



**JOHN E. JACOBS LEGION POST 68 LELAND
MEDIA RELEASE**

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LEGION POST 68 ON HAND TO WELCOME AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

Nearly 400 American Legion Riders stopped for a rest and recuperation break at the Battleship North Carolina on Monday, August 18, 2025. With Harley-Davidson as a major sponsor, the Riders started their annual Legacy Run in South Boston, VA, the day before. This year's Legacy Run culminates in Tampa Bay, FL, on Friday, August 22, marking the opening of the American Legion 106th National Convention. Members of the Wilmington community and local dignitaries were on hand to welcome the riders. With the Legion Department of North Carolina providing food and water for the riders, members of John E. Jacobs Legion Post 68, Leland, assisted the riders on-site. Jim Torr, North Carolina District 9 Commander, and Vice Commander George Freeman, who provided remarks at the wreath-laying ceremony, also attended.

The Legion Riders is a group of dedicated motorcycle enthusiasts who are organized into over 2,200 Chapters across the country and include several overseas chapters. The Riders support American Legion programs through fundraising, participating in ceremonies, and providing community service. For 19 years, they have traveled the country to raise funds for scholarships that support the higher education of children who lost a parent in active military service on or after September 11, 2001, or whose post-9/11 parent has a VA disability rating of 50% or higher. Since its inception in 2006, the Legion Riders Legacy Run has raised over \$16 million for scholarships. In 2024, the Legacy Run expanded its mission to include the Legion's Veterans & Children Foundation (VCF). This focus ensures that the Riders remain attuned to the evolving needs of veterans and military families.

During the afternoon, a wreath-laying ceremony on the battleship deck included Legacy Run Chief Road Captain Ken Nadeau, Assistant Chief Road Captain David Heredia, and National Riders Chairman Mark Clark, who dropped a wreath over the ship's rail and into the water. The ceremony included remarks from George Freeman and an extensive history of the battleship by Frank

Glossl, Executive Director, Friends of the Battleship. Dennis Ryan, an honor guard bagpiper for the Richard H. Stewart Post 543 in Southport, N.C, played the Armed Forces Medley. Afterwards, the Riders rode to the North Strand American Legion Post 186 in Little River, S.C., to end their day with additional ceremonies honoring veterans.

To learn more about the American Legion Riders program and the Legacy Run, visit <https://www.legion.org/get-involved/community-programs/american-legion-riders>. To learn more about the John E. Jacobs American Legion Post 68 and view the Calendar of Events, visit <https://ncpost68.org/>.