



NCOM – National Coalition Of Motorcyclists / AIM - Aid for Injured Motorcyclists
AIM / NCOM - Free Legal And Legislative Consultation

Free All Brothers Behind Bars...

Editor: Mike SOS MC Retired...

Facts are stubborn things; & whatever may be our wishes, our inclinations, or the dictates of our passion,
They cannot alter the state of facts & evidence. - John Adams December 1770

NCOM Sponsors this Newsletter with a donation of \$250.00 per month. NCOM; Richard And Joseph Lester; Attorneys At Law...
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Sons Of Silence MC **EZ** from *Iowa* donates \$ 20.00 a month... **Silent Thunder MC; North Dakota** donates regularly...
Sons Of Silence MC from *North Dakota* donates \$ **95.00** a month... **Prairie Rattlers MC; North Dakota** donates \$ **35.00** a month...
SOS MC *Western North Dakota chapter* donates \$ 30.00 a month... **Rough-Riders MC; North Dakota** who donates \$30.00 a month.

Congratulations **Hells Angel Trent** on your upcoming release to a half-way house on September 25, 2013...
Congratulations **Forsaken Few Roadrat** on your upcoming release to a half-way house on October 3, 2013...

Welcome **Pagan Glen** to the NCOM Brothers behind Bars Newsletter Mailing List...
Welcome **Mongol Z-Man** to the NCOM Brothers behind Bars Newsletter Mailing List...
Welcome **Iron Coffin Scary** to the NCOM Brothers behind Bars Newsletter Mailing List...
Welcome **Winos Crew Mark** to the NCOM Brothers behind Bars Newsletter Mailing List...
Welcome **Highwaymen Bubba** to the NCOM Brothers behind Bars Newsletter Mailing List...
Welcome **Iron Horsemen Backwards Bob** to the NCOM Brothers behind Bars Newsletter Mailing List...

Editor's Correction: **Outlaw Rambo** release date of October 2013 was denied at Regional level, so things still up in the air, he expects BOP to keep denying him, but they have to let him go on his Release Date in May of 2014...

Happy Birthday **Hells Angel Gravel Dave** on September 2nd...

Happy Birthday **Outlaw Richie** on September 22nd...

Editor's Note: I would like to Thank **Manny** and the **Legion Of Doom MC** from *Florida* for their \$ 25.00 donation to this Newsletter...

Editor's Note: I produce this National Coalition of Motorcyclists Brothers Behind Bars Newsletter which is a non-partisan newsletter for Bikers by Bikers. Information from the Newsletter contains News Articles & other information that may be of interest to a biker behind bars. Financial support for this Newsletter comes mainly from NCOM, Motorcycle Clubs, And Confederations Of Clubs...

Editor's Note: Currently we are sending over 365 copies of this newsletter to members of **73 Motorcycle Clubs**...

Editor's Note: For *July* there were 2 issues, For *August* there were 2 issues, For *September* this is the 2nd issue...

Editor's Note: I would like to Thank my Wife "Kari" for getting these Newsletters ready to be mail...

News Article Sources: All News Articles contained in this NCOM Brothers Behind Bars Newsletter, unless source is specified, are obtained from the following 3 Web Sites: **Road Scholars**(*Wolf From Atlanta*), **Outlaw Biker World**, **White Trash News & Becky Cakes**...

Disclaimer: The News Media does NOT always tell the Whole Truth... It tends to sensationalize the News to Sell Newspapers...

In Fact, Many Times the News Media gets the Facts Wrong!!!

Editor's Note: It is too hard to keep up with counts, But for your info here are the Clubs that are getting the Brothers Behind Bars Newsletter (**74 Clubs**) in Prison: Avengers, Bandidos, Banshees, Barons, Black Pistons, Boozefighters, BPM, Breed, Brother Speed, Brotherhood Nomads, Brothers Of Wheels, Damned Deacon, D.C. Eagles, Death Squad, Derelicts, Devils Diciples, Diablos, El Forastero, Finks, Fly-In-Wheels, Forsaken Few, Free Souls, Galloping Goose, Ghost Riders, Grim Reapers, Gypsy Joker, Hells Angels, Hells Lovers, Hells Outcasts, Hermanos, Hessians, Hidalgo's, Highwaymen, In Country Vietnam, Iron Coffins, Iron Horsemen, Invaders, Iron Wings, Iron Mustangs, Legion Of Doom, Liberty Riders, Long Riders, Marauder's, Misfits, Mohawk Valley Riders, **Moloch**, Mongols, Motopsychoz, Nomads, Outlaws, Pagan's, Peckerwood, Phantom's, Pharoahs, Reapers, Renegades, Sadistics, Satans Soldiers, Scorpions, Set Free Soldiers, Sin City Deciples, Sons of Legion, Sons Of Silence, Sovereign, Sundowners, Thunderbirds, Unforegiven, Vagos, Vietnam Vets / Legacy Vets, Y-Rohirrin, Warlocks Pa, Warlocks, Winos Crew And Wheels Of Soul... With newsletters going to Australia, Canada, England, France, Finland, Germany, Norway, Sweden, & Wales...

Editor's Note (For BBB Only): Being a Patch holder in Good Standings does have it privileges... And this is one of them... If you are a Patch Holder in Good Standings & contact me, include your Chapter too... If you are Not a patch holder of a MC in Good Standings, Don't write me & request that I add you to the mailing list. You will only get rejected, as I only make very few special exceptions.

Editor's Note: I would like to Thank all of the contacts from all of the **Motorcycle Clubs** that verify if requesting member is in Good Standing with their Club; & all of the other assistance that you give me, such as address changes, being released, & soliciting donations...

Editor's Note: In the interest of cost savings, If you can share One copy of this newsletter where I am sending multiple copies to the same institution, please let me know... Thanks, Mike

I'm Bad, I'm Nationwide - By ZZ Top

Well I was rollin' down the road in some cold blue steel,
I had a blues man in back, and a beautician at the wheel.
We going downtown in the middle of the night
We laughing and I'm jokin' and we feelin' alright.
Oh I'm bad, I'm nationwide.
Yes I'm bad, I'm nationwide.

Easin' down the highway in a new Cadillac,
I had a fine fox in front, I had three more in the back.
They sportin' short dresses, wearin' spike-heel shoes,
They smokin' Lucky Strikes, and wearing nylons too.
'Cause we bad, we nationwide.
Yeah we bad, we nationwide.

Well I was movin' down the road in my V-8 Ford,
I had a shine on my boots, I had my sideburns lowered.
With my New York brim and my gold tooth displayed,
Nobody give me trouble cause they know I got it made.
I'm bad, I'm nationwide.
Well I'm bad, bad, bad, bad, bad, I'm nationwide.

Somebody stole my identity last week. Today, they showed up at my door & pleaded for me to take it back...

Bandidos leave money, good impressions – Sept 3, 2013 – *Utah* – By Tracie Sullivan; www.TheSpectrum.com - Biker rally produces no problems, boost to economy... After weeks of preparing & training for Labor Day weekend, Southern Utah law enforcement officials said they were satisfied with the way they handled increased traffic throughout the area. Some residents however, believe law enforcement went overboard in tactics to deal with the International Bandidos MC, whose conference brought more than 1,000 members to the region. While the conference was headquartered at Duck Creek, many of the Bandidos ate, slept & partied in Cedar City. In turn, Cedar City brought in law enforcement personnel from Hurricane, St. George, & Washington City, Iron & Washington counties, & the Dept of Public Safety & Homeland Security. Kane County had help from Sevier, Washington & Garfield counties & DPS. There was also a helicopter from the Border Patrol, a division of Homeland Security to assist to the 2 communities. Some residents argued that much of a presence wasn't necessary. "I think the cops overdid it," said Cedar City resident True Garant. "We went to Maverik on Airport Rd & there were like 4 or 5 bikers there & at least 10 Iron County (deputies). It was ridiculous. I thought something happened when I pulled up." She said she didn't witness any harassment, but said the officers did keep a close eye on the motorcycle riders. Garant had an opportunity while there to interact with them & said they were respectful. "I heard all this stuff about them before they got here & then I hear them at Maverik so apologetic over just taking up a parking spot," she said. But some residents said the strong police presence prevented any incidents. "The fact that this gang which is known for causing problems came to our city & left without causing any big problems to me is a huge win for the people of Cedar & to law enforcement," said Dave Foreman. St. George City Sgt. Johnny Heppler would agree with Foreman. The supervisor for the Fraudulent Identity & Securities Threats Unit in Washington County, part of Heppler's duties include overseeing the gang unit. He brought in all of his team to Cedar City for the weekend, which includes 3 officers from St. George P.D., one Washington County deputy & an agent from the Homeland Security Investigations. "Prevention efforts cannot be measured," Heppler said. "I wish we could but it has been my experience with outlaw motorcycle clubs that when there is a strong law enforcement presence in the area, there is less propensity for crime." Heppler also said, he'd "rather have an ambulance at the top of the cliff preventing people from going over the edge, than at the bottom hauling away dead bodies." From an economic standpoint, Cedar City business owners welcomed the additional business & praised the Bandidos for their behavior. "There were a lot of them (Bandidos) that came in & spent their money," Sizzler manager Brad Covington said. "And they were really nice. We didn't have any problems." Assistant Manager Dawn Gronowski said she didn't have any problems at the Holiday Inn Express, where some of the Bandidos stayed. "There was a guest who smoked pot in one of the rooms," she said. "But it wasn't he Bandidos." The bars in Cedar City also had their fair share of Bandido visitors over the weekend, with as many as 50 or more at one time, said Toadz manager Bryce Anderson. "The only issues we had all weekend were a couple of cowboys who thought they were tough & wanted to start something but the Bandidos handled it well & calmed the situation down," Anderson said. "The other issue was that we had 4 cops here at once sometimes, which actually drove business away. People thought there was a problem & didn't want to come in." There were also social media reports of the Bandidos leaving leftover food at the Cedar City Women's Crisis Shelter, but shelter manager Bailey BeRoest said she didn't receive any large food donations over the weekend & none came

in logged from the Bandidos. Cedar City P.D. Public Information Officer Jimmy Roden said the additional law enforcement in the area was partly due to the presence of the Bandidos, but noted that Labor Day weekend always includes overtime for officers, as it is one of the biggest weekends of the year for DUIs & additional problems. There were 4 DUIs reported in Cedar City & no incidents with the Bandidos. "We were proactive & vigilant in handling the issues this weekend," Roden said. As to claims by some that the Bandidos were harassed by the police, St. George's Hepler said police did not overreact, nor did they deal with the Bandidos without reason. "We reacted to the situation appropriately & addressed only those situations where members of the club were breaking the law. Whether that be traffic violations, DUIs, or something else," he said. "Bottom line, if someone broke the law we addressed it accordingly." According to Kane County public information officer Sgt. Alan Alldredge, Labor Day weekend is generally busy for his agency, as the area experiences more than 10,000 visitors. Having the Bandidos just increased that number & put a strain on local resources. In Kane County, there were only 2 DUIs reported over the weekend. The Iron County Sheriff's Dept's responsibility for the weekend was the Iron County Fair. Sheriff Mark Gower said he didn't deal with the Bandidos & didn't have any major incidents to report, except for someone in Parowan who was severely injured when she was kicked by a horse. There were additional costs for the weekend's police activities including lodging, meals, gas & overtime for officers. Kane County did receive a state grant for approximately \$17,000 to \$18,000 to help with some of this. Whether Cedar City received additional funds from the state is unknown at this time. "It won't cover it all though," Alldredge said. "But it will help."

