

## Operation Thank You helps sponsor Soldier Ride

by Brian Thomason



Yes, I'm proud to be an American, living in the land of the free and the home of the brave, and all too often, the home of the forgotten. However, thanks to the sponsorship of Operation Thank You and the Blue Star Mothers of Lexington S.C., Marine LCpl Kyle Carpenter was honored by two individuals who participated a Soldier Ride on May 21, 2011.

Kyle is a Marine who was injured in Afghanistan while throwing himself on a live grenade to shield his fellow Marines from injury. A selfless act of courage that should never be forgotten.

On Saturday May 21, 2011 at 0400, Honey Heywood and Brian Thomason, under the sponsorship of Operation Thank You and the Blue Star Mothers departed Lexington, South Carolina in route to Charlotte, NC to participate in the Soldier Ride.

Soldier Ride is a bicycling event formed to raise monies to aid in funding the Wounded Warrior Project. Twenty-five wounded warriors, veterans of our war against terror suited up alongside of us to participate in the event.

Some bore obvious scars, missing limbs, sightless eyes, disfigurement, while others carried with them the unseen scars like PTSD and haunting nightmares. All of them are brave individuals whose efforts should be remembered.



It was a warm Saturday morning and countless volunteers came in mass to show their support and love for America's bravest.

Kicking off the event was a DJ bringing lots of music as well as several speakers, one of which was a double amputee, having lost both of his legs in defense of our country's freedoms. Talk about motivation---who thinks of their own legs aching during a long ride when your thoughts are fixed upon someone who sacrificed both their legs for you.

All in all, thousands of dollars were raised to support our wounded warriors and thanks to Operation Thank You and the Blue Star Mothers of Lexington, SC and people just like you who support those two organizations, we did our part as well. May God continue to bless Operation Thank You and the Blue Star Mothers and may God bless you. We pray Almighty God's blessing upon warriors like Kyle Carpenter and countless others like him. And most prayerfully, may God bless America.

To learn how you can help our Wounded Warriors in this way, visit <http://www.SoldierRide.org>