

Happy Holidays & God Bless Us All

Well here it is December already, I can't believe it is almost another year too. Only one good thing about it all my holiday shopping is done. I wish everyone a very joyous and safe holiday. Remember if your out partying line up a "Designated Driver", I don't want this to be anyone's last Christmas and New Year.

Don't have any plans dead set on the calendar written in stone so I'll try and spend a lot of time with my loved ones, besides my daughter is due to Bless me with my second grandson. Ben (her husband) and her are going to have fun raising two sons. I remember me and my oldest brother (also close in age) were a hand full, always getting in trouble for this and that, I think the worst is when Mom caught us smoking. She sat us down and made us smoke till we got sick.



I hope everyone is blessed and gets exactly what they have been wanting for Christmas. I can't really think of anything else I need. I've got my health, my family, my bike, my car and assorted rifles, shotguns and handguns. Who could ask for more except more AMMO, and of course the return of a few POWs would be FANTASTIC! By the way those of you that like to surf around the Internet, I have a web site up and running again (this is the second one), I took my first one off a few years back and my lovely lady kept on me till I made another one and copyrighted and published it. She keeps telling me I need to write a book, but that is a lot different then a web site. If you check it out it's best to maximize your screen and have your speakers on because there is music on some of the pages. Here is the address [www.retiredranger.com](http://www.retiredranger.com) all lower case, please sign the Guest Book too before you leave there is a link on the last page, Thank you.

Well until next year may all your Dreams come true and please be safe out there. God Bless all of are Troops, POWs~MIAs, their families and our Great Nation. Pray that our leaders are touched and run our nation the way that it is good for it's people. "Remember Keep On Triken' " and God Bless Us Everyone. Love you all and thanks for being loyal readers. I just found out about the election go to the following for my opinion [www.retiredranger.com/index10.html](http://www.retiredranger.com/index10.html). Skypilot

If you are wondering yes that is me as a Santa's Helper. Here's a picture of Mrs & Mr Claus, funny isn't it. We use this picture on our Christmas cards. There has to be a little humor at Christmas time.

We here at Free Riders Press wish Skypilot and all the rest of the Veterans out there a Merry Christmas and may God Bless you all.

Veterans Day is over but did you remember

Thank Veterans Day

It is fitting & proper that Veterans Day & Thanksgiving should be separated by only a short period of time for they both have a common thread. It is on Veterans Day that we gather to remember & pay respect to our Veterans, to give thanks for our freedom. Soon after, we gather with family & friends for Thanksgiving Day when we will again, among other things, give thanks for the freedoms that we hold dear. While we are giving thanks for those freedoms, do we ever give a thought about why we have them, how they came about?

Those freedoms did not just pop into being one day; they were purchased at a terrible price. The price was the blood, sweat, tears & even the lives of our forefathers in the Revolutionary War. They believed in the cause of freedom & were willing to fight to the death to break the shackles of tyranny, to make the great sacrifice so that those who followed would have the chance to live free.

Ever since those dark days of the Revolutionary War, our freedom has been under attack. There are those who feel that freedom is a dangerous thing & must be eliminated. They are the Hitler's & Mussolini's of the world who want to control everything. At the same time, there are the freedom loving men & women of the world, those who feel that freedom is worthy of maintaining, who have willingly stood up to that tyranny. They often sacrificed everything, even their very lives, that the flame of freedom would not die. They lie silently now in places such as Flanders fields, forgotten but for the markers above their final resting place. They have fought the good fight, they rest in peace & it is now our duty to carry the torch of freedom forward.

There are also those who fought the fight & were able to return home to their loved ones. As has been said tho, appearances can sometimes be deceiving for even as they walk & talk among us, they are the "walking wounded" for they carry memories, battle scars that can not be seen. Those are the memories that will haunt them the rest of their lives & in many cases they will silently suffer as a result. For the veterans did not fight for glory, praise & honour, they fought because their country & freedoms were in danger.

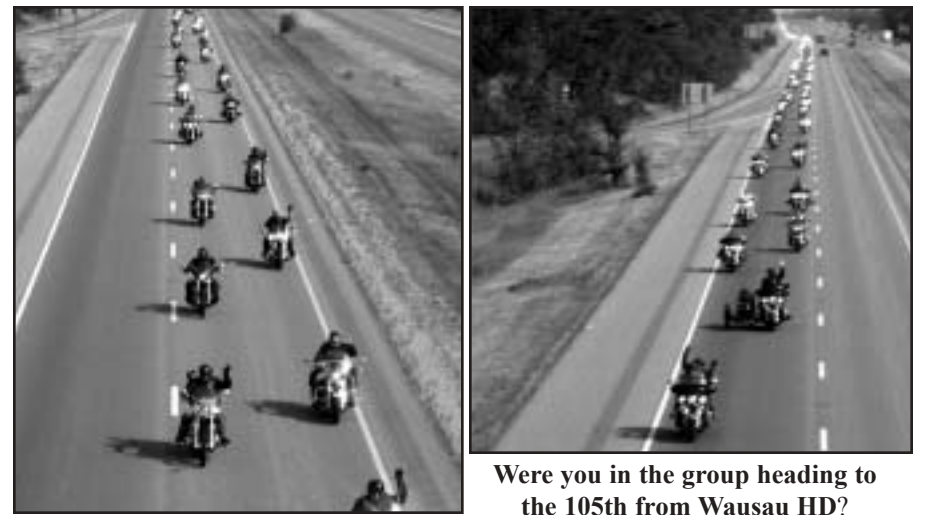
We should therefore not only give thanks for our freedom, but also give thanks for the veterans; let them know that their sacrifices are appreciated. To quote from an E-mail I recently received, "We should remember that a veteran is someone who, at one point in their life, wrote a blank check made payable to "The United States of America for an amount of up to and including my life." That is Honour, and there are way too many people in this country who no longer understand it."

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