

**9th DISTRICT COMMANDER**  
**Larry Ripplinger**

Greetings from the 9th District,

Fall is here and here are some of the things that I was involved with after summer campout.

My home Post held the POW-MIA Ride with proceeds from this ride going to the Fergus Falls Veterans home. The ride was good and it raised around 5 thousand dollars that was donated to the Vets Home in Fergus Falls.

The event that wrapped up a lot of my time this past summer was the ALR North Legacy Scholarship Ride. I had many hours into the planning and coordinating of this ride. It was August 13, 14, 15 and Started at the Clearwater American Legion and Ended at the St. Francis American Legion. The ride was a little over 850 miles and we stopped at 16 Posts and raised around 18,000 dollars. By the time I got home I had put on over 1000 miles.

The following weekend I joined the "Not So North Ride" south of Owatonna and we finished up that ride at the Chanhassen Post. There was around 10,000 dollars raised on that ride. All the money raised was turned in at the National Convention and it was 30,000 Dollars. There was a lot of help from a lot of The AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY to make these events a success.

Another event I was involved with was "Ride 2 Recovery" when they did the Great Lakes Challenge. I Road Guarded and Escorted the "R2R" for the week that they did their Bicycle Challenge Ride throughout south east MN. That was definitely something I will never forget watching a lot in my mirrors as the "Wounded Warriors" rode up and down the hills and as they would go past me when I would have roads blocked for them. One of the big highlights was bringing them into the Convention Center for their Reception and seeing all the cheering Legion Family giving them a warm welcome. After their Reception I was asked by their Staff earlier in the week if I would like to join them in going to the Vikings Preseason game. I rode with them on the bus over to the game and had a good time visiting with them.

The National Convention was interesting but I got to be honest with you the "R2R" was really the real deal and I would escort them any time any where rain or shine.

I did make it to Fall Camporee and it was a lot of fun. I wish I could get more people from the 9th to go. They don't know what they are missing out on. Cliff, Commander from the 6th even gave me some time to talk during their Rally.

This past Saturday Oct 15th the Quilting Ladies for "Quilts of Valor" left Underwood at 7:30 AM with 1012 Quilts they made to bring to the Military Hospitals in Oklahoma and Texas. It was a cool 37 degrees and I and one Patriot Guard escorted their bus on motorcycle and were met by several Legion Riders from North Dakota just west of Fergus Falls. We escorted them to the South Dakota border where they peeled off and a group of Legion Riders from South Dakota rode with me to Watertown where they peeled off and another group joined me in escorting the bus. We escorted the "QOV" bus to the Sioux Falls American Legion where the Legion Riders there had a lunch for us. After lunch I rode with the Sioux Falls ALR until

they headed south on I29 with the "QOV" bus and I headed back north.

At least it was warmer there than when we started. I was the only one that escorted them for 250 miles. Gotta love that Beemer.

By the time this goes out we will have had a joint 6th and 9th Rally in Detroit Lakes and Cliff will be kicking my butt in membership but there's a lot of time left and the guys in the 9th are out in the fields getting their fall chores done. Don't close your eyes on the 9th to long.