



PHOTOS BY SUZANNE CARR ROSSI FOR THE FREE LANCE-STAR

Shelia Strychowskyj (Josh Frazier's mother), Bonnie Zerbe, Christine and Vic Mason (Nick Mason's parents), Sara Frazier and Liz Davis release doves in memory of Josh Frazier and Nick Mason, who lost their lives during combat in Iraq.

Some Gave All ride rolls out for the final time

BY TAFT COGHILL
THE FREE LANCE-STAR

When the Some Gave All Foundation was established, there were just four people who conducted a motorcycle ride and festival that featured more than 1,500 participants.

The event was created in memory of Marine Corps Sgt. Joshua Frazier of Spotsylvania County, who was killed in Al Ramadi, Iraq, in 2007, and Army National Guardsman Sgt. Nicholas Mason, killed in Mosul, Iraq, in 2004.

The Frazier and Mason families combined to host the motorcycle ride that went from Spotsylvania High School—Frazier's alma mater—to King George High, where Mason was an alumnus.

The strain of hosting the event began to take its toll on Frazier's father, Rick, after the



Visitors to the event at King George High School look over the 7,054 names of the fallen heroes since 9/11. The last Some Gave All Motorcycle Ride took place on Sunday.

death of his wife, Jana, seven years ago.

A combination of the stress of hosting a wide-scale event and increased traffic along the

route led to the Some Gave All Foundation announcing last month that this year's ride would be the final one after 14 years.

The last ride took place on Sunday as about 1,000 motorcycle enthusiasts made the trek from State Route 208 to Lafayette Boulevard and then State Route 3 East before they arrived at King George High.

"I'm not sad," Rick Frazier said of the event ending. "I'm glad we were able to do what we did for such a small group of people. ... Once my wife passed away, it wasn't quite the same for me. I enjoyed helping other wounded vets. I thought that was a wonderful thing. But without her keeping me focused it was a little more difficult to put this on. This is a lot of work."

On Sunday morning, check-in and registration was held at Spotsylvania High. There was a brief ceremony before riders hit the road.

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After the national anthem, former Spotsylvania School Board member Ray Lora spoke about his relationship with Joshua Frazier when he was a student at Spotsylvania High and the sadness upon learning of his death.

“This young man was the best America has to offer,” Lora said.

Mason’s parents, Vic and Christine, then addressed the crowd. Kick stands went up about 11 a.m. and riders made the journey to King George.

At King George High, there was a DJ, a memorial ceremony, stunt riding by the 540 Boyz, demonstrations, vendors and exhibits, children’s activities and plenty of food.

The deaths of 13 Marines in Afghanistan last month were a topic of discussion as names of the more than 7,000 Americans who have died since the global war on terror began were read. In previous years, the roll call featured only Fredericksburg-area soldiers that perished.

“We have the same reaction whenever there’s a lost one,” Christine Mason said. “That one [in Afghanistan last month], because of the circumstances, is very difficult, as all of them are.”

Although Sunday was the last ride, the foundation will continue as long as donations continue to pour in. Entering Sunday’s event, Some Gave All had raised \$409,000 for veterans and their families in need of assistance. Some of the funds also went to organizations that are fo-



PHOTOS BY SUZANNE CARR ROSSI FOR THE FREE LANCE-STAR

Spectators wave flags as Some Gave All participants head to King George High School. The event also featured a DJ, demonstrations and children’s activities.

cused on veteran’s issues.

Frazier said the most rewarding expenditure was purchasing a computer with a voice application for a veteran who endured a traumatic brain injury and couldn’t speak to his two young children.

“He was able to type in what he wanted to say and the computer would actually speak so he could communicate with his children,” Frazier said. “That’s the one that hit home the most with me.”

The Virginia Department of Veterans Services had an informational table on-site. Anthony Swann, the department’s senior veteran peer specialist, said Some Gave All has been a major contributor to the needs of veterans in the Fredericksburg area.

Swann said homelessness, behavioral health and education are three primary areas of concern. He said one of the department’s goals is to connect



Joyce Holmes stands on the hill at King George High School on Sunday to welcome hundreds of riders.

veterans throughout the region to each other.

The Some Gave All ride was canceled in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is typically held before or after Memorial Day weekend but was moved this year to give organizers more time to plan around the pandemic.

The day after Sept. 11 was intentionally selected.

Christine Mason said it wasn’t known until last month that this ride would be the final one, but added it’s fitting it occurred near the 20th anniversary of 9/11.

“A lot of the ones serving now and the ones we have lost signed up after 9/11,” she said. “They signed up with that purpose to defend this country.”



FILE PHOTOS BY KEVIN MORROW / THE FREE LANCE-STAR

Joe and Elaine Pounder, followed by Don Liller, lead the way for the 2017 Frazier-Mason Some Gave All Memorial Ride.

