



Minnesota Memorial Riders Second Annual Ride  
July 30- August 1, 2010  
Honoring Wisconsin Fallen Heroes

This weekend we will pay honor to these fallen heroes and their families:

- 2LT Jeremy Wolfe, US Army** November 15, 2003  
Menomonie
- SSG Todd D. Olson, Army National Guard** December 27, 2004  
Loyal
- SPC. Bert E. Hoyer, US Army Reserve** March 10, 2004  
Ellsworth
- SPC. Charles A. Kaufman, Army National Guard** June 26, 2005  
Fairchild
- SPC Benjamin A. Smith, U.S. Army** November 2, 2005  
Hudson
- SGT Nathan Vacho, US Army** May 5, 2006  
Ladysmith
- CPL. Joshua M. Schmitz, U.S. Marines** December 26, 2006  
Loyal
- SPC Alun R. Howells, U. S. Army** August 13, 2007  
Menomonie

You answered the call of our nation, and made a difference in our lives,  
the lives of your fellow soldiers and their families.

You are the lifeblood of our country.

And because of you, our nation stands strong.

Together, Army, Navy, Airforce, Coast Guard and Marines you have made  
a difference.

Freedom has a special meaning for those who have fought for it.

Some call you soldiers,

We call you heroes.

To each of you being honored this weekend,  
it is our privilege to pay tribute to your memory.

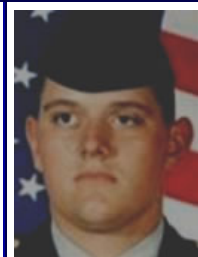
**2LT Jeremy L. Wolfe**  
**U.S. Army**

2LT Jeremy L. Wolfe, 27, of Menomonie, WI, was killed on Nov. 15, 2003, when two 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters crashed in Mosul, Iraq. Wolfe was assigned to the 4th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, KY. [NOTE: Lieutenant Wolfe was posthumously promoted to 1st Lieutenant]



**PFC Bert E. Hoyer**  
**U.S. Army Reserve**

PFC Bert E. Hoyer, 23, of Ellsworth, WI, died March 10, 2004, in Baqubah, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device hit his convoy. Hoyer was assigned to the 652nd Engineer Company, U.S. Army Reserve, Ellsworth, WI.



**SSG Todd D. Olson**  
**Army National Guard**

SSG Todd D. Olson, 36, from Loyal, WI, died Dec. 27, 2004, in the 67th Combat Support Hospital in Tikrit, Iraq from wounds sustained in Samarra, Iraq on Dec 26, when an improvised explosive device detonated. Olson was assigned to the National Guard's 1st Battalion, 128th Infantry Regiment, Neillsville, WI.



**SPC Charles A. Kaufman**  
**Army National Guard**

SPC Charles A. Kaufman, 20, of Fairchild, WI, died June 26, 2005, in Baghdad, Iraq, where a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated near his HMMVV. Kaufman was assigned to the Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 128th Infantry, Arcadia, WI.



**SPC Benjamin A. Smith**  
**U.S. Army**

SPC Benjamin A. Smith, 21, of Hudson, WI, died Nov. 2, 2005 near Baghdad, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his HMMWV. SPC Hudson was assigned to the Army's 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, KY.



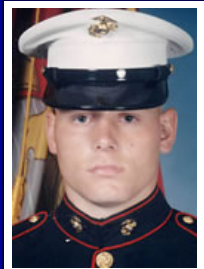
**SGT Nathan Vacho**  
**U.S. Army Reserve**

SGT Nathan Vacho, 29, of Ladysmith, WI, died in Baghdad, Iraq on May 5, 2006, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his HMMWV during combat operations. SGT Vacho was assigned to the Army Reserve's 489th Civil Affairs Battalion, Knoxville, TN. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, he was attached to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.



**CPL Joshua M. Schmitz**  
**U.S. Marine Corps**

CPL Joshua M. Schmitz, 22, of Loyal, WI, died Dec. 26, 2006 in Al Anbar province, Iraq, while conducting combat operations. CPL Schmitz was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, NC.



**SPC Alun R. Howells**  
**U. S. Army**

SPC Alun R. Howells, 20, of Parlin, CO, died Aug. 13, 2007 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds suffered from direct enemy fire. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, GA. His parents reside in Menomonie, WI.



Minnesota Memorial Riders was started with a small group of dedicated individuals including family members of our fallen heroes and veterans who share one common goal.

To let the families of our fallen heroes know their loss will never be forgotten.

In the past few years we have had the privilege of learning more about these brave men and women who served our country as the families have shared their personal stories about their loved one. We have been fortunate that they have entrusted us with their memories both in laughter and in tears while remembering moments they will never forget.

The members of Minnesota Memorial Riders have made a promise to never forget the loss these families have suffered. We will continue our mission as long as we are needed and hope that we have provided some comfort along the way.

Thank you to the families who have accepted our invitation to meet with them this weekend. It is our honor to spend this time with you. The bravery and courage of your soldier, your hero and ours and their commitment to protecting our country deserves our utmost respect and gratitude.

Sincerely,  
Minnesota Memorial Riders

**Mission Statement:**

We are a group of American Citizens and Veterans coming together to show our support to our military men and women, to those who currently serve, and to those who have served in the past. Together, we share a common goal: “To never forget those who have given the ultimate sacrifice while protecting the freedom that we all enjoy.”

**“Honoring Our Defenders of Freedom”**