Fed judge accepts no contest plea from 2 Outlaws MC members – Sept 3, 2013 – *Indiana* - By Kristine Guerra; www.IndyStar.com - A Fed judge has accepted a no contest plea from 2 members of the Outlaws MC, a decision that was made to save the court from an "expensive & time-consuming trial," Judge Tanya Walton-Pratt said in a ruling issued Tue afternoon. Joshua Bowser, the club's dubbed "enforcer," & Jamie Bolinger said last week that they wanted to plead no contest to charges of violating the **Racketeer Influenced & Corrupt Organizations Act**, or RICO, a Fed law intended to fight organized crime. In a no contest plea, defendants do not explicitly admit guilt. Instead, they waive their rights to a trial & allow the court to treat them as if they were guilty. Most of the other defendants who were scheduled for a jury trial next week already have pleaded guilty as part of an agreement with prosecutors. In her ruling, Walton-Pratt said she "cannot justify the time, expense & resources of a 6 to 7 week trial" if she were to reject Bowser & Bolinger's no contest plea. Bowser & Bolinger's attys argued the no contest plea is a fair compromise that will avoid a costly trial at a time when Fed budgets are already tight. Monica Foster, Bowser's lawyer, said the no contest plea is an "efficient way to manage the court's resources." "By accepting this, she (Walton-Pratt) has saved the Gov't probably about \$400,000 for a 7-week trial," said Foster, a Fed defender for the Indiana Fed Community Defenders Inc. Aside from the no contest plea, Bowser & Bolinger will plead guilty to the rest of the other charges against them, including wire fraud, illegal gambling & extortion. They also will waive their rights to jury trial on a drug charge. Prosecutors opposed the no contest plea. Assistant U.S. Atty Brad Blackington said in court documents that a no contest plea to RICO, instead of a guilty plea, would allow the defense to argue that the Outlaws MC is not an organized crime group. Such a plea also would allow disparate treatments of other defendants who are not leaders of the group &

already have pleaded guilty to RICO. Two other members of the Outlaws MC who were scheduled for jury trial next week, Stephen Duff & Vance Canner, have pleaded guilty to felony charges against them as part of a plea agreement with prosecutors. Duff & Canner are scheduled for a guilty plea hearing on Thu & Fri, respectively. Duff, also known as "Taser," is charged with fraud & illegal gambling. Canner is charged with illegal gambling & collection of debt by extortion, according to court records. Both are charged under the RICO statute. Two others, Charles Ernestes, charged with extortion, & Christian Miller, charged under the RICO statute, have not decided whether to plead guilty. All are among the 42 arrested after Fed agents raided the club's Near-Eastside headquarters at East New York St & Jefferson Ave last year. Two other mid-level members were sentenced last Feb. Kent Whittinger, also known as "Flush," was sentenced to 7 years & 3 months in prison after admitting to money laundering, gambling, extortion, witness tampering & cocaine distribution charges. Steven Reynolds, a member of the Outlaws' Fort Wayne chapter, was sentenced to 5 years & 10 months after pleading guilty to extortion & distribution of prescription drugs.

Ex-Hells Angels leader to serve prison term – Sept 3, 2013 – *California* – By Wendy Leung; www.vcstar.com - Former Hells Angels leader George Christie Jr. has been sentenced to 10½ months in prison in connection with the bombing of 2 Ventura tattoo shops in 2007, his attorney said. Christie, 66, will begin serving his sentence in about 2 months, said Michael Mayock, his attorney in the case. Court documents, including details on an apparent plea agreement & the sentencing by U.S. District Judge George Wu, are sealed. Christie & 3 others were arrested in 2011 on suspicion of taking part in bombing Scratch the Surface & Twisted Ink, 2 Main Street tattoo shops. At the time, Christie was president of the Ventura Hells Angels chapter & owner of a rival tattoo shop, The Ink House in Ventura. Christie originally faced 8 counts of extortion & use of explosives but pleaded guilty to one of the counts, according to Mayock. Mayock said Tuesday that Christie was not responsible for the attacks on the tattoo shops, adding that the judge did a great job looking at both sides. "It was a well-thought-out case. Both the prosecutor & defense were battling back & forth, & now it's all over," Mayock said. "Everyone recognized that the judge is the one in control, & the judge did a great job." The jury trial began in January in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles. On the second day of the trial, attorneys announced they had reached a settlement, according to court records. Christie was sentenced Aug. 15. The U.S. Attorney's Office declined to give details Tuesday because the case is sealed. "It's quite a win for Mr. Christie," said Robert Sheahen, Christie's personal attorney, who did not work on the Fed case. "He has retired from the Hells Angels. He's a happy man." Christie has spent time behind bars twice in unrelated cases. In 1986, he spent a year in Fed prison on charges of conspiracy to commit murder & murder for hire, for which he was eventually acquitted. He also pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to possess a prescription drug for sale & spent one year in jail in 2001.

On the first day of school, a first-grader handed his teacher a note from his mother. The note read, 'The opinions expressed by this child are not necessarily those of his parents ...'

A woman comes home & finds her husband in bed with another woman & yells "what in the world are you doing?" The man turns to his lover & says; "See? I told you she was stupid!"

Stubbs Does It Again - Sept 3, 2013 – *Nevada* - By The Aging Rebel; www.AgingRebel.com - Stephen “Bowtie” Stubbs, the gadfly biker attorney, filed 3 more lawsuits in Las Vegas last Friday. All 3 suits are intended to supersede an earlier lawsuit Stubbs filed on behalf of the Southern Nevada Confederation of Clubs. That suit was filed in June 2012. Fed judge Andrew P. Gordon ruled last July that the COC did not have standing to sue & gave Stubbs until last Friday to modify & refile the original suit. At the time, Stubbs said, “What has happened is that Fed Court Judge Andrew Gordon granted me a ‘do over’ with some guidance.” “Judge Gordon specifically states that all claims for relief are to be grouped by club, dismisses all claims but the Mongols claims, grants me leave to amend the Mongols claims to repair any defects, & then instructs me to file new & separate claims for the other clubs.”

Mongols Complaint: The first of the 3 suits was filed on behalf of 22 members or associates of the Mongols Motorcycle Club against the Las Vegas Metropolitan P.D., 8 named defendants including former Boulder City, Nevada Chief of Police Thomas Finn & 20 John Does. The new suit alleges that official harassment began in Oct 2011 when Vegas Metro forced a place called the Mountain Springs Bar to cancel a charitable event sponsored by the Mongols but most of the allegations refer to various incidents that occurred when the club held its national run in Boulder City in June 2012. According to the suit, police tried to prevent the club from holding the national run; “conspired & devised a plan to harass members of the Mongols MC & their guests to the point that they would never want to come back to Boulder City or Southern Nevada ever again;” illegally entered the Mongols motel; & treated Mongols cases differently than other cases. The suit also claims Las Vegas & Boulder City police falsified police reports & tried to hide evidence.

Boulder Inn: A second law suit seeks to personally sue former Chief Finn, Boulder City Police Captain Vinnie Albowitz & “Boulder City Officer Pastore” as well as the same defendants named in the Mongols suit on behalf of the Boulder City Inn & Suites – which is where the Mongols stayed during their visit. This suit claims Boulder City Police set up surveillance cameras supplied by Vegas Metro inside the hotel grounds. When Stubbs, who was representing the Mongols, called Finn to complain the police chief told the lawyer to “quit bitching” & refused to let Stubbs file a complaint.

Stray Cats: The 3rd filing is on behalf of 6 members or associates of the Stray Cats MC who are suing the North Las Vegas P.D. over 2 separate incidents in Jan & March 2012. In Jan, police raided a discussion of Constitutional law after listening bikers listened to a lecture by Stubbs. At least a dozen cops, broke up the meeting, threatened to tow the participants’ motorcycles & contrived a charge against one of the men. When Stubbs tried to intervene an unnamed female cop told him, “there is no right to counsel on the streets of North Las Vegas, only in a court room.” In March, police broke up another gathering using a search warrant obtained with a bogus affidavit. All 3 lawsuits seek damages for each complainant “in excess of \$75,000 as well as injunctive relief – which means the defendants will be enjoined from doing the same things again. The defendants must respond to the suits this month.

Fairland man set to stand trial in Outlaws case – Sept 5, 2013 – *Indiana* – By Paul Gabler; www.ShelbyNews.com - While others have pleaded guilty recently, a Fairland man with reported ties to a motorcycle gang has not entered a plea & is slated to stand trial next week. Charles N. Ernestes II was among 42 people indicted across Indiana in July 2012 as part of raids on the Outlaws MC. The raids were conducted by the FBI, U.S. Marshal

Service & the U.S. Attorney’s Office. Tim Harty, spokesman for the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Indianapolis, confirmed Tuesday afternoon that Ernestes is scheduled to undergo jury selection Friday at 9 a.m. Harty also said a jury trial is expected to begin Monday at 9 a.m. in the Birch Bayh Fed Building & U.S. Courthouse in Indianapolis. “This is a very significant trial in our office. The defendants are looking at decades behind bars if convicted. We are encouraged & hope to significantly dismantle a criminal enterprise,” Harty said. The march to a trial comes on the heels of 2 members of the Outlaws MC having no contest pleas accepted by a Fed judge this week. Judge Tanya Walton-Pratt decided Tuesday afternoon to accept the pleas of Joshua Bowser, the club’s “enforcer,” & Jamie Bolinger to charges of violating the Racketeer Influenced & Corrupt Organizations Act. The act is a Fed law intended to fight organized crime. In a no contest plea, defendants do not explicitly admit guilt, but, rather, waive their rights to a trial & allow the court to treat them as if they were guilty. Aside from the no contest plea, Bowser & Bolinger will plead guilty to the rest of the other charges against them, including wire fraud, illegal gambling & extortion. According to the initial indictment, Ernestes is accused of collection of extensions of credit by extortionate means & used Bowser to collect the extensions of credit. Assistant U.S. Attorney Brad Blackington has previously described Ernestes as “a millionaire CEO.” The indictment says between Feb. 11, 2011, & Feb. 24, 2011, Joshua Bowser, who was also arrested in the sweep, & Ernestes knowingly conspired to extort, as punishment, a person who had not repaid a \$138,000 loan Ernestes made. The indictment also says Ernestes paid Bowser to perform an assault on the victim. Bowser has been described as the club’s “enforcer”. At a hearing shortly after his arrest last year, Ernestes pleaded not guilty. U.S. Attorney Joe Hogsett’s office has said Ernestes could “face decades in prison, if convicted.”

Dozens arrested by police during weekend motorcycle rally in St. Louis – Sept 3, 2013 – *Missouri* – By www.stltoday.com - A crackdown on the Ride of the Century motorcycle rally here this weekend by authorities netted dozens of arrests. St. Louis police arrested 47 people, most for reckless driving. In addition, police had 58 motorcycles towed in the city of St. Louis. The Missouri H.P. & St. Louis County police also arrested motorcyclists from Thu to Sunday, when hundreds of them converged on the St. Louis area for a massive Labor Day weekend ride around town. In the days leading up to the rally, area police promised to step up patrols, stage safety checkpoints & send letters to insurance companies that hold policies with ticketed motorcyclists. The 47 arrests made by St. Louis police include 5 on suspicion of operating a stolen motorcycle & 10 for traffic violations. The Missouri H.P.’s preliminary totals Tue revealed that the patrol towed 20 motorcycles & arrested 5 people. Those 5 arrests were for misdemeanor drug possession, outstanding arrest warrants & one driver who tried to run from authorities after troopers found him with a stolen motorcycle. The patrol also issued cited people for at least 55 traffic violations. St. Louis County police, meanwhile, reported that its special operations detail made 6 arrests & towed 8 motorcycles. All of the arrests were for registration violations. Two of the motorcycles that were towed were done so at the request of hotel managers, police say. Those motorcycles had missing vehicle identification numbers. St. Louis County Police Officer Randy Vaughn said no one was arrested in any moving violations, although motorcycles refused to stop for officers 3 times. The county didn’t keep a count of how many citations or arrests regular patrol officers may have given to people connected to the Ride of the Century rally.

The AIM/NCOM Motorcycle E-News Service is brought to you by Aid to Injured Motorcyclists & the National Coalition of Motorcyclists, & is sponsored by the Law Offices of Richard M. Lester. If you've been involved in any kind of accident, call us at 1-(800) ON-A-BIKE or visit www.ON-A-BIKE.com ...

Biker Newsbytes: Compiled & Edited by Bill Bish, NCOM

2 Million Bikers to DC” Trumps “Million Muslim March: A few dozen demonstrators attending a rally on the National Mall, once billed as the “Million Muslim March”, were vastly outnumbered by hundreds of thousands of motorcycle riders from across America participating in the “2 Million Bikers to DC” ride to honor September 11 victims & to counter the pro-Muslim rally that many said was inappropriate for such a solemn day in U.S. history. The American Muslim Political Action Committee scheduled the rally to draw attention to what it said is an unfair & ongoing fear of Muslims after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Among the bikers, however, the provocatively scheduled rally was considered an insult to the nearly 3,000 people who died on Sept. 11, 2001, when Islamic terrorists hijacked 3 commercial jets & crashed them into the World Trade Center buildings in New York & the Pentagon in Arlington. Another hijacked plane headed for Washington, D.C. crashed near Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Though the biker gathering fell short of 2 million strong, some estimates ran as high as 880,000 riders, & “What began as an idea on Facebook quickly turned into a national movement thanks to social media & dedicated bikers from around the nation,” wrote the Examiner.com; & as bikers from as far away as the west coast began their journey to D.C., Twitter lit up with photos & videos showing thousands of bikes overflowing out of rest stops & parking lots as the hastily organized ride gained momentum. So many turned out that plans to have them ride through the streets of the Capital had to be changed, particularly in light of the fact that local authorities denied a permit that would have provided the riders a police escort through traffic --- a sore spot with organizers who believe the denial was for political purposes. “We didn’t need a permit in the first place,” National Event Organizer Belinda Bee told a local Fox News station, citing D.C. law; “it shall not be an offense to assemble or parade on a District street, sidewalk, or other public way, or in a District park, without having provided notice or obtained an approved assembly plan.” So the event went on -- legally -- without the permit, although the group apologized to the public that “What could have been a one or 2 hour ride through” tied up Beltway traffic from early morning into the afternoon. Co-founders Belinda Bee & “Top Fuel” Bill Williamson credited everyone who helped with the unprecedented success of this year’s ride, & promised another ride next year, “and every year for Sept 11.” “Sending out a BIG Thank You to all who supported & cheered on the 2 Million Bikers to DC ride,” e-mailed Angel Richardson, a member of the NCOM Board of Directors who attended the hugely successful event; “We have a kick ass bunch of patriots!”

