



AMVETS RIDERS



From Idea to Icon!



What started as an idea has grown into a major movement of veterans who share their love of riding their motorcycles and along the way, making life better for other veterans in need. The AMVETS Riders story here in Florida is one of determination, dedication, and a desire to uphold the AMVETS Motto, “Veterans Helping Veterans”!

In February 2006, then Florida Department Vice Commander Larry Arnett (also a past commander of Callaway’s Post 2298), met with a group of 44 AMVETS posts and Ladies Auxiliaries from throughout Florida, and advised them that the National AMVETS Headquarters in Maryland had authorized a new subordinate organization to be known as AMVETS Riders. Arnett presented a draft of the Riders National Constitution and Bylaws (CBL), explained how the Riders chapters would be organized, and then created a Department committee to write a Department of Florida CBL.

Jacque Dickson, who was at the time, the Callaway Post 2298 Commander had attended that meeting and wasted no time in getting the ball rolling and organizing a Chapter for the Callaway Post. She began working with motorcycle enthusiasts in the post and quickly formed the organization. In a short time, they developed their CBL and on March 1, 2006, then District IV Commander Frank Gregory (also a past commander of Callaway Post 2298), swore in their first officers and the Chapter’s CBL was voted on and approved by the membership. AMVETS Riders Chapter 2298 was born and as they say, “The Rest is History”.

In their short three year existence, the AMVETS Riders have personified the AMVETS goals of helping others through their numerous fundraisers including the renowned “Poker Runs”, “Wheels and Wings” nights and many other fundraisers which has resulted in community service credits of over \$63,000. They are a very active organization with events planned virtually on a weekly basis. Whether it’s a fun run or an organized fund raiser, it is conducted in accordance with all state safety laws and in the spirit of AMVETS goals.

Their efforts in support of veterans' causes have not gone unnoticed. In August of 2008, the Riders were invited to take a lap at the famous Daytona Speedway. Since then, they have had the honor of escorting the "Wall That Heals" through the local towns and communities to its staging area which recently was at Port St Joe. They have also escorted the "Vietnam Moving Wall" to its display site in St. Andrews. On April 28th, they will once again ride with the wall to its destination at Apalachicola for a 3 day display.

Below are some of the activities the Riders partake in:



7/17/2007. Riders Poker Run nets a check for \$3300 for wounded Iraq War Veteran Jeremy Cabaniss and his family.



2/28/2007. Riders escort the "Wall That Heals". They also volunteered to man the information desk during the viewing.



Memorial Day (Annually). Riders President Mike Lozon mans the Flag Line for Memorial Day ceremonies.



4/29/2006. AMVETS Riders on their first "Run" visit Post 47 on Panama City Beach. Membership has continually grown.

INTERESTED IN JOINING?

Membership in AMVETS Riders is restricted to those who can qualify to join the AMVETS, Ladies Auxiliary or Sons of AMVETS. You must join one of these organizations first. Call the post at 784-0066 for eligibility information or visit our web site at [www.AMVETS Post2298.org](http://www.AMVETSPost2298.org).