can all be thankful for these patriots who provide the families and friends of our fallen soldiers the peaceful time of mourning they deserve."

In 2005, a small group of American Legion riders in Mulvane, Kansas, began a movement to shield families of fallen soldiers from disruptions at funerals caused by protesters. Calling themselves the "Patriot Guard," these motorcycle riders waved American flags and revved their engines to serve as a barrier between mourning families and picketers.

A nationwide group known as the "Patriot Guard Riders" has since grown into a network of tens of thousands of members who volunteer their time to come to the aid of military families and show their respect for fallen service members at funerals. Appearing at the request of families, they drown out the jeers and hateful signs of protesters to allow the memories of the deceased service members to be remembered with honor and dignity.

More than a dozen states are considering legislation that would restrict protesting at funerals. Representatives Todd Tiahrt, Jim Ryun and Dennis Moore of the Kansas delegation have joined Moran in sponsoring this legislation.

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