Christian & Veteran Bikers Sue Over Being Thrown Out of Fair: Motorcyclists who were thrown out of the Florida State Fair for displaying their love of America & Christianity on their vests must amend their lawsuit, a Fed judge has ruled. According to Courthouse News, Mark Denico, Thomas Griswold Jr., Timothy Newberry & Dennis Walsted had arrived at the Florida State Fair on Feb. 7, 2010. Denico & Griswold are members of the U.S. Military Vets MC, while Newberry & Walsted belong to the Spirit Riders Motorcycle Ministry. Walsted said he was planning to “lead all the motorcyclists in prayer once inside the fair,” but he & the others were escorted out once they paid for admission. Fair

rules ban gang colors or signs, & members of the Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office told the quartet that they could not enter the fair while wearing vests with the patches indicating motorcycle club membership. Tampa Bay Times reported that approximately 50 bikers from numerous clubs were turned away that day. In their subsequent lawsuit, the 4 accused law enforcement & fair officials of violating their First Amendment rights to freedom of association & religion. U.S. District Judge Virginia Hernandez Covington nevertheless dismissed the complaint without prejudice because it failed to specifically indicate claims under the Fed civil right law Section 1983, which creates a private right of action for civil damages. The fair demonstrated that the “plaintiffs’ naked reference to § 1983 is insufficient for defendants or this court to assume that they intended to bring [counts one through nine] under its rubric,” according to the ruling. “Plaintiffs may have identified constitutional rights alleged to have been violated, but have failed to allege causes of action associated with those violations,” Covington added. The judge also declined to give the plaintiffs an injunction restraining the defendants from “ordering, compelling, bullying, requesting, coercing, or threatening a member of a motorcycle club or motorcycle ministry to remove their vests with ‘patches’ on them signifying membership within a particular organization.” Injunctions are appropriate only if plaintiffs can show they will continue to be harmed during the course of litigation, according to the ruling. “Conspicuously absent from the operative complaint is any allegation that the plaintiffs intend to return to the Florida State Fair wearing their prohibited patches or that the plaintiffs face specific future harm at the hands of the defendants,” Covington wrote. Vaguely alleging that “the Florida State Fair Authority will continue to selectively exclude certain motorcyclists from the fair” is not sufficient to reach the standard for an injunction, the court ruled, & so the club members must amend their complaint before moving forward with the lawsuit.

Motorcyclist Fined for Tire Treads: A New York rider who set out for a Friday the 13th motorcycle trip to Port Dover, Ontario told local CTV News that he was unfairly ticketed & pulled off the roads by Waterloo Regional Police in Canada. Jeff Selby of Elmira, NY claims the officers were excessive in their punishment after a routine roadside check found the tread on his motorcycle tires was point 5 millimeters under code. Selby says he offered to drive his bike straight to a repair shop to have the tire replaced but the officers said no. “He goes it doesn’t matter. Your bike will be off the road as of today. We’re gonna take your plate, we’re gonna charge you & you’re gonna have to get a tow truck.” Selby told the news station that he understands the safety concerns but says he has a clean driving record & deserves a warning first, & that the 5 hundred or more dollars he’s now facing in fines, relicensing fees & towing cost is exorbitant. Police there say the law is the law & you can’t put a price on safety, adding that when it comes to safety there’s no room for warnings or second chances & it’s their responsibility that’s on the line. The legal regulation for tires on any motorized vehicle is that they have to have at least 1.5 millimeters of tread on the majority of the tires circumference.

Sikh-ing Helmet Exemptions Down Under: On April 23, 2013, Queensland became the fourth Australian province to exempt bicyclists from the Sikh community from wearing a helmet. Calling it a “common-sense approach,” Queensland transport minister Scott Emerson said, “By amending the Queensland Road Rules, we will join Victoria, South Australia & Western Australia which also have this exemption.” Now, Sikh motorcycle riders

are seeking exemption from helmet laws as well. Harpreed Singh, who is originally from New Delhi, told ABC News that he has not ridden a motorbike since moving to Tasmania in 2008 because of the legal requirement to wear a helmet. Members of the Sikh faith wear turbans for religious reasons & do not want to remove them. "I have ridden motorbikes all my life & in India it is allowed & even in the UK, Canada & the US, Sikhs can ride a bike with a turban on." Anti-discrimination commissioner Robin Banks says it would be better to exempt the entire Sikh religion, in order to avoid the situation where every Sikh has to apply for an exemption & then prove they have one if they are stopped by the police. She too points to other parts of the world where similar changes have been made: "In Canada there's been human rights cases that have decided that instead of having to wear a motorbike helmet, or even a safety helmet on building sites, [they] are permitted to wear their turbans." The Tasmanian Gov't says the transport commissioner has the power to exempt individuals from wearing a helmet. In Tasmania, the fine for not wearing a helmet is \$140 & 3 demerit points.

Accidents Possibly Linked to Brain Miscalculations: Incidences of cars pulling out in front of motorcyclists run regularly in headlines -- locally, statewide & throughout the nation -- & there could be a scientific reason. Recent research by a Texas Tech University psychologist suggests that the regularity of this problem isn't necessarily a case of poor driving or carelessness, but may be related to a basic human judgment error. Pat DeLucia, the coordinator of the Human Factors Psychology Program, said her results show that small, near objects can appear farther away than larger, farther objects. The study is published in the peer-reviewed scientific psychology journal "Current Directions in Psychological Science." An interest in softball prompted DeLucia to study how the human brain perceives objects, their size & motion & an object's time to impact. Her finding -- that an object's size affects distance perception -- may be the basis explaining why car drivers miscalculate motorcyclists' distance & speed. Many times, the brain interprets objects with a larger retinal image as closer. Since motorcycles are smaller than cars, DeLucia said the brain may use this shortcut to judge a smaller motorcycle farther away than it actually is. This size-arrival effect can lead drivers to misjudge when a vehicle would arrive at an intersection & could be considered a contributing factor in motorcycle/vehicle accidents. DeLucia hopes to find funding from the Texas Dept of Transportation to create an educational program to inform drivers of her findings & reduce the incidents of these types of accidents.

Honda Touts Technology to Cut Motorcyclist Fatalities: Honda North America executives announced that the Japanese automaker hopes 2 experimental safety technologies it is testing could help reduce pedestrian & motorcycle deaths by the end of the decade. By equipping a car & smartphone with wireless dedicated short range communications technology, Honda said it can alert both a driver & pedestrian, or motorcycle rider, of an impending collision. Vehicle-to-Pedestrian & Vehicle-to-Motorcycle technologies are still in the early development & testing stages, but Honda intends to integrate the advanced collision sensing & predictive technologies into their vehicles through a special licensed radio band that allows cars to send & receive messages from surrounding vehicles. The system that might be an app one day on a smartphone is capable of alerting drivers that a pedestrian or motorcycle is near, even if the driver can't see them, in time to avoid a collision. Jim Keller, chief engineer for Honda R&D Americas, Inc. said connected vehicle technology could be on the road by 2020, & the technology would be much cheaper

than implementing cameras & other safety systems equipped on vehicles today. Honda is one of 8 automakers involved in a Fed vehicle-to-vehicle communication study which began a year ago in Ann Arbor with the help of the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute & has been extended 6 months.

Weird News: Blind Disabled Motorcyclist Sets Speed Record: The dangers of riding a motorcycle are obvious even to able-bodied operators, yet blind, disabled Scottish biker Stuart Gunn threw caution to the wind by setting a new world record by clocking 167.1 mph. Gunn is a real world Daredevil, & with a little help from his father, Geoff, the pair ride together & dad cheerfully informs his son if he's drifting or should brake, assisting his blind & paralyzed-from-the-waste-down son to beat world speed records. "I hope this proves to people that just because you are blind or have a disability, doesn't mean it should change or limit your life," says Gunn, the World's Fastest Blind Motorcycle Rider.

Quotable Quote: "The natural progress of things is for liberty to yield, & Gov't to gain ground." ~ Thomas Jefferson to Edward Carrington, Paris, May 27, 1788



Supreme Court ruling threatens to invalidate Kansas hard 50 sentences - August 4, 2013 - *Kansas* - By Hurst Laviana; www.kansas.com - A U.S. Supreme Court decision that prompted the Kansas Attorney General's Office to drop plans to seek a hard 50 sentence against convicted wife-killer Brett Seacat could invalidate the hard 50 sentence given to Scott Roeder, who was convicted of murdering abortion doctor George Tiller. The ruling also may force prosecutors to abandon plans to seek hard 50 sentences in some other cases, including the case of a Wichita man who was convicted last week of stomping his girlfriend to death with steel-toed boots. It could prevent the state from seeking a hard 50 for a man convicted last month of strangling a Wichita woman in 2011 while on parole for murdering a woman in Lawrence more than 2 decades earlier. District Attorney Marc Bennett said the ruling, known as the Alleyne decision, could have an impact on any hard 50 case in Kansas that is on appeal, & could change the way prosecutors deal with first-degree murder cases in the future. "Clearly it will be an issue that we will have to address," he said. Defense lawyer Richard Ney was more blunt in his assessment of the ruling. "The hard 50 is dead as far as it exists in Kansas right now," he said. "For cases that are not final, & Roeder would be one of them, I think they're certainly in question." If the state wants to keep its hard 50 sentencing law,

Ney said, the Kansas Legislature will probably have to adopt a sentencing system that includes a separate penalty phase in any first-degree murder trial where prosecutors seek a 50-year minimum sentence. When the state enacted a hard 40 sentencing law in 1990 – the precursor to today’s hard 50 law – it used such a system where the jury that found a defendant guilty of first-degree murder would sit at a separate penalty phase & determine whether to impose a hard 40 sentence. The state later turned the decision of whether to impose hard 50 sentences over to judges.

The Alleyne decision: The Supreme Court ruling that is threatening to invalidate the Kansas law involved Allen Alleyne, who was convicted of taking part in a 2009 robbery in Richmond, Va., in which his partner held a gun to the neck of a convenience store manager. A jury convicted Alleyne of taking part in the robbery but was not asked to determine whether he brandished his gun during the crime. The sentencing judge, however, ruled that Alleyne reasonably foresaw that his partner would brandish his gun during the holdup. And because a weapon was brandished, the judge followed Virginia law & increased Alleyne’s minimum sentence from 5 to 7 years. In overturning the sentencing, the Supreme Court said the brandishing of a weapon – or any element of a crime that can increase a prison sentence – must be proved beyond a reasonable doubt to a jury. In releasing the Alleyne decision, the Supreme Court sent a similar case – *Astorga v. Kansas* – back to Leavenworth County District Court for resentencing. Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt cited both cases in his decision to abandon efforts to seek a hard 50 sentence in the Seacat case. “Upon thorough review of the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in Alleyne, the state does not believe the procedural & factual posture of this case allow for the application of (the hard 50 law) in its current form. Therefore, the state is no longer seeking the imposition of a mandatory term of imprisonment of 50 years,” he wrote in a court filing.

The Kansas law: As it now stands, Kansas’ hard 50 law says a judge must weigh aggravating & mitigating factors before deciding whether to grant a prosecutor’s request to impose a hard 50 sentence. The law lists several aggravating factors that include a prior conviction for a crime that caused death or great bodily harm, the commission of an act that creates a great risk of death to more than one person, & the commission of a crime in an especially heinous, atrocious or cruel manner. The law also lists mitigating factors that may include a defendant’s age, a defendant’s lack of criminal history & the fact that a defendant was a minor participant in the crime for which he or she was convicted. If a judge rules that one or more aggravating factors exist, & decides that the existence of such factors is not outweighed by any mitigating circumstances, the law says the defendant shall be sentenced to life without parole for a minimum of 50 years. The first local impact of the ruling could come on Aug. 1 at the sentencing of Tyrone Walker, 47, who was convicted of first-degree murder in the strangulation death of Janis Sanders. Her nude body was found in the 1100 block of South Washington on June 4, 2011. During his trial last month, jurors were told that Walker was convicted in Douglas County of a committing a similar murder in Lawrence in 1989. Another test could come on Aug. 15 at the sentencing of Anson Bernhardt, 42, who was convicted Thursday of premeditated first-degree murder in the Sept. 30 death of Amber Kostner. Prosecutors said Bernhardt kicked & stomped Kostner 20 to 30 times with steel-toed boots before leaving her to die at the side of the road near Campus High School.

