



Volume 2- September-October 2015 - © 2015 WreathsForTheFallen.org

Welcome Back!

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**THANK YOU
SUPPORTERS!**

We hope you enjoyed the first edition of our WFTF newsletter last month! This newsletter will be sent out monthly via email to those on our email list. If you know of anyone else who may be interested, please have them contact us at Office@WreathsForTheFallen.org and we will add them.

These past 2 months have been a very busy time for us, and with the help of many volunteers, we were able to distribute 3,333 brochures and increase public awareness of our mission to serve our Fallen.

We attended the State Fair on September 25th for Military Appreciation Day, the Rendezvous at the St Cloud VA Health Care

System September 19th, and the Camp Ripley Open House on September 20th.

These events are also great opportunities to meet people involved with other Veteran & military organizations.

Once again, thank you for your support, and we hope you enjoy this issue!

**QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?
CONTACT US:**
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The Flag Bike

Many of you may have seen the flag bike at various events that WFTF has been a part of, and may be familiar with the story behind it. For those who are not, please read on:

My husband and I joined the Patriot Guard in early 2010. June 2010 my son left for Marine Basic Training. We had talked about painting my bike, but I was having issues picking a color/theme.

October 2011 Jason was home on leave before he deployed for Afghanistan. He called and asked if he could borrow my bike to attend the funeral of a friend. I agreed with GREAT hesitation because he did not have a great track record borrowing my vehicles.

He came out and picked up my bike the night before the funeral. And then...he called me the next morning..."Mom, are you sitting down?" My heart sank and my knees shook. My first question was "Where are you?" He was at his dad's place and was not seriously injured. My second was "where is my bike?"

"Mom, you will need the trailer to get the bike home. There is no way you can ride it right now." He laid it down and took out the whole right side. The fairing was cracked in half, the handlebars dented the tank, and the engine guard was bent up over the footboard.

My husband said now would be a good time to figure out what I wanted for a paint job as we would have to do that as part of the repairs. I thought long and hard and finally decided on a flag theme. I called many shops looking for someone to take on the job.

I finally found a young man who was willing to take it on with the assistance of some friends who had been painting bikes for a long time. We shared many ideas on what I liked and did not like. After meeting with them and seeing some sketches I felt confident they would do a great job. They asked more questions on what I wanted

and I told them they were the artists, make it beautiful. And they did.

When I first saw the finished pieces lying on the floor it brought tears to my eyes. It was truly beautiful.

When my son came home he was afraid to touch the bike, much less sit on it. He would not even back it out of the garage. We could laugh about how it came to be, and I have many good memories out riding together.

This is meant as a tribute to all the men and women who are serving or have served. It was a way to show my pride in my son for his service (and dumping it at an "opportune" time).

My son passed away 7/15/14 due to a motorcycle accident. I ride it today in remembrance of him and all who have gone before him.

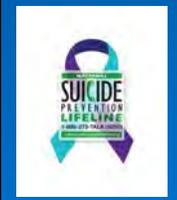
THANK YOU to all of the men and women who have served to protect my freedoms!

Rochelle (Rose) Clement

Rose and Jason



No One Gets Left Behind



September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

Many of us are affected by suicide. A recent study states that for every suicide, 25 people are impacted in some way. Loved ones are left behind to grieve and wonder if it could have been prevented, often blaming themselves.

While we can't begin to know the depths of someone's pain if they are unable to share that information with us, there are signs that indicate our loved one may need some help. While the month of September is dedicated to bringing awareness to Suicide Prevention, knowing the information below can help someone in crisis throughout the year.

Direct Signs

- Writing or talking about suicide, a wish to die, or death
 - Buying or storing things that can be used for suicide
- Preparing for their own death

Indirect signs

- Substance use- increase or excessive use
- Hopelessness-like nothing can be done to improve a situation
- Purposelessness- feeling no sense of purpose, no reason for living
- Anger-rage, seeking revenge
- Recklessness or risky behavior
- Feeling trapped or stuck in a bad situation, with no way out
- Social withdrawal- staying away from family and friends
- Mood changes- no interest in things they usually like to do



- Sleep disturbances- trouble sleeping or sleeping too much
- Guilt or shame
- Anxiety- agitated or irritable

If you or someone you know is in crisis, please call or text the crisis line- Veterans please press "1."



