

## Allied Memorial Remembrance Ride - Texas Ride, June 30, 2012

Early on the Saturday morning before the United States Independence Day folks from Texas hit the road on motorcycles, trikes and other vehicles heading to Terrell Texas. With support from police and local officials the Texas portion of the International Allied Memorial Remembrance Ride arrived at the Number One British Flying Training School Museum at Terrell Texas.



The volunteers that keep the museum alive and vibrant coordinated the activity with the City of Terrell and host the reception at the Terrell Municipal Airport. After the participants from all areas arrived they regrouped while having a stretch and refresh. The police escorted the mass ride of over 100 motorcycles followed by cages and support vehicles through town to the Terrell Memorial Stadium. Traffic on US Highway 80 was stopped as the piper led the procession of about 200 across to the British Memorial at Oakland Cemetery.

Organizer George "Tank" Sherman opened the ceremony followed by a prayer and poem by John "Padre" Retos, a vintage aircraft flyover

and placing a wreath honoring fallen British Aviators and all the Allied Warriors lost, from the Past to the Present. The ceremony concluded with the Marine Corp. League of Terrell Firing a volley of three, playing of the pipes by Mike Ecklund of Terrell and playing of "Last Post", the British version of TAPS by Dale Sherman of Fort Worth, Texas.

Following the ceremony activities moved to the Holiday Inn Express where a major portion of the parking lot was blocked off for bike parking. The afternoon event was Tank and Debbie's biker wedding. About 6:00 PM a Texas style get-together started with Bar-B-Que and all the trimmings and music by Cotton Hill (third year they have Supported AMRR). Invited guests included members of the Terrell Chamber of Commerce, Marine Corp League of Terrell, the British Museum, and the Hotel in appreciation for there help and assistance.

The Texas Ride started four years ago by American Legion Riders partnering with and following the format used by the British Legion Riders. The No.1 BFTS British Flying Training School (BFTS) Museum in Terrell became a host three years ago. It was the largest of 6 Training bases in the United States and over 2,000 Pilots from the United Kingdom and the United States were trained here. As was the case in 1941 when Terrell's citizens welcomed student pilots to their community, this year again they made the AMRR visitors feel welcome.

In 2011 the activity expanded to include the Canadian Veteran Freedom Riders, going to a memorial in Ottawa; and American Legion Riders from three additional states going to memorials. This year hundreds of participants from at least thirty one American Legion Rider Post/Chapters and many friends honored veterans at several ceremonies in the United States alone.

See the following sites for further details and pictures:

AMRR main page <http://www.alliedride.org/>

No. 1 British Flying Training School Museum <http://www.bftsmuseum.org/>

The Texas Ride <http://www.kencox.us/scrapbook/20120630amrr/>