Special Session of 2013: An Act concerning crimes, punishment & criminal procedure; relating to sentencing of certain persons to mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of 40 or 50 years; amending K.S.A. 2012 Supp. 21-6620 & 21-6624 & repealing the existing sections. Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas: (This is a 9 page doc, which is too long for here)...

Kolano Murder Case Ends - Sept 3, 2013 – Pennsylvania – By The Aging Rebel; www.AgingRebel.com - A long running homicide case was finally resolved last Friday when a Pennsylvania judge named Philip A. Ignelzi sentenced a Pagans Motorcycle Club patch holder named Kevin J. Doolin to 18 to 36 months in jail & 2 years probation. Doolin pled no contest to one count of involuntary manslaughter. The judge gave Doolin credit for 1,019 days served so Doolin will be free in about 2 months. Doolin’s sentencing concludes a sensational case that began on March 12, 2009 in a roadhouse called the Longview Lounge in North Versailles, Pennsylvania near Pittsburgh.

Albert Kolano: According to reports at the time, Albert Kolano & 2 friends went to the Longview to hear some music & that somehow led to an altercation with at least a dozen Pagan’s. Kolano called his brother to help him get out of there. Somebody in the bar called police. After Kolano’s brother arrived, with no police in sight, Kolano walked outside at about 1:30 am & got into his car. He was confronted by a Pagan, & former Pittsburgh cop, named Bryan Perun. When Kolano’s brother tried to drive away Perun allegedly stabbed a tire & said “You ain’t going nowhere.” Perun then pulled a gun & fired one shot into the ground & another shot in the air. As Kolano drove out of the parking lot he passed a Sport Utility Vehicle occupied by John Miller, Nathaniel Robinson & Doolin. Allegedly, Doolin fired 2 shots at Kolano’s car. Kolano was shot in the torso & drove a short distance before drifting off the road & crashing into a tree. After police discovered Kolano he was pronounced dead at the Univ of Pittsburgh Medical Center. Kolano was 33 years old.

Legal Aftermath: The case against the 4 accused men was complicated when it was eventually disclosed that an FBI informant named James R. “Pagan Ronnie” Howerton was in the bar when Kolano walked in. Neither the FBI nor local police have ever explained what part Howerton played in the dispute, which was reportedly over the music on the jukebox. Perun, Miller, Robinson & Doolin were all charged with conspiracy to murder. Perun was also charged with aggravated assault & reckless endangerment. Doolin, who fired the shot that killed Kolano was also charged with murder. The charges against Miller & Robinson were soon dropped. Judge John K. Reilly Jr. dropped the charges against Doolin in June 2010 when he learned that Howerton had been in the bar trying to make drugs deals. Howerton’s role had never been disclosed to Doolin’s lawyer. Perun was tried & found not guilty in Oct 2011. The murder charge against Doolin was reinstated by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in July 2010. He was released on \$400,000 bond with electronic monitoring in September 2010 but his bond was revoked in May 2012 after police learned that Doolin had gone to a Steelers football game. Doolin has been in jail since then. This story was published on Sept 3, 2013 & revised on September 4. The original story said Doolin pled guilty. In fact, he pled nolo contendere or “no contest.”

Smart Ass Answer: The police officer got out of his car as the kid who was stopped for speeding rolled down his window. ‘I’ve been waiting for you all day,’ the officer said. The kid replied, ‘Yeah, well I got here as fast as I could.’ When the cop finally stopped laughing, he sent the kid on his way without a ticket.

Fugawi MC ready for reality TV debut – Sept 3, 2013 – *New York* – By Alex Taylor; www.USAToday.com - Despite their outlaw image, the Fugawi Motorcycle Club is anything but a gang of troublemakers, members say. More like a bunch of middle-aged family men with an outsized love of loud bikes... Don't be fooled by their Harley-Davidson hogs or the skull & tomahawk stitched onto their black leather vests. Despite their outlaw image, the Fugawi MC is anything but a gang of troublemakers, members say. More like a bunch of middle-aged family men with an outsized love of loud bikes, practical jokes & roadside restaurants. "People see bikers, they think 'bad,'" says club president Scott Sanguinetti, 48, known as "Mudflap." "It's not true. It's a bunch of crap. We don't all have tattoos & long hair." Beginning Tuesday at 10 p.m., the Chestnut Ridge, N.Y.-based bikers will roar across television screens when their reality show, *We're The Fugawis*, makes its debut on the History Channel. The 10-episode, half-hour series follows the adventures — & misadventures — of the bikers as they hang out at their clubhouse or hit the highway, revving engines & billowing clouds of exhaust smoke. "Wherever we go people start following us," says Sanguinetti, who runs the Nanuet New & Used second-hand store when he's not riding his 1996 Harley Ultra Classic. "We could have fun at an insurance seminar." The bikers — who go by nicknames such as "Wise One," "Tommy Gunz," "Holeshot" & "Old Timer" — also have to balance their motorcycle lifestyles with day jobs as plumbers, electricians & general contractors. The Fugawis (pronounced fuh-ga-we) were started in 2006 by a group of lifelong buddies, many of them graduates of Nanuet High School, who were looking for an escape from life's complications. Appropriately, one of their slogans is "Don't worry about it." "Truthfully, I bought my motorcycle to get away from trials & tribulations of life," explained Pat F. Capasso, 49, of Suffern, N.Y., who goes by the name of "Medicine Man." "When I'm on my bike, & the wind is on my face, I forget about everything." Their bike brotherhood grew steadily larger. The Fugawis now have 20 or so members scattered across Rockland County, N.Y., & Northern New Jersey. During riding season, the club participates in annual charity events & organizes weekend road trips to Lake George or spins to favorite haunts such as Biggie's Clam Bar on Route 17 in Carlstadt, N.J. "We don't fool around when it comes to food," says Capasso, who recommends Biggie's oysters on the half-shell. The Fugawis landed their show after a playing a bit part in 2012's *The Dark Knight Rises*. The bikers liked being in front of a camera so much they decided to share their story on television. A daughter of one of the club's members, Daria Scoccimarro, introduced the bikers to the New Wave Entertainment production company where she works. The meeting led to a pilot. *We're The Fugawis* began filming in early April. According to Capasso, who rides a 2004 H-D Road King, the months of shooting did little to crimp the club's uninhibited humor & sense of adventure. "The only thing I had to curb was my language," he says, chuckling. "After the first week, I forgot the cameras were around." For his part, Sanguinetti hopes the family-friendly show helps to combat stereotypes about bikers. "We wanted to show the humor," he says. "Not the hard-core."

Discovery Channel Show Accused of Assault – Sept 4, 2013 – *California* - By Matt Reynolds; www.courthousenews.com - The Discovery Channel let cameras roll as cast members of the biker reality show "The Devils Ride" beat a man in a bar brawl, & then broadcast the assault without his consent, the man claims in court. Plaintiff Ashi Fachler, who describes himself as a "street photographer," says the now-defunct Lincoln Room invited "Devils Ride" filmmakers into the bar on the night of Jan. 27, 2012 so cast members could provoke fights with members of the

public for the reality show. Fachler claims that as he took pictures outside the crowded bar, things got out of hand. With cameras rolling, he says, members of the "Devils Ride" cast kicked & punched him & hit him with glasses & "other objects yet unknown." "Cast members instigated an enormous fight between numerous invitees & guests of the Lincoln Room," the lawsuit states. "The fight began in The Lincoln Room & then carried over into the street. During this mayhem, plaintiff was severely beaten." Fachler claims there was not enough bar staff or security to stop the brawl from spilling onto the streets. He claims MC members continued to beat him as he was on the ground, while security personnel stood by & watched. Fachler claims lead defendant Discovery Communications, which partnered with defendant production company Bischoff/Hervey Entertainment TV, used footage of the fight without his approval. He says the attack appeared in several episodes in the first season of "Devils Ride" & during teasers for the show. The film crew never helped him during or after the attack, & he had to call for emergency services himself, Fachler says. He claims the attack left him with "right ankle & left knee fractures, severely broken nose, & facial & cranial abrasions & fractures." After Discovery broadcast the brawl in May 2012, Fachler says, he was "devastated" & "humiliated" when people recognized him from the show. He seeks medical expenses, lost earnings & punitive damages for battery, assault, negligence, violation of privacy, premises liability & emotional distress. Named as defendants are Discovery Communications dba The Discovery Channel, Bischoff/Hervey Entertainment Television, Left Coast Partners dba The Lincoln Room, & its owners Merritt Powell & Darren Moore. An unidentified security company is also named as a defendant. The Lincoln Room closed last year. Fachler is represented by Sean Simpson & Jayne Simpson with Simpson-Moore. Discovery spokeswoman Laurie Goldberg declined to comment.

Motorcycle gang members in court on charges connected with insurance scheme – Sept 5, 2013 – *Indianapolis, Indiana* – By AP; www.TheRepublic.com - A member of a drug-dealing motorcycle gang is scheduled to face trial in Fed court later this month. U.S. District Judge Tanya Pratt set Outlaws member Christian Miller's trial on racketeering charges for Sept. 24. Miller was charged with helping fake an automobile accident to collect insurance money & a fraudulent raffle scheme. Outlaw Stephen Duff also pleaded guilty to racketeering Thu under an agreement with Fed prosecutors. Sentencing is scheduled for Jan. 9. Under the plea agreement, prosecutors will recommend a sentence of about one to 2 years & Duff must make restitution of more than \$100,000 to the car insurance companies. The men were among dozens of alleged gang members charged in 2012 with racketeering, extortion, drug charges, witness-tampering, & operating an illegal gambling operation.

Smart Ass Answer: A college teacher reminds her class of tomorrow's final exam. 'Now class, I won't tolerate any excuses for you not being here tomorrow. I might consider a nuclear attack or a serious personal injury, illness, or a death in your immediate family, but that's it, no other excuses whatsoever!' A smart-ass student in the back of the room raised his hand & asked, 'What would you say if tomorrow I said I was suffering from complete & utter sexual exhaustion?' The entire class was reduced to laughter & snickering. When silence was restored, the teacher smiled knowingly at the student, shook her head & sweetly said, 'Well, I guess you'd have to write the exam with your other hand.'

Motorcycle gang leader pleads guilty to gun, explosives charges – Sept 5, 2013 – *Tacoma, Washington* – By www.KOMOnews.com - The leader of what prosecutors call a “motorcycle gang” is facing 5 years in prison after pleading guilty Thu to several gun- & explosives-related charges. Prosecutors say 66-year-old Karl Twilleager, or “King Karl,” is the leader of the Ghost Riders motorcycle gang. The Spanaway man has been in jail since June, when ATF agents found 2 sticks of emulsion explosives & 4 blasting caps in a storage locker belonging to Twilleager. The search also turned up 3 rifles, 2 shotguns, a handgun & ammunition, all which was illegal because Twilleager is a convicted murderer who cannot own guns or explosives. Two days later, agents searched Twilleager’s house & a shed on his property that was used as a Ghost Riders clubhouse. They found 6 more guns & multiple rounds of ammunition, according to prosecutors. On Thu, Twilleager pleaded guilty to possessing an unregistered short-barreled shotgun & being a felon in possession of explosives, according to prosecutors. When he’s sentenced in Dec, prosecutors & the defense will jointly recommend a 5 year prison term. However, the judge may impose any sentence up to the ten year maximum allowed by law.

Bikie taskforce may widen net - Sept 5, 2013 – *Australia* – By Nino Bucci; www.TheAge.com.au - A Nat’l taskforce that has cut off at the knees Australia’s largest outlaw bikie gang may take aim at the other “Big Three” clubs & effectively bypass shaky state anti-association laws. The Attero taskforce has arrested or reported about 700 members & associates of the Rebels since Feb, issuing about 1200 charges. The club is thought to have up to 1,500 members in Australia. The Rebels will hold their national run in Perth this weekend, with about 200 members & associates expected to leave from Melbourne on Friday morning. Perth police said security would be the tightest in the city since the Commonwealth Heads of Gov’t meeting in 2011. The taskforce, established by the Australian Crime Commission, may become a template for battling bikie gangs including the Bandidos, Hells Angels & Comancheros, senior investigative officer Detective Superintendent John De Candia said. He said there had never been more intelligence shared between agencies about a bikie gang & that a range of investigative techniques had revealed the reach of the Rebels. The Rebels have 8 chapters & about 112 members in Victoria. “The Rebels have become a large group with a footprint around the country,” Officer De Candia said. “They like to make what they probably perceive to be easy money, but that comes . . . at a risk to them & the club provides the backing.” He said the taskforce found no evidence rival gangs had considered a temporary alliance to unseat the Rebels or that a turf war would erupt as clubs tried to exploit the Rebels’ weakened position. About 40 guns & drugs were seized & the Tax Office has recovered about \$1.7 million owed by Rebels members & associates. State & territory Gov’ts have seized about \$1 million & 300 warrants have been executed. De Candia said while anti-association laws can crack down on bikie gangs, the taskforce could battle them on several fronts & Attero’s success could be replicated to tackle other gangs. State legislation generally allows court orders banning members from associating or gang activities, including riding together & wearing club colors & emblems, once the group has been declared illegal. “There’s no silver bullet that’s going to solve the issue,” Superintendent De Candia said. Bikie gangs had become savvy about using charity runs to improve their image & were desperate to portray themselves as nothing more than motorcycle enthusiasts, he said. “Regardless of how many activities they choose to put on pretending they’re just a bunch of blokes that get around on motorbikes, it couldn’t be further from the truth. No amount of

money that they donate to charity on any one particular day can cover the misery they cause on all the other days of the year.”