Year-to-Date Accomplishments

2015 Recap

Though the year is not quite over, we have accomplished a great deal, with the December 12th Remembrance Ceremony just around the corner.

All the efforts put forth by dedicated volunteers throughout the year will soon miraculously culminate in a most beautiful sight imprinted in our hearts on December 12.



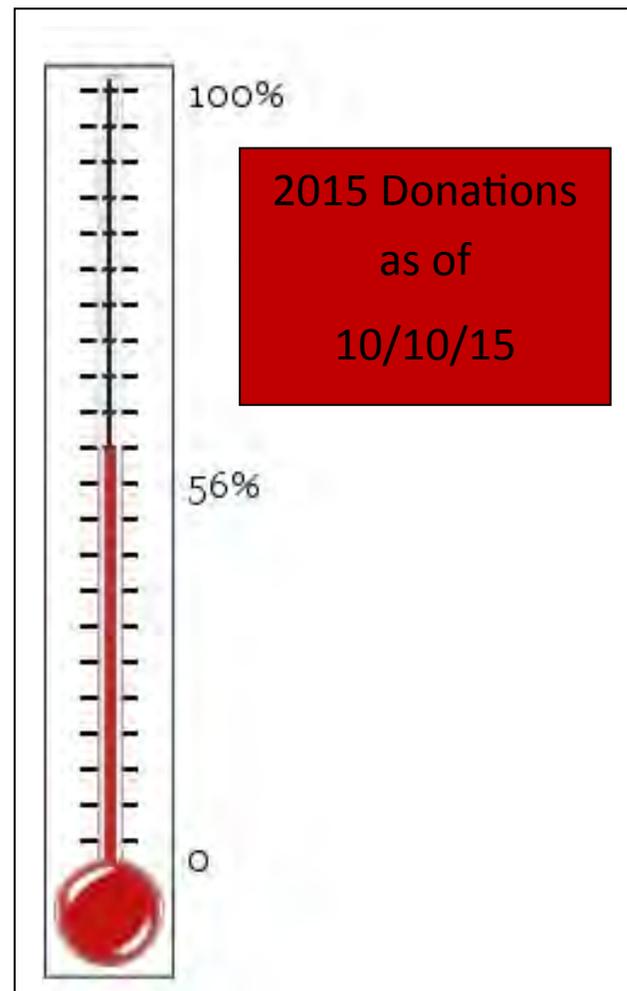
An endeavor that started in 2006 with 5 wreaths has grown exponentially to 3,800 in 2014. This year we anticipate we will need over 4,000 wreaths plus we will also support the new Minnesota State Veteran's Cemetery in Preston

The actual placing of the wreaths is a small part of what WFTF accomplishes throughout the year. In order to increase awareness for WTFT, we attend many Veteran-centered events during the year. In addition to the September events highlighted on page 1, these include:

- Morrison County Fair
- Benton County Fair
- Crow Wing County Fair
- State Fair
- VFW Pig Roast
- American Legion Meat Raffles

In our mission to honor our state's Fallen, we are only able to accomplish what we do because of our supporters. No amount is considered too small. We are grateful for your ability to help in your own way, whether it be through volunteer efforts, financial support, or spreading the word about WFTF.

THANK YOU- We appreciate you!



September Events in Pictures



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September Events (continued)



If you would like to sponsor a wreath in honor of a loved one, you may do so on our Website. Please look for this link on our Home page:



[Click on "Honor a Veteran Here"](#)

It's not about Us, It's about Them

What we envision for this section of our newsletter is stories of the Fallen.

Each year we place a growing number of wreaths at our Veteran's Cemeteries, and we often wonder about the men and women we honor.

We would love to hear about your loved ones! Please share with us stories of their lives, which may include dates of service, what branch of service, and also personal stories that tell us who they were.

If you would also like to include a picture or two along with your story, you may do that as well.

Please email stories & photos to:

Office@WreathsForTheFallen.org for inclusion in the newsletter.

**Thank you for letting us serve
your loved ones!**



SAVE THE DATE!

NATIONAL REMEMBRANCE
CEREMONY

DECEMBER 12, 2015

11:00 AM

MINNESOTA STATE
VETERANS CEMETERY
LITTLE FALLS & PRESTON