

RUN FOR THE WALL



Sentinel Photo/JOSH JONES

A total of 584 riders came through Mt. Vernon on Tuesday as a part of the national Run for the Wall event. The riders rode to show their respect to veterans and all the sacrifices they had to make for people to remain free.

Run for the Wall rides through Mt. Vernon

Hundreds of people lined Broadway Street and waved to the passing riders

BY JOSH JONES
SENTINEL NEWS STAFF

MT. VERNON — Nearly 600 motorcyclists stopped in Mt. Vernon Tuesday afternoon as part of the national Run for the Wall annual event.

The 10-day trip started in California and will end at the Vietnam Memorial in Washington DC. Mt. Vernon was the only Illinois stop as riders were able to meet with various veterans as well as have lunch at the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport.

"I am so pleased and happy with the community for showing up," said Chris Collins Airport Director. "It shows we really care in our community."

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Sentinel Photo/JOSH JONES

MAYOR'S SPEECH — Mayor John Lewis spoke on the importance of honoring veterans, especially those that had given their lives for freedom, during the Run for the Wall ceremony at Mt. Vernon Outland Airport on Tuesday.



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SALUTE — The American Legion Post 141 Honor Guard was at Mt. Vernon Outland Airport performing Taps during the Run for the Wall ceremony on Tuesday as many people showed their respect for all the veterans who have made the ultimate sacrifice.



Sentinel Photo/JOSH JONES

SHOWING SUPPORT — Hundreds of people, including the students of Casey Middle School, lined up on Broadway Street to show their support and welcome the Run for the Wall riders on Tuesday as they stopped in Mt. Vernon for a short time before continuing on to the Vietnam Memorial in Washington DC.

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Mayor John Lewis spoke during the stop emphasizing the importance of honoring those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

"The men and women we honor today were real people, sons and daughters, mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, wives and husbands. They were loved, and they loved, and they are truly missed," Lewis said. "Ask yourself where would you be without the personal sacri-

fice made by these men and women. So it is an honor to be here today with so many of you that understand that freedom has a cost."

Richard England, a local veteran, met and shook hands with various riders and gave his reaction to the respect that was being shown for veterans in this ride.

"It means very much to me that nobody has forgot about them," England said.

This marked the third Run for the Wall for Bill Daenitz, a former Marine, and he discussed his reason for participating in Run for the Wall.

"I lost some friends in

Vietnam and I go there to pay tribute to them," Daenitz said. "But, I also learned about this Run for the Wall group and their mission and I love to support it."

Several organizations and businesses were involved in the event including The Diner & Bakery, Borowiak's IGA, Kroger, Cracker Barrel, Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen, The Frosty Mug, Jefferson County AMVETS, American Legion Post 141, the Mt. Vernon VFW, Kyle Price Foundation, ABATE, the Christian Motorcycle Association, HOOAH, Farrington Elementary School, Waltonville High School and many more.

"I can't say enough for Waltonville High School and Farrington Grade School for what they have done," said Steve England, HOOAH public relations official. "It all seems to be going good, we have right at 584 (riders), which is one of the largest groups we have ever had come through this area."

As riders prepared to hit the road once more, Kash Helicopter Services flew an authentic UH-1 Huey Helicopter, repainted in civilian colors and carrying the American Flag, over the heads of all the riders as they traveled to their next stop.

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