Hells Angels leader in San Diego sentenced to 25 years in prison - Sept 6, 2013 – *California* - By Tony Perry; www.LATimes.com - A leader of the San Diego chapter of the Hells Angels was sentenced Fri to 25 years in prison after pleading guilty to multiple felonies, including solicitation of murder. Stephen Sanders, 44, pleaded guilty to kidnapping, robbery, solicitation to commit murder & assault with force likely to cause great bodily injury. He was sentenced in San Diego County Superior Court by Judge Robert O’Neill. San Diego County Dist. Atty. Bonnie Dumanis said Sanders had planned “to have witnesses & law enforcement officers killed.” During his trial, Sanders admitted that he kidnapped 2 people for the benefit of the Hells Angels, which is defined as a criminal street gang under California law. Sanders was president of the gang’s San Diego chapter at the time, Dumanis said. “This violent criminal has been permanently removed from our streets & San Diego is a safer place,” said William Sherman, special agent in charge of the San Diego office of the DEA. As part of a plea bargain, Sanders waived his right to appeal his sentence, authorities said.

A Moment 22 Years in the Making – Sept 6, 2013 – *U.S.A.* – By Famm; www.Famm.org - I want to keep this short, sweet, & direct because we have a lot of work to do... Last month, Attorney General Eric Holder announced significant changes in the charging practices of Fed prosecutors. Perhaps more important, Holder threw the Justice Dept’s full weight behind mandatory minimum sentencing reform. It was the first time since I started Famm that the nation’s top prosecutor called on Congress to adopt shorter, fairer sentences for nonviolent offenders. In the 24 hours surrounding the attorney general’s speech, my colleagues at Famm & I were interviewed by NBC Nightly News, CBS Evening News, PBS NewsHour, CNN, USA Today, The Washington Post, Wall ST Journal, Politico, Associated Press, Los Angeles Times, NPR, & CBS Radio. “What did this new development mean?” the media wanted to know. We all gave the right answer: Mandatory minimums have failed by any objective measure & should be repealed. I will tell you what I really think is happening: We are winning. We are turning the tide at long last. And when I say “we,” I really mean it: we - you, me, & everyone who has been fighting for common sense reform - are winning. How do I know? Because 4 days after Holder’s speech, the U.S. Sentencing Commission agreed with Famm’s request to consider amending the sentencing guidelines so that all drug sentences would be reduced by 2 levels. The commissioners said they received 14,000 comments in support of their proposed priorities, including the “drug minus two” reduction. I know many of you took the time to write, & now you know that your voice was heard. I also want to thank everyone who participated in our “Action August” by contacting their member of Congress & asking him or her to support mandatory minimum reform. We need them to listen like the Commission did. On Sept 18, the Senate Judiciary Committee plans to hold a hearing on legislative reforms, including the Justice Safety Valve Act. Stay tuned to future messages from Famm as we are going to ask for your help both before & after the hearing to get our message out. I know we can count on you. Before I close, I wanted to share something that I found encouraging & a bit funny. The day after Attorney General Holder’s speech, the New York Times editors wrote, “You know a transformational moment has arrived when the attorney general of the United States makes a highly anticipated speech on a politically combustible topic & there is virtually no opposition to be heard.” On one hand, the editors are right. We

clearly have reached a tipping point & I am very encouraged about where we stand today. And, yet, I have to laugh because we certainly did not stumble upon this “transformational moment” by coincidence. It’s taken 22 years of my life, & a lot of your blood, sweat, & tears - mostly tears, I know - to get here. And we’re still not done. The good news is that we have the ball. We’re on offense & we’re driving down the field. But there’s no celebrating until we get this ball into the end zone. We can do it. My best, Julie Stewart; Pres FAMM

Motorcycle gang investigators to meet in St. Paul – Sept 6, 2013 – *Minnesota* – By Frederick Melo; www.TwinCities.com - With a battle ax-bearing Viking on a motorcycle for a logo, the International Outlaw Motorcycle Gang Investigator’s Conference rolls into St. Paul on Sun. The annual training conference for law enforcement officials who prosecute or investigate motorcycle gangs will be held through Sept. 13 at the Crowne Plaza Riverfront Hotel in downtown St. Paul. Mayor Chris Coleman is scheduled to give remarks Mon morning. The conference is sponsored by the St. Paul P.D., Midwest Cycle Intelligence Organization & Midwest Gang Investigator’s Association. This is the 39th year of the conference, which helped form the association in San Diego in 1974. The association now has 600 members. The conference opens with a training workshop on Sun night & will host a banquet on Wed evening.

Bikies hitting the road across the country - outlaw MCs out in show of force - Sept 6, 2013 - *Australia* - By www.News.com.au - Election weekend will see thousands of bikies hit the road as part of huge “national runs” sweeping across the country, leaving police on high alert. The Rebels outlaw motorcycle gang began their pilgrimage to Perth yesterday & have been “shadowed” by police since departing Leppington is southwest Sydney. NSW Police spokesman Rory O’Connor said officers had already performed a large scale search of the cavalcade yesterday morning. “A police operation was carried out due to the very large Rebels run,” he said. “A large number of bikies were stopped 15 kilometres west of Orange & all were breath tested & had their bikes checked. “A number of defects were detected & some bikes seized.” The Rebels are expected to cross the Western Australian border on Monday having made their way west from chapters around the country. Members have been told not to gather in pubs & clubs along the way. The Bandidos motorcycle gang will begin their national run at the weekend & are believed to be congregating in Port Stephens on the NSW north coast. Police have been clamping down on bikie clubs in recent days & have discovered a number of illegal weapons caches. On Wed morning detectives seized 2 firearms & 360 rounds of ammunition from an address in Long Beach. It is understood the firearms were unlicensed at the time & belonged to an outlaw motorcycle gang associate. Later that day Griffith detectives investigating an alleged murder plot raided a house in Hanwood where they discovered 3 rifles of varying calibre, a 12 gauge shotgun, ammunition, a set of handcuffs, & small amounts of cannabis & ecstasy. A 55-year-old man was arrested at the premises & granted conditional bail to appear at Griffith local court later this month. As a result of the arrest police then executed a search warrant at the Vikings outlaw motorcycle gang clubhouse in Griffith where they seized \$1,200 cash, a small quantity of white powder believed to be amphetamine & a quantity of alcohol. Inquiries into the alleged illegal sale of alcohol at the premises are continuing. “That came about as a result of an investigation into a solicit to murder,” said NSW police spokeswoman Georgie Wells. “Police always monitor bikies very closely [during national runs]

& will often have a strong presence. “We’ve been on the past 4 Rebels runs & we’ll be doing the same this year.”

El Paso police arrest suspected Bandidos biker gang members in assault case – Sept 7, 2013 – *Texas / New Mexico* - By Daniel Borunda; www.ElPasoTimes.com - Five members & associates of the Bandidos biker gang were arrested in a series of raids early Friday in El Paso, Santa Fe & Albuquerque, police officials said. El Paso police spokesman Sgt. Chris Mears said the arrests were in connection with the assault of 3 people on Aug. 18 at the Texas Stagecoach Saloon, 10416 Dyer in the Northeast. The arrests were made with the help of several law-enforcement agencies, including the FBI SWAT team, the Texas Dept of Public Safety & police in Las Cruces, Albuquerque & Santa Fe. According to a complaint affidavit filed by El Paso police, 3 people were beaten by several bikers after one of the victims got into an argument with biker David Zamora at the honky tonk bar. One person was repeatedly punched. Another person was thrown to the ground & hit his head. The third person had a facial fracture after being punched & kicked. The fight was filmed by security cameras at the bar, the affidavit stated. The victims, who were not named, are not members of a motorcycle club, Mears said. The suspected attackers are members & associates of the Bandidos, which law enforcement sources describe as the largest outlaw biker gang in the region. An investigation by the El Paso police Gang Intel Unit identified the suspects & found that some lived in New Mexico. Zamora, 44, Ruben Zavala, 35, & Nicholas Ryan Derry, 28, were arrested in El Paso. Lucas Miller, 29, was arrested in Santa Fe. Christopher Brito, 34, was arrested in Albuquerque. The men were arrested on warrants on suspicion of one count of engaging in organized criminal activity-aggravated assault & 2 counts of engaging in organized criminal activity-assault. Officials said the beating in El Paso is not linked to tensions in New Mexico following a recent biker-related shooting in Albuquerque allegedly involving the Vagos & the Black Berets, a biker club that reportedly supports the Bandidos. “It not related to anything in Albuquerque,” Mears said. In June 2012, Derry was one of 6 people belonging or affiliated with the Bandidos who were arrested for allegedly taking part in a beating of a biker because he was wearing the “colors” (logo) of another motorcycle club at the Iron Horse Saloon in Northeast El Paso. At the time, police said Derry was a member of the Cremators, which police described as a Bandidos support club.

‘2 Million Bikers’ Cruising Through D.C. on 9/11 Despite Permit Denial – Sept 9, 2013 – *Washington D.C.* – By Steven Nelson; www.USNews.com - Police will act against the bikers if ‘a crime’ is committed... Bikers hoping to cruise nonstop through Washington, D.C., on Wed, Sept. 11 received disappointing news over the weekend: the city denied their permit request. “We find this regretful for the residents & businesses of that great city, & humbly offer our apologies,” organizers of the ride said Friday on Facebook. “What could have been a one or 2 hour ride through will now likely be an all-day event.” It’s legal for motorcycles to drive through D.C. & participants plan to cross into the capital undeterred after 11 a.m. “For security purposes the final route will not be posted publicly,” the organizers added. It’s unclear if law enforcement will take action against what may be a traffic-clogging permit-less demonstration on wheels. Riders plan to abide by all relevant traffic laws, such as yielding to pedestrians & stopping at red lights. But a member of the D.C. P.D.’s public affairs office told U.S. News officers will act “if there is a crime committed.” It would be a crime for riders to engage in certain activities “if a permit is required” for them, according to the police spokesman.

Santa Fe leader of Bandidos MC arrested – Sept 10, 2013 – *New Mexico* – By Bill Rodgers; www.ABQJournal.com - Brawl at bar in Texas led to assault charge... On Friday the Santa Fe Police SWAT team arrested the Santa Fe chapter Pres of the Bandidos MC on allegations he participated in a fight at a wedding party in Texas. Lucas Miller, 29, is in the Santa Fe jail, held on 1 count of aggravated assault & 2 counts of engaging in criminal activity (assault). Miller will be extradited to Texas to face the charges, said Santa Fe Police spokeswoman Celina Westervelt. The fight occurred on Aug. 18 at the Stagecoach Saloon in El Paso, according to Westervelt. She said there was a wedding party at the bar when the 36-year-old groom, his 61-year-old father & his mother, who is in her late 50s, were assaulted by several members of the Bandidos. Westervelt said she did not know what the fight was about, but the motorcyclists appeared to be the aggressors. The victims in the case were not members of another motorcycle club. A patch on Lucas Miller's motorcycle jacket designates him as Pres of a local chapter. During the fight the groom's father was knocked to the ground & one of the bikers stepped on his face. This broke the man's cheekbone & caused a head injury. He was transported to the hospital along with the groom's mother; both are expected to recover. Santa Fe police got involved because of a local investigator who is knowledgeable about the outlaw biker gang. "Bandidos are his specialty," Westervelt said. The investigator identified Miller from a video of the assault. Westervelt shared a picture of Miller's vest, which has a patch that says "president." Westervelt said Miller is a top-ranking official in the club. "It's a big deal for us that he's off the streets," she said. Miller has just 3 prior cases in New Mexico, all for speeding, according to an online court records database. Each case was dismissed for failure to prosecute. The SWAT team arrested Miller at his home without incident. The Bandidos are considered by Fed authorities to be a worldwide organized crime syndicate. The FBI designated them as one of the "Big Four" outlaw motorcycle gangs operating in the United States, alongside Hell's Angels, the Pagans & the Outlaws. The Bandidos are not sanctioned by the AMA. Members are often referred to as "one percenters" & sometimes wear "1%" patches on their jackets. The implication is that they are not among the 99 percent of motorcyclists who are law-abiding citizens, according to a statement that has been attributed to the AMA, though the AMA claims to have no record of making the statement. The SWAT team included officers from El Paso, Albuquerque, Las Cruces, the U.S. Marshals, the FBI & the state Dept of Public Safety. In addition to Miller, officers arrested David Zamora, Nicholas Derry & Ruben Zavala, all from El Paso, & Christopher Brito of Albuquerque. Westervelt said they also are members of the Bandidos. Westervelt said police do not believe the assault is related to other recent activity involving the Bandidos, most notably a concern in Albuquerque that the Bandidos were about to have a turf war with the Vagos MC.

