

# Ride Report

## 2019 Ride To Remember

by Dennis Bible

Sunday, September 8th, we met at the Blairsville Marathon Station for a 06:30 departure to Cycle World of Athens in Athens, GA. We were riding to join about 800 other bikers that were gathering there to ride in memory of the attack on September 11th, 2001. We were riding to remember and honor over three thousand Americans who died on that terrible day!

We arrived at the dealership about 08:30 and were in time this year to purchase souvenir "T" shirts that commemorate the occasion! Last year we got there too late to buy them as they had run out.

We left the dealership (kick stands up) at 10 AM. With that many bike/trikes it takes about 20 to 30 minutes to get everyone out in columns of two! We had law enforcement escort in front and back plus all intersections were blocked open by cops and fire fighters, we never stop. Local folks were parked along the roadside waving our American Flag and cheering us on. People in the opposite lane even stopped, got out of their vehicles and removed their hats, held their hands over their hearts, saluted.....an amazing show of patriotism and respect!

We wound around the local communities for about 2 hours before stopping in Cornelia for gas and a snack. Leaving Cornelia, all but one of us got separated from the main column. So we took a shortcut to Cleveland, GA., and finally caught up with the parade as we climbed Blood Mountain. From there we followed the group to the Copperhead Lodge in Blairsville where they hosted the entire group with a pulled pork BBQ sandwich lunch.

As I rode with this great group of fellow bikers and saw the love and emotion coming from the crowds, I couldn't help but to reflect and remember what happened on that awful day 18 years ago. I'm proud to have done this ride for four years now and find it humbling and emotional. I plan to do it again in 2020! Come join me!

Eight bikes/trikes, 9 riders, about 8 hours & 250 miles!

Dennis Bible