

Guest Column to The Monroe Dispatch
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From
Mayor James E. "Jamie" Mayo
City of Monroe, LA

Run for the Wall May 21st at Monroe City Hall

The Monroe City Council and I are pleased to announce the 30th annual *Run for The Wall* (RFTW) motorcycle pilgrimage will make its way into the Monroe area on May 20, on its course to Washington, D.C., for annual Memorial Day weekend events. A formal wreath-laying ceremony will be held at 8:30 am Monday, May 21, at the War Memorials on the lawn between Monroe City Hall and the Monroe City Court building. The public is invited.

The annual motorcycle formation, which will encompass an estimated 500 to 800 riders, will travel across the I-20 corridor as part of the RFTW's Southern Route with the mission to support all U.S. military personnel and promote healing for all veterans, their families and their friends. The mission also calls for an accounting and remembrance of all prisoners of war, missing in action and killed in action.

The formation is expected to arrive in Monroe late Sunday afternoon, and will be the guests of the Barak Shriners and AMVETs Post 66 for a brief ceremony and fish fry. The West Monroe High School Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps will provide a color guard and will present its formal hat ceremony in honor of all POWs, MIAs and KIAs from all U.S. conflicts.

The formation is expected to depart the Monroe Civic Center parking lot at approximately 9 am, escorted by Louisiana State Troopers and officers from various area law enforcement agencies. The formation will continue its travels across the country in route to the nation's capital, where the riders will visit military memorials, to include the D-Day Memorial, the Vietnam Wall and Arlington National Cemetery. The weekend's events will culminate with the Rolling Thunder parade, which features more than 500,000 riders from across the country.

For more information and the itinerary for travels, please visit www.rftw.org.