25 suspects - many in Missouri motorcycle gang - charged in massive drug ring - Sept 10, 2013 – *Missouri* – By www.KMOV.com - Authorities say 25 people – several of them in the Saddle Tramps MC – have been indicted on Fed drug & weapons charges for their alleged involvement in a massive methamphetamine ring. According to United States' Atty's Office, the distribution & manufacture of the drug happened between Oct. 2010 & Sept. 2013. Those charged are as follows: Jorge Lopez, 37, Corinth, Tx., Melvin Scherrer, 49, Bonne Terre, Alan Adler, 54, Bonne Terre, Brent Bouren, 42, St. Louis, Howard Pyatt, 55, Bonne Terre, Arvil Matthews, 50, Imperial, Mark Abney, 47, Bonne Terre, Amber Scism, 31, Farmington, Terri Fox, 47, St. Louis, Guillermo Navarro, 35, St. Louis, Jerry

Addison, 66, St. Louis, Jerami Westenberger, 35, Arnold, Ray Davis, 46, Union, James Mitchell, 44, St. Louis, Patrick Tate, 41, St. Louis, Jimmie Johnson, 60, St. Clair, Donald Maguire, 54, Theodore Heege, 48, Norma Egan, 47, St. Louis, Donna Moss, 45, St. Louis, Sheila Heege, 47, St. Louis, Danielle Becker, 29, Park Hills, Haley Meier, 34, St. Louis, Heather Martin, 27, St. Louis & Amy Gorrell, 22, of Bonne Terre. Authorities said Matthews is the Pres of the Saddle Tramps MC. Another suspect, Melvin Sherrer, was charged in August in the death of Samuel "Tick" Francis, whose body was found in a septic tank in Bonne Terre. Authorities said the body's discovery was the result of a seven-month missing person investigation. If convicted, each suspect could face up to life in prison.

Trial set for AZ man in motorcycle gang shootout – Sept 10, 2013 – *Arizona* – By Phil Benson; www.KPHO.com - A Casa Grande man has been indicted on charges in a fight that escalated into a shootout between 2 motorcycle gangs at a Pinal County clubhouse. The Pinal County Attorney's Office said Tuesday that Kenneth Barnett, 47, is being held without bond on 7 charges in 2 incidents. Four people were wounded, one critically, in the incident that began at 1:30 a.m. May 12, at the Loose Cannons MC clubhouse in the 3600 block of East Apache Trail. PCSO 911 dispatchers got a call from a person inside the clubhouse stating several shots had been fired. When deputies arrived, they said they saw spent casings littering the ground. Deputies said the Loose Cannons MC were partying when members of a rival gang, Devils Disciples MC, arrived at the clubhouse. A fight ensued & authorities believe Barnett fired multiple shots. About 75 people were inside the clubhouse at the time of the shooting. A woman received a superficial gunshot wound to the back. She was treated & released. A man who was shot in the head is in stable condition, & a second man shot in the shoulder & stomach is in critical condition. All 3 victims were transported to Phoenix area hospitals. Hours later, deputies located another man with a gunshot wound. He was treated at the scene for his injuries by medical personnel. The Pinal County Attorney's Office said Barnett was indicted on June 24 & arrested for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. Barnett also faces felony misconduct involving weapons, disorderly conduct & discharging a firearm within limits of a municipality in a separate incident. His trial dates are scheduled for Dec. 9 & Dec. 17.

Police op sets tone - Sept 10, 2013 – *Australia* – By www.PortStephensExaminer.com.au - The Port's police warned they would be out in force last weekend & they held true to their word, with hundreds of officers patrolling the region between Friday & Sunday. Inspector Guy Flaherty from the Port Stephens Local Area Command said last weekend's police operation, partly in response to the Bandidos motorcycle club's visit to Nelson Bay, set the tone for summer. "We were out in relation not only to the RMC [registered motorcycle club] but also looking at drug & alcohol related crime in licensed premises," Inspector Flaherty said. "We were very keen to send a message that we are building up for summer & different levels of operations like the one on the weekend will be done throughout summer." Three-and-a-half thousand motorists were stopped for random breath tests between Friday & Sunday. Police issued 163 speeding fines & charged 6 people for drink driving. Inspector Flaherty said 130 Bandidos motorcyclists were stopped, though no offences were detected.

Smart Ass Answer: It was mealtime during an airline flight. 'Would you like dinner?', the flight attendant asked John, seated in front. 'What are my choices?' John asked. 'Yes or no,' she replied.

2 Million Bikers Roar Into D.C. To Honor 9/11 – Sept 11, 2013 – *Washington D.C.* – By www.youtube.com - Millions of bikers from around the country roared into the D.C. area on Wed in a show of support for Sept. 11 victims & in solidarity against a controversial Muslim rally on the Mall. The 2 Million Bikers to DC ride might have fallen short of 2 million strong, but the numbers were impressive. A line of shining chrome & steel bikes stretched about a third of a mile from the starting point at the H-D of Washington store just outside the District in Prince George's County. The bikers began departing from the store at about 10:30 in staggered groups of 50, stopped for traffic lights & taking an hour or so to get on the road. The ride was complicated by the fact that Fed & local authorities denied a permit that would have offered the riders a police escort through traffic - a sore spot with organizers who thought the denial was for political purposes. "We're here for 9-11," said national ride coordinator Belinda Bee. "We are going to have a peaceful ride. ... But there are people who are sick & tired of their rights & liberties being taken away." The National Park Service has denied any political motivation for refusing the permit, which ride organizers sought last month. The Park Service earlier this year granted a permit to a Muslim group planning a rally Wed to call attention to social justice issues. Where is the coverage for the 2 Million Biker March? Anyone seeing it? The American Muslim Political Action Committee has scheduled a rally to draw attention to what they call unfair fear of Muslims after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Ms. Bee said the ride was originally set up to counter the rally & show respect for the victims of that day.

Nugget Street Vibes Activities will be Indoors – Sept 12, 2013 – *Nevada* – By www.KOLOTV.com - Street Vibrations events at the Nugget will be held inside the casino this year, according to event's producer. Randy Burke, Road Shows' president, said there are several reasons for holding the event inside, including security concerns. Burke said motorcycle club colors cannot be shown again, & holding events inside will enable identification of who is complying. "They are marked on the back of their vests & it's very difficult when you're looking at tens of thousands of people to differentiate between one & another," he said. Vendors also wanted to be in downtown Reno, according to Burke. In the past, the Nugget's west parking lot in Sparks has been used for vendors. The move follows a deadly shooting involving rival motorcycle gangs in 2011. Street Vibrations kicks off Sept. 25. More than 50-thousand people are expected to attend, according to Burke. Burke added although Sparks activities will be held inside the Nugget, there will be more activities this year than in the past. A free shuttle will take people between downtown Reno & the Nugget in Sparks.

Have a GREAT Friday the 13th – Sept 13, 2013 – By S.O.S. MC Crazy - My lucky day!! Do you know the story of Friday the 13th being bad luck? I think it was Pope Constantine that determined that the Knights Templar had become way to powerful (they had some sort of secret shit they discovered in the 'Holy Land' & ordered the murder of them all. He wanted all the power & \$\$ they had... This just happened to occur on Friday the 13th...

Bandido invited to Tigers rooms – Sept 13, 2013 – *Australia* – By AAP; www.SMH.com.au - A Bandidos bikie who has twice survived being shot was reportedly invited into AFL (Rugby) club Richmond's dressing rooms by a player. Tigers forward Jake King invited Toby Mitchell into the club's MCG rooms during a Round 20 match when he was out injured, the Herald Sun reports. The club became aware that the bikie had been invited into the rooms & told King to end his association with Mitchell, the report

said on Friday. The club has also warned its entire playing list not to associate with criminals. A Richmond spokesman told the paper that King now knew his responsibilities. "Jake has been counselled specifically on that issue & our playing group are counselled more broadly about off-field issues, as would be the case at all clubs," the spokesman told the paper. Mitchell suffered arm injuries after more than 30 shots were fired at a Melton bikie clubhouse in March. The shooting was the second attempt on Mitchell's life. He was shot 5 times in the hip & back at a shopping centre car park in 2011. The report said there was no accusation of any links of any criminal nature between Mitchell & King. Club officials believe the pair are acquaintances rather than close friends.

One shot in bar fight between rival motorcycle gangs – Sept 14, 2013 – *Arizona* – By Andrew Michalscheck; www.AZFamily.com - One person was shot in what police are saying was a fight between 2 rival motorcycle gangs. The incident occurred late Friday night at the Purple Turtle Bar at Indian School Rd & 51st Ave. Witnesses told authorities that a fight broke out between the gangs & one man was shot in the stomach. The man's condition is not known. Police are now looking for the shooter. He's described as tall, white & bald, & was last seen in blue jeans & a black vest with a red & orange patch. The man also had a red beard.

Spanish police arrest 4 Canadian Hells Angels on suspicion of smuggling 500 kilos of cocaine – Sept 14, 2013 – *Spain* – By AP; www.FoxNews.com - Spain's Interior Ministry says police have arrested 4 Hells Angels for allegedly smuggling 500 kilograms (1,100 pounds) of cocaine into the county with the aim of distributing it. Authorities say the men, all Canadians, were arrested in the northwestern city of Pontevedra, where one of them had arrived by yacht, having sailed from Colombia with the drugs. One of the 3 men who met the yacht was "a known member" of the San Diego chapter of the Hells Angels, according to a ministry statement released Saturday.

Spain arrests 4 Hells Angels in large cocaine bust – Sept 14, 2013 – *Spain* – By www.WRAL.com - Four members of the Hells Angels have been arrested in northwest Spain for allegedly smuggling 500 kilograms (1,100 pounds) of cocaine into the county with the aim of distributing it, the Interior Ministry said in a statement Saturday. The statement said the men, all Canadians, were arrested near the coastal city of Pontevedra, where one had arrived by yacht, allegedly having sailed from Colombia with the drugs. One of the 3 men who met the yacht was "a known member" of the San Diego chapter of the Hells Angels & another had been under investigation for suspected drug smuggling by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the statement said. The smuggling operation had been under police surveillance since July 30 & culminated when officers raided 2 vans loaded with cocaine & arrested the Canadians. In a separate operation, police arrested 2 other persons whose nationality was not disclosed but who were "responsible for the delivery of the drug" to Spain, the statement said. The arrests were the result of collaboration between Spanish police & the U.S. DEA, Canada's mounted police, EUROPOL & France's tax authority, the statement said. The statement did not say when the arrests took place.

Smart Ass Answer: A woman is standing nude looking in the bedroom mirror. She is not happy with what she sees & says to her husband, 'I feel horrible; I look old, fat & ugly... I really need you to pay me a compliment.' The husband replies, 'Your eyesight's damn near perfect!'