One more ride for the Some Gave All memorial

BY CATHY DYSON
THE FREE LANCE-STAR

In the beginning, those who organized a regional motorcycle ride simply wanted to honor two local young men killed in action during the War on Terror.

But as the years went by, the effort, which evolved into the Some Gave All Foundation and memorial ride, became so much more. Money raised from entry fees and other events went to area servicemen and women who needed help transitioning from the military or to the survivors of those who died while on duty.



From left, Vic Mason, Gold Star wife Liz Davis, Bob Kash and Rick Frazier release doves before the ride in 2017.

Likewise, the memorial event attracted thousands of riders, as well as onlookers who stood along the route from Spotsylvania High School to King George County, cheering on the riders and reflecting on their own loved ones who had served in the armed forces.

On Wednesday, organizers announced that this year's 15th annual ride, scheduled Sept. 12, will be the last one. Doug Cantrell, who assembled the first ride in 2007, thought back on the legacy Some Gave All leaves behind—and the

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FILE / JEROMIE STEPHENS FOR THE FREE LANCE-STAR

Riders gather at Spotsylvania High School for the 12th annual Frazier-Mason Some Gave All Memorial Motorcycle ride in 2018. The ride was started to honor local veterans who died in Iraq.

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place of honor it holds in the Fredericksburg area.

“What does this mean to the community?” he asked. “What does the Fourth of July mean to this community, what does Memorial Day mean to this community? I would put the Some Gave All ride right up there.”

Cantrell and his wife, Michelle, have continued to help with the ride and the foundation. It was created in memory of Marine Corps Sgt. Joshua Frazier of Spotsylvania, who was killed in Al Ramadi, Iraq, in February 2007, and Army National Guardsman Sgt. Nicholas Mason, killed in Mosul, Iraq, in December 2004.

Early on, family members of Frazier and Mason wanted the same as almost every person who experiences a loss: for their loved one to be remembered. Frazier’s father, Rick, said on Wednesday he thinks Josh would be proud to see what’s been done in his name.

“He would be so excited to know somewhere, some kid 20 years down the road has a T-shirt with his name on it,” Frazier said. “As long as your name is mentioned, you really never die. That was my goal. I don’t think we can do any more than that.”

As the years have gone by, the work involved has gotten harder, said Vic Mason, father of Nicholas. Motorcyclists start the event at Spotsylvania High School, Frazier’s alma mater, and finish at King George High School, Mason’s old stomping grounds. There are displays, vendors and various events held each year at the King George site.

“We’ve all gotten 15 years older and things are more difficult, physically and emotionally,” Mason said.

Cantrell knows that from personal experience.

Every year before the ride starts, he, Mason and Frazier start early and load up moon bounces and generators, fill up gas cans and tend to dozens of other last-minute details.

“There’s just a ton of work that is done by three guys,” Cantrell said. “I know by Monday I’m wiped out. And those two guys have about 10 years on me, may-



FILE / LARRY BOWLES

Law enforcement officers salute the U.S. flag as a motorcycle passes a King George intersection during the 2011 ride.

be a little more.”

While next month will be the last time the motorcyclists ride in the name of Some Gave All, the foundation will continue as long as the donations do, Mason said.

To date, the group has distributed more than \$409,000 to individuals in need of assistance and organizations focused on the same mission: to raise funds for service members who are wounded, disabled or in need as a result of injuries sustained during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Some Gave All has helped veterans with rent, mortgage payments or remodeling to accommodate disabilities. It’s made vehicle payments, helped with auto insurance and repairs, paid utility bills and taxes, given holiday food baskets and gifts, provided school books, purchased clothes needed for new jobs or custom tailoring for an amputee and helped with child care so veterans could work.

“By the time the foundation closes, with what’s in and what’s expected, it will be over half a million dollars,” Mason said. “It’s been worthwhile to see so many people assisted.”

He and the others stressed, even as their emotions got the best of them, that they couldn’t have made the foundation work without “such an incredibly supportive community—the countless riders, volunteers, spectators, sponsors, partners, agencies, organizations and clubs that worked the rides and were generous enough to donate their time, goods and services.”

The organizers hope they’ll all show up on Sept. 12, and that the memorial ride will go out on a high note. And that the weather will cooperate unlike one year, when there was such a deluge of rain at King George High School, Mason said “you couldn’t pick up the microphone without getting shocked.”

Online registration has ended, but the foundation will do pre-registration this Saturday and next, Aug. 21 and 28, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Eagles Aerie No. 4123, 21 Cool Springs Road, in Stafford County. Participants also can arrive early at register on the day of the ride. More information is available on Facebook or at somegaveallfoundation.org.

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