



For immediate release:

## **10<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEMORIAL MOTORCYCLE RUN** **The Ride to Remember**

**More than 1,500 motorcycle riders** took part in the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Memorial Motorcycle Run, the *Ride to Remember*, Saturday. The ride, organized by Willi Butler, Heartland Heat Chapter of the Wind and Fire Motorcycle Club and David Dunn, owner of Margarita Island in OKC, remembers and honors the 168 people killed in the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building bombing, April 19, 1995. Many of the riders are active and retired first responders, many who were part of the rescue efforts in 1995.

Willi Butler, retired Oklahoma City Firefighter, "Working the bomb site was the hardest 11 days of my life. But I remember the people. The people who would bring us pizza and wheelbarrows of work gloves. Just like today, all of these motorcycle riders showing up is unbelievable. They don't have to be out here supporting this ride and the Memorial. **They do it to remember.**"

David Dunn, Co-Organizer of the Memorial Motorcycle Run explained why this ride is so important, "We come for the first responders and the 168 persons killed. Hate is not where we should be going. It's a completely different feeling when you walk through this Memorial."

The Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum is the sole recipient of the Motorcycle Run. In 2016, the charity ride raised \$52,000 for the beautification and operation of the Museum. The organizers hope to break the Guinness World Record for most participants in a charity run. Last year's attempt fell short by less than a dozen participants.

Mike Turpen, Chairman, Oklahoma City National Memorial Foundation, thanked all the riders and supporters, "**The greatness of America is gatherings just like this.** This is America...this is your finest hour to be with us. How far we've come in 22 years!"

### **MEDIA CONTACT**

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