Missouri Is Now “Open Territory” For Motorcycle Gangs – Sept 16, 2013 – *Missouri* – By Jacob McClelland; <http://krcu.org> - Outlaw motorcycle gangs now consider Missouri as “open territory.” Missouri has traditionally been the territory of the Galloping Goose MC & their brother group, El Forastero. They confronted any other gang who entered their territory, according to the Southeast Missouri Drug Task Force’s Mike Alford. But their grip on the territory is no longer as strong as it once was, & groups like the Outlaws motorcycle gang, the Bandidos & the Vagos have started chapters in Missouri. “It’s definitely opened up more, where there’s more outlaw motorcycle gangs,” Alford said. “It’s an uneasy relationship. They get along, but there’s always some tension.” Alford said if there is an incident between, for example, members of the Galloping Goose & the Outlaws in another state, it can carry over to Missouri. When 2 rival gangs go to war, the national leadership will instruct members to carry out certain measures against rivals. If a member doesn’t follow orders, “then their head’s on the chopping block,” Alford said. Alford says law enforcement does not know why Missouri is now an open state. Not every member of an outlaw motorcycle gang is involved in illegal activities, but some are associated with narcotics, firearms & prostitution. They have a structured hierarchical system that includes bylaws & elected offices like Pres, V.P. & Ttes. Each member has the same power to vote. Prospective members must go through a long period of time before earning their “patch” & becoming full-fledged members. “It’s not just sitting around knitting something for another member,” Alford said. “You’re basically doing whatever those members want you to do, & you’re proving yourself to them that you are a ‘good brother.’ That you’re going to stand up for the club no matter what, that you’re going to stand up for your brother no matter what.” There’s a saying among outlaw motorcycle clubs: “He may not be right, but he’s my brother.” Alford said that basically means that even though a fellow member is wrong, his brothers will stand up for him. That tight camaraderie poses a problem for law enforcement officers like Alford. “They do not like to talk to law enforcement about any illegal activities about the club, & if they do, there’s repercussions,” Alford said. Several members of the Missouri-based Saddle Tramp MC were arrested last week in St. Louis & St. Francois County on Fed drug & weapons charges, including the club’s Pres. Among those facing Fed charges are Melvin Scherrer & Brent Bouren, who are also accused of murdering Cape Girardeau tattoo artist Samuel Francis. Rich Callahan, U.S Attorney for Eastern Missouri, said the arrests were the culmination of 2 investigations that began in 2010 - one involving a cocaine distribution network & the other focusing on meth cooking & distribution. “These were middlemen & retailers, but the drug distribution network was really the St. Louis metropolitan area & because of the motorcycle gang’s clubhouse in St. Francois County, there was some in St. Francois County,” Callahan said. The Galloping Goose have a clubhouse in Cape Girardeau, which Alford describes as “pretty quiet.” The Outlaws have a clubhouse in southeast Missouri, as well as the Midwest Drifters, who are a support group for the Galloping Goose. A Hells Angels member lives in southeast Missouri, but he works with clubs in Illinois & Kentucky. Alford keeps track of who belongs to each motorcycle club in the region. “I do that pretty much in the open,” Alford said. “I’m not trying to hide from them. I’ll talk to them whenever they will talk to me.” He does that, he says, just in case there’s a shooting between rival gangs like the one in 2011 in Nevada.

I love walking on the beach hand in hand with my girlfriend. Until the booze wears off & I’m just dragging a stolen mannequin around a parking lot...

Motorcyclists Thrown Out of a State Fair - Sept 16, 2013 – *Florida* - By Lorraine Bailey; www.CouthHouseNews.com - Motorcyclists thrown out of the Florida State Fair because they wore their love of America & Christianity on their sleeve must amend their lawsuit, a Fed judge ruled. Mark Denico, Thomas Griswold Jr., Timothy Newberry & Dennis Walsted had arrived at the Florida State Fair on Feb. 7, 2010. Denico & Griswold are members of the U.S. Military Vets MC, & were wearing patches on their motorcycle vests showing an American flag, an eagle & the word “Liberty.” Newberry & Walsted belong to the Spirit Riders Motorcycle Ministry, & their patches depicted a crucifix, a crown, beams of light, wings & 2 white doves. Walsted said he was planning to “lead all the motorcyclists in prayer once inside the fair,” but he & the others were escorted out once they paid for admission. Fair rules ban gang colors or signs, & Major Al Greco joined members of the Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office in telling the quartet that they could not enter the fair while wearing vests with the patches indicating motorcycle club membership. Tampa Bay Times reported that approximately 50 bikers from numerous clubs were turned away that day. In their subsequent lawsuit, the 4 accused Greco, the Florida State Fair & other fair officials of violating their First Amendment rights to freedom of association & religion. U.S. District Judge Virginia Hernandez Covington nevertheless dismissed the complaint without prejudice Tuesday because it failed to specifically indicate claims under the Fed civil right law Section 1983, which creates a private right of action for civil damages. The fair demonstrated that the “plaintiffs’ naked reference to § 1983 is insufficient for defendants or this court to assume that they intended to bring [counts one through nine] under its rubric,” according to the ruling. “Plaintiffs may have identified constitutional rights alleged to have been violated, but have failed to allege causes of action associated with those violations,” Covington added. The judge also declined to give the plaintiffs an injunction restraining the defendants from “ordering, compelling, bullying, requesting, coercing, or threatening a member of a motorcycle club or motorcycle ministry to remove their vests with ‘patches’ on them signifying membership within a particular organization.” Injunctions are appropriate only if plaintiffs can show they will continue to be harmed during the course of litigation, according to the ruling. “Conspicuously absent from the operative complaint is any allegation that the plaintiffs intend to return to the Florida State Fair wearing their prohibited patches or that the plaintiffs face specific future harm at the hands of the defendants,” Covington wrote. Vaguely alleging that “the Florida State Fair Authority will continue to selectively exclude certain motorcyclists from the fair” is not sufficient to reach the standard for an injunction...

Ole was hunting geese up in the *Minnesota* woods. He leaned the old 16 gauge against the corner of the blind to take a leak. As luck would have it, his foolish dog knocked the gun over, it went off & Ole took most of an ounce of #4 in the groin. Several hours later, lying in a Duluth hospital bed, he came to...and there was his doctor, Sven. “Vell Ole, I got some good news & some bad news. Da good news is dat you are going to be OK. Da damage vas local to your groin, dere was very little internal damage, & I vas able to remove all of da buckshot.” “What’s the bad news?”, asks Ole. “The bad news is dat dere vas some pretty extensive buckshot damage done to your pecker. I’m going to have to refer you to my sister, Lena.” “Well, I guess that isn’t too bad,” says Ole. “Is your sister a plastic surgeon?” “Not exactly,” Sven says. “She’s a flute player in da Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra. She’s going to teach you where to put your fingers, so you don’t piss in your eye.”

Notorious Outlaws motorcycle gang active in Jacksonville area, prosecutor says – Sept 17, 2013 – *Florida* – By Jim Schoettler; <http://jacksonville.com> - Smaller club VP sentenced to a year in drug case... The nationally notorious Outlaws MC has roots in Jacksonville that include its backing of a smaller club whose vice president was sentenced in a Fed drug case Tue, the prosecutor said. Johnnie Gilford's defense attorney portrayed Gilford's chapter of the Outcast MC as a fraternity of hard-working, non-violent men who used a clubhouse in Northwest Jacksonville to party. But Fed prosecutor Jay Taylor described the Outcast as a violent criminal gang blessed by the even more dangerous Outlaws, whose leaders allowed the Outcast to wear a special patch that signifies scowflaw pride. The FBI targeted Gilford, 51, as part of a Fed wiretap of Outcast members suspected of dealing in stolen motorcycles. Gilford was caught discussing drug sales & got busted after repeatedly selling an informant cocaine in 2011 & last year. His attorney, Wade Rolle, & Taylor agreed Gilford sold the cocaine to feed an addiction by skimming some. They also agreed the men who sold the drugs to Gilford were not Outcast members. Senior Fed Judge Henry Adams Jr. seemed bewildered by the suggested link between the 2 groups after pointing out the Outlaws are white & the Outcast are black. He also questioned the relevance either group had to Gilford's drug sales. Adams sentenced Gilford to a year in prison on a charge of conspiracy to distribute cocaine. Taylor argued for a stiffer sentence, insisting that the wiretap includes evidence of violent crimes & other trouble committed by the Outcast. But the details remain sealed in an affidavit that is part of an ongoing investigation. Taylor sought to protect that probe rather than have Adams unseal the affidavit & consider it before sentencing. Adams cited Gilford's decorated 20-year Navy career, his regular carpentry work & the need for him to care for his sick wife as mitigating factors in the sentencing decision. He ordered him into drug treatment & to stay clear of the Outcast. He also placed him on 3 years of probation & warned him not to get rearrested. Gilford apologized to his wife & family. "I'm a proud man," Gilford said. "I made a mistake." Taylor told Adams that the Outcast chapter was a bona fide crime gang that included 12 to 15 members. He said they wore patches signifying them as the "1 % ers" — a name commonly used by motorcycle riders & clubs who consider themselves above the law. Taylor said the Outcast needed approval from the Outlaws before donning the patches, though he did not say what either group gained by the backing. "They couldn't wear the 1 percent patches without the permission of the Outlaws," Taylor said. Rolle, a self-proclaimed motorcycle enthusiast, said he visited the Outcast clubhouse during the case & found the men to be gainfully employed & fun-loving. He said the Pres told him he worked for Southern Bell for more than 20 years. "This is a bunch of guys who get together & drink & ride motorcycles," Rolle said. The Atlanta-based Outcast have been tracked by Fed agents nationwide for their involvement in violence, drug sales & other crime. In Jacksonville, an Outcast member was convicted in the 2011 of shooting of a rival club member in the head. The victim survived. The FBI considers the Outlaws among the most dangerous motorcycle gangs in the country. The local chapter is known to have links to showgirl bars, which first became public when they were linked to the ownership of the Gold Club showgirl bar in 1997 during an investigation into entertainment code violations. Police raided the local chapter's clubhouse in 2007 when 60 guns were seized & 2011 as part of Fed drug investigations.

A little boy went up to his father & asked: 'Dad, where did my intelligence come from?' The father replied. 'Well, son, you must have got it from your mother, cause I still have mine.'

South Carolina courts debate if shooting at motorcycle shop was self-defense or murder – Sept 16, 2013 – *South Carolina* – By Jennifer Cruz; www.Guns.com - A South Carolina man who shot & killed 2 people outside a motorcycle shop has been set free on bond & is now waiting for a court to decide whether or not he acted in self-defense. Ronald Reid, 43, was released on bond after a two-month stint in the Charleston County Detention Center on Sept. 1, according to the Charleston Post & Courier. Police arrested Reid for his role in the incident that left a total of 3 people dead & Reid injured. Reid was arrested on June 30, the day following the shooting, after spending the night talking with investigators. Police charged Reid with first-degree murder, even though Reid, as well as friends, family & acquaintances, all maintain that his innocence, that he is an upstanding citizen & caring family man that would never intentionally hurt someone for no reason, & only fired in self-defense after he was shot first. However, the details that Reid described of that day aren't the same that police have put together. According to local media, the incident occurred on a Saturday afternoon in North Charleston at Cycle Gear shop. Reid & his long-time friend Theodore Waymyers, 36, were heading to a Soul MC cookout, but stopped off to the shop beforehand so Reid could buy an extra helmet for his son. He said together they planned to ride to an upcoming out of state softball tournament. Apparently, members of the Wheels Soul MC, Carlos Davis & Barry Stinson, who both had at least half-a-dozen prior arrests, were involved in a scuffle with members of a rival motorcycle club called the Real Kings. At that point, Maurice Horry, one of the members of the Real Kings MC, pulled a gun & waved it about while yelling at Reid, who had just hit another member of the club. When Reid saw the gun, he immediately bolted out of the door. That's when he heard the gunshots & felt the throbbing pain in his leg. By their accounts, members of the Real Kings MC rode by the Wheels of Soul's cookout & revved their engines, showing, a sign of disrespect, according to police. The Kings members then went into the store & Reid & Waymyers followed to confront them for their disrespectful actions. Investigators then insist that Reid instigated the fight & that he did not shoot Horry in self-defense but rather in retaliation. Had Reid been involved in the rival gang fight, he would not have the right to use self-defense as a means for justifiable homicide. Yet Reid continues to say that he knew nothing of the skirmish, he was only there to buy a helmet on his way to the cookout & that, if anything, he was trying to avoid the fight, not get caught in the midst of it. And he still maintains that he only fired after Horry first shot him in the leg. Even in a photo lineup, a witness picked someone else's photo, not Reid's, as the one who initiated the bloody battle. "I don't understand why I'm being held accountable," Reid said. "I followed the rules. I did not intentionally leave my house wanting to shoot anyone. I never imagined doing it." Reid now awaits his next court date. Only now, instead of waiting in a jail cell, he must remain at home, surrounded by the people who love him, the people who, just as him, maintain that he is innocent.

Building Permit: I recently applied for a building permit for a new house. It was going to be 100 ft tall & 400 ft wide, with 9 gun turrets at various heights, & windows all over the place & a loud outside entertainment sound system. It would have parking for 200 cars, & I was going to paint it snot green with pink trim. The City Council told me; "Forget it...It Ain't Gonna Happen!" So I sent in the application again, but this time I called it a 'Mosque'. Work starts on Monday. I love this country. It's the Gov't I'm afraid of...

