



GAXII Rode to Remember—GPMR 2009

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'We Ride to Remember'

2008

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Deputy Michael Sean Thomas
Officer Kathy Ann Cox
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Deputy David Whitfield Gilstrap Jr.

On April 25th, GAXII gathered at the weigh station on I-75 North in Monroe County meeting with other friends of law enforcement to the ride to Turner Field.

Riders from all over the State rode in by the 10s, then by the 20s, the 30s, the 100s, and by the time the hot sun had reached overhead in downtown Atlanta, there were thousands.

They came with grim determination on their faces, a quiet reverence. The growling cylinders of thousands of Harleys, Gold Wings and Choppers rippled the quiet morning at Turner Field.

It was a site that would make any person stand there in awe. In awe and compassion for the thousands of souls who had come to pay their respects and remember the sacrifice of eight police officers who died in the line of duty last year, including one of our own

Sean Michael Thomas. They were also there to remember those who had given their lives to protect the innocent.

GAVII hosted the first ever GPMR Honor Guard Competition in honor of Mike Thomas. The competition has become another way the Blue Knights Georgia VII foster the remembrance of our fallen comrades.

The 18th annual Georgia Police Memorial Ride left Turner Field more than 3,000 bikes, most carrying two riders, roared their engines and broke the silence of a quite Atlanta morning. Supporters of law enforcement stopped to watch as the riders with mounted flags honoring each fallen officer on the back of their cycles lead the 9-mile long train of bikes as they circled the Capitol and rode onto the downtown connector and left Atlanta. GAXII rode as part of the nearly 6,000 riders and passengers following a line of nearly 60 Atlanta Police motorcycles with their blue lights flashing. Along the ride, drivers and passengers stood beside their cars as we rode by. They waved, they saluted, one bowed his head and placed his

hand over his heart. Officers stood at attention at every intersection, and saluted as we passed by. Men and women working out in their yards stopped and took a moment's pause as more than 3,000 bikes passed through south Fayette County and into the city limits of Peachtree City. Young children left their baseball and soccer games to line the sides of Hwy 74. How could you not be proud to be part of such an event?

Hundreds of signs, bearing the names of all of Georgia's slain officers, lined the grassy entrance to the airport. More people stood and waived, paying their respects. We gathered in one of the airport hangars, but even in the massive building, some were forced to stand outside -- the crowd was larger than expected. This was, no doubt, the largest Memorial Ride ever put together by the Blue Knights Georgia VII.

GAXII rode to remember. GAXII rode never to forget the sacrifice of our brothers and sisters of law enforcement.

Credit: Cindy Morley, Fayette Daily News

May Birthdays

Larry Mooney: 05/11

Tifton Police P.D. Loses A Brave Officer

On April 22, 2009, Tifton, Georgia Police Motor Officer Terry Adams was killed in a motorcycle accident. Officer Adams was responding to a request for assistance from another officer who was in pursuit of a suspect. He was driving with his emergency equipment activated when a pickup truck pulled out of a shopping center and collided with his motorcycle head-on.

He succumbed to his injuries while being transported to a local hospital.

Officer Adams had served with the agency for seven years. He is survived by his wife and four children.



Chapter Events: June Meeting : 06//04

Georgia Chapter XII NEWS



**Blue Knights Law
Enforcement Motorcycle Club**

Georgia Chapter XII

P.O. Box 5995
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Visit Us At: www.blueknightsjaxii.org

Ride with Pride



Presidents Corner:

I would like to extend a special Thanks to Bibb S.O. and Macon P.D. assistance in getting us to Atlanta safely. I also would like to thank all the riders who joined GAXII on the ride to Atlanta. You helped make this year's ride the biggest ever.

I would like to encourage the same participation in future events. We have our poker run in September. Let's make it a great success.

A big THANK YOU goes out to Lou Crouch. You did a superb job in assisting with the escort to Atlanta, taking all the great photographs and your continued support in managing our website. We couldn't do it with out you!

Enjoy the great weather, be safe and....

RIDE WITH PRIDE!

Chapter Member in the Spotlight



Sean Michael Thomas. This month marks the one year anniversary of untimely passing of our Chapter Brother. Mike joined the Heaven 1 Chapter on May 25th, 2008. His last act as a Blue Knight was April 26th, 2008 when he ensured that our GAXII members and friends of law enforcement arrived in Atlanta safely during last year's Georgia Police Memorial Ride. Though he is gone, he is not forgotten. Blue Knights GAVII honored Mike by

naming the First Annual Honor Guard Competition at this year's Georgia Police Memorial Ride after him. Friends and family from all over Central Georgia rode with GAXII to Atlanta to remember him and other fallen heroes of law enforcement. This year GAXII brought the largest group to date. Somehow we all knew Mike was riding with us on April 25th and again he guided us on another safe journey. We miss you Mike.

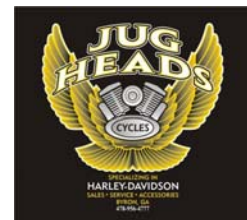


GAXII Holds Family Picnic

On March 21, 2009. GAXII held their Spring family picnic at the GPSTC Pavilion. Aside from good food and fellowship. GPSTC staff conducted EVOC and firearms demonstrations to family and friends. Some even tried their luck fishing. GAXII Thanks the Georgia Public Safety Training Center for allowing the Chapter to use the facilities without their support it would not have been a success.



Chapter Sponsors & Supporters



**Public Safety Outfitters
800-361-3933**

Among the Blue Knight members, "There are no strangers, only friends you haven't met"