Girlfriend says she helped man clean up after killing – Sept 17, 2013 – *Nebraska* - By Kevin Cole; www.Omaha.com - The man accused of a killing inside the Hells Angels MC was implicated by his girlfriend, who told investigators that she helped clean up after the shooting death of 48-year-old William Furlong, according to an Omaha homicide detective. Tammy Cozad said Jay Witt killed his fellow club member after the 2 men got into an argument the night of July 14 inside the clubhouse, 4501 S. 27th Circle, Sgt. Rochair Jenkins testified Tuesday in Douglas County Court. Based on Jenkins' testimony, a judge ordered Witt to stand trial for second-degree murder & use of a firearm to commit a felony. Witt, 47, is being held without bail in the Douglas County Correctional Center. Cozad told detectives that in the early morning of the shooting, she had gone to bed in the clubhouse's second-floor apartment. Witt awakened her, telling her he had gotten into a fight "with one of his bros & had to shoot him," Jenkins said. Furlong's body was found on the first floor of the clubhouse between a couch & a bar, Jenkins said. Witt & Cozad, police said, then cleaned up the clubhouse near the body & left. Cozad told police that the couple went to Harlan, Iowa. Defense attorney Kelly Steenbock attempted to discredit Cozad by bringing up her alleged drug use. Jenkins said Cozad was not under the influence of drugs when he interviewed her at the Pottawattamie County Jail, where she was being held in an unrelated incident. Witt was arrested Aug. 19 near 30th Street & Sorensen Parkway in Omaha by members of the Metro Area Fugitive Task Force.

Get Ready For a Big Day in Washington! – Sept 17, 2013 – *U.S.A.* – By www.FAMM.org - A big thanks to all of you who are planning to come to Washington, D.C. for tomorrow's hearing in the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee on mandatory minimums. Please read below for more details on getting to the hearing & getting the most out of this experience. For those of you who can't attend, you can watch the hearing online. You can also help FAMM by writing to your U.S. Senators & asking them to support the Justice Safety Valve Act. Encourage your family & friends to also write! **Important note:** the U.S. Senate will NOT be voting on or passing any legislation at tomorrow's hearing. The hearing is just the first step in this process; it does not mean that Congress is going to pass either the Justice Safety Valve Act or the Smarter Sentencing Act into law. We do not know if or when either bill might be passed. FAMM will email you with updates on both bills' progress, & you can also check our brand new website, to track the bills & follow the latest sentencing news. Here is important information about how to attend the hearing, where to meet, what to bring, & what will happen:

What: Hearing before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee: "Reevaluating the Effectiveness of Fed Mandatory Minimum Sentences" **Where:** Dirksen Senate Office Building, Room 226, Washington, D.C., 20002. Click here for a map. **What to Bring:** A picture of your incarcerated loved one, if you have one. Pictures should be no larger than 11 by 14 inches in size.

Schedule of Events: 8:30 A.M.: Arrive at Dirksen Senate Office Building. You will be required to go through a security screening. You should line up outside Dirksen Room 226 by 9:00 a.m. It is a small hearing room with limited seating. If you cannot be seated in Room 226, you will be directed to an overflow room, where you can watch the hearing on a video screen. **10:00 A.M. to approximately 12:00 P.M.:** *Hearing* - Four witnesses will speak about mandatory minimum sentences & the need to reform them. The U.S. Senators will have a chance to ask the witnesses questions. Throughout the hearing, audience members can hold pictures of their incarcerated loved ones in their laps, facing

toward the Senators. At some point during the hearing, the committee will recognize audience members with incarcerated loved ones. You may be asked to stand & hold up your photos.

Please Note: Audience members will NOT be allowed to speak, make presentations, or ask questions during the hearing. Audience members should behave respectfully – any shouting, chanting, booing, or other unruly or noisy behavior will lead to the person being removed from the hearing room. There will NOT be a vote on or passage of any legislation at this hearing. **12:00 to 2:00 P.M.:** If you want to, stay after the hearing & gather around a person holding a FAMM sign. There may be some time after the hearing for you to talk with any U.S. Senators who stay to meet people. At 12:30 p.m., we will leave the Dirksen building & have sandwiches at the United Methodist Church Building, 100 Maryland Ave. NE, Washington, D.C., 20002. **Thank you** for supporting FAMM's work for mandatory minimum sentencing reform. I look forward to meeting you in Washington! **Sincerely,** Molly M. Gill; Gov't Affairs Counsel, FAMM

Bandidos leader arrested in cocaine raid – Sept 24, 2013 – *Texas* – By Guillermo Contreras; www.chron.com - A leader of the Bandidos motorcycle gang arrested last week in a drug raid is scheduled to appear in Fed court Wed to answer to trafficking charges. Court records said Jorge "Geo" Rivera, a gang Pres, was seen by the San Antonio Police Department narcotics officers moving a press used to compact drugs to & from an apartment on North General McMullen along with suspected stash houses on Marbach Road & Shadow Hill. After obtaining state search warrants, SAPD raided the locations on Thu & arrested Rivera & an alleged drug associate, Jennifer Flores. The raids netted more than 500 grams of cocaine & items used to prepare it for distribution, a Fed affidavit said. The search at Rivera's home on Shadow Hill netted a large amount of Bandidos paraphernalia, patches, shirts & jackets. His own Bandidos clothing identified him as Pres of the group's Northwest chapter, the affidavit said. Flores & Rivera are scheduled for probable cause & bail hearings in front of U.S. Magistrate Judge John Primomo on Wed. They face 5-to-40 years in prison.

National Crime Information Center: NCIC is run by the FBI. NCIC information consists of a number of Hot Files plus criminal history information & is available to criminal justice agencies throughout the United States, Virgin Islands, & Puerto Rico. According to the NCIC Operating Manual, NCIC is a, "computerized index of documented criminal justice information concerning crimes & criminals of nationwide interest & a locator file for missing & unidentified persons." As with the *Minnesota Hot Files*, local law enforcement agencies populate the NCIC database using automated capabilities provided by the BCA. NCIC Hot File records in the MN LP Data File are:

- Stolen & Felony Vehicles
- Stolen License Plates
- Wanted Persons
- Missing Persons
- Individuals on Supervised Release Hot File
- Protection Orders
- Sexual Offenders
- Gang Members & Terrorists
- Immigration Violators
- Canadian Hot File Records...

Smart Ass Answer: A truck driver was driving along on the freeway & noticed a sign that read: "Low Bridge Ahead." Before he knows it, the bridge is right in front of him & his truck gets wedged under it. Cars get backed up for miles. Finally a police car comes up. The cop gets out of his car & walks to the truck driver, puts his hands on his hips & says, 'Got stuck, huh?' The truck driver says, 'No, I was delivering this bridge & I ran out of gas.'

2 H.A. bikers wounded in Peninsula clash – Sept 24, 2013 – *California* – By Joshua Melvin; www.ContraCostaTimes.com - Two Hells Angels were shot & wounded -- 1 critically -- during an apparent clash Sat with a rival motorcycle gang at a Mexican restaurant, authorities said Tue. The gunfire came as members of the Vagos & Wanted MCs, at least 40 bikers total, were meeting at Estrada's Mexican Restaurant on Mission St. But because the victims, men who are 37 & 41 years old, got themselves to San Francisco General Hospital & have been uncooperative, the full details of what happened remained obscured, Broadmoor police Chief Dave Parenti said. The Vagos & Hells Angels, which Fed & state authorities have labeled criminal gangs involved in guns, drugs & prostitution, have violently clashed in recent years. One high profile incident at a Sparks, Nev., casino in Sept. 2011 ended with the Pres of the San Jose Hells Angels chapter, Jeffrey "Jethro" Pettigrew, shot to death. A Vagos leader has been charged with the killing. Police believe local Hells Angels learned of the gathering at Estrada's & during a subsequent confrontation at least 5 shots were fired around 7:50 p.m. Investigators are seeking to gather surveillance footage from nearby businesses because witnesses have been unwilling to talk. Authorities have not made any arrests in connection with the shooting, which left one man wounded in the arm & the other shot in the stomach. They also have not identified any suspects. Police took one biker into custody near the restaurant Saturday on a warrant that was unrelated to the shooting. In the wake of the shooting, police from several police Depts rushed to the 7400 block of El Camino Real, but found only empty bullet casing. The victims weren't discovered until they turned up at the hospital & staff alerted San Francisco police, who then notified Broadmoor officers. However, South San Francisco officers arrested 5 associates or members of the Vagos as a group of about 30 of the club's riders & 2 other vehicles rolled through the city Sat night. Police said they found 5 handguns & a shotgun in the 2 vehicles. It doesn't appear those men could have pulled the trigger in Broadmoor because police pulled them over about 20 minutes before the shooting, Parenti said. Police initially said the Vagos riders were stopped after the gunfire. The 5 Sacramento-area men arrested on gun & gang charges have since been bailed out or released from San Mateo County jail, District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe said. Prosecutors will not file charges now, but the investigation into the guns was continuing, Wagstaffe said. As for whether Saturday's shooting would prompt retaliation from the Hells Angels, Parenti said it was likely. "These people are going to take it upon themselves to handle it," he added.

Street Vibrations festival bans MC colors - Sept 25, 2013 - *Reno, Nevada* - By AP; www.ReviewJournal.com - Members of motorcycle clubs & gangs will have to keep their colors under wrap at the 19th annual Street Vibrations biker festival running through the weekend in Reno & Sparks. Local organizers & casino owners have banned the colors in the aftermath of a deadly casino shootout between the Hells Angels & the rival Vagos gang during the festival 2 years ago. Organizers acknowledge the policy could affect turnout for the festival that typically attracts 30,000 visitors & pumps an estimated \$56 million into the local economy. But Street Vibrations manager Randy Burke told the Reno Gazette-Journal most people seem to accept the dress code as a way to help make people feel safer at a variety of events running through Sunday.

Vision without action is merely a dream;
Action without vision just passes the time.
Vision with action can change the world. - Joel Barker

Outlaws motorcycle gang targeted by police in raids – Sept 26, 2013 – *United Kingdom* – By www.BBC.co.uk - Eighteen people have been arrested in a series of raids targeting organized crime groups. West Mercia Police said officers had executed warrants for drugs and sex offences across Herefordshire and Gloucestershire. They also raided a warehouse used by members of the Outlaws, a notorious motorcycle club. Supt Ivan Powell said the group was believed to be connected to a serious assault at a pub in Herefordshire. "We've arrested a number of people we believe to be involved in a serious assault which took part at the Broad Leys pub," he said. "We class them [the Outlaws] as an organisation that is an organised crime group." The Outlaws' website states: "We may not live by the rules of society, but we do live by its laws." The force tweeted that officers had seized a firearm, a suspected stolen motorbike, class A and B drugs, a banned breed of dog and offensive weapons.

Man pleads no contest, faces decades in prison for Muskegon Motorcycle Gang deaths – Sept 25, 2013 – *Wisconsin* – By John S. Hausman; www.mlive.com - Eric "Rick" VanDam of Muskegon wishes the driver who cost VanDam his leg & two of his friends would have looked him in the eye when they sat a few feet apart Tue in a Wisconsin courtroom packed with bikers & supporters. But VanDam says he's reasonably satisfied with a plea agreement that will put Clinton Lovelace behind bars for decades. Lovelace, 26, entered pleas Tuesday afternoon, Sept. 24, that convicted him of two counts of homicide by negligent use of a motor vehicle & three counts of reckless injury/jeopardizing safety. The pleas were entered in Fond du Lac, Wisc. Lovelace will be sentenced Feb. 6. Under a plea agreement, his maximum sentence could be more than 30 years, although it may be capped at 20 years under the agreement. The judge will make the final sentencing decision. Lovelace now stands convicted of plowing his car into a group of Muskegon-area motorcyclists May 31, 2012, near Fond du Lac. The crash killed two Muskegon residents & injured eight others. Muskegon Motorcycle Gang riders Daniel Winsemius & Douglas Yonkers died in the crash. VanDam lost a leg & suffered other medical complications. He now uses a wheelchair. Authorities say the riders were struck when a car driven by Lovelace crossed the center line & barreled head-on into the group of 12 motorcycles on U.S. 151. The riders had taken the Lake Express ferry from Muskegon to Milwaukee & were heading north to the Mackinac Bridge as part of their annual Bridge Run. VanDam & six other Muskegonites traveled to Wisconsin for Lovelace's Tuesday plea hearing. They had plenty of company. "The courtroom was jampacked," VanDam said in a telephone interview after the plea hearing. "All the ABATE guys & Harley guys were there. It was standing room only." As with every court hearing for Lovelace, dozens of members of Wisconsin ABATE, a motorcycle rights & safety organization, filled the courtroom to show support for their Michigan comrades. VanDam said he's all right with the plea agreement, although it included the dismissal of several counts.

Tough times never last, but tough people do!

U.S. Defenders:

- We don't accept applications. We accept commitments...
- If we all do a little bit, Then no one has to do a lot...
- There can be no "I", there has to be "We"...
- One heart, One Voice...

National Coalition of Motorcyclists...
An Idea Whose Time Has Come...