

Legislative Update for Chatham County CBA – June 2010

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NC State Issues:

- Five Chatham CBA members attended the state CBA Lobby Day on Wednesday. Thanks goes out to Mike Mohan, Cat Mohan, Mikey Hindle and Wayne Glosson for representing our Chatham County Chapter. We met with several legislators and discussed the issues important to us as bikers. We were even able to get some time with Speaker Hackney. Speaker Hackney is also a rider so it was good to talk with him. Both he and Senator Atwater from Chatham County commented on seeing our yellow motorcycle awareness signs on 15/501.

Legislators we visited:

- Speaker of the House Rep. Joe Hackney
- Rep. Jim Crawford
- Rep. Paul Stam (House Minority Leader)
- Senator Bob Atwater
- Senator Richard Stevens
- Senator Doug Berger

While visiting with Rep. Paul Stam, we also spoke with the Mayor of Apex Keith Weatherly who happened to be visiting with Rep. Stam at the time. After lobbying, we headed over to Havana Grill in Cary and had some lunch.

A few pictures and a link to DocSki's blog entry are at this URL:

http://www.ncrider.com/photogallery/Lobby-Day_5-19-10/index.htm

If you are ever discriminated against because you are a biker, please fill out the compliant form at the below URL. NCOM is gathering data. http://www.aimncom.com/ncom/ncom_complaint.htm

National Ride to Work Day is Monday, June 21st

NC Primary Election Results – Voter turnout: Statewide=14.5%

Wake=11%, Lee=14%, Franklin=15%, Chatham 17%.

All results here: http://www.wspa.us/index.php/campaign2010_nc_return/

Important election notes:

Ronnie Sutton lost his primary to Charles Graham (Good news - Sutton is anti-biker)

Dewey Hill won his primary (Good news – He is pro-biker)

Fern Shubert lost her bid to reenter the NC Senate. (Bad news – She is pro-biker)

Doug Berger in Franklin County won his primary

Richard Burr won the REP primary for his US Senate seat with 80% of the vote.

BJ Lawson (REP) will take on David Price in the US House race in November. (Western Wake County)

Federal Issues:

- **US House Bill 1253 – HIPAA loophole fix.** – Forces insurance companies to tell you if they will not cover your medical expenses for injuries received in what they consider “dangerous” activities. (motorcycling is one of them) Latest Major Action: 4/1/2009 Referred to Senate committee. Status: House voted: 422-3 in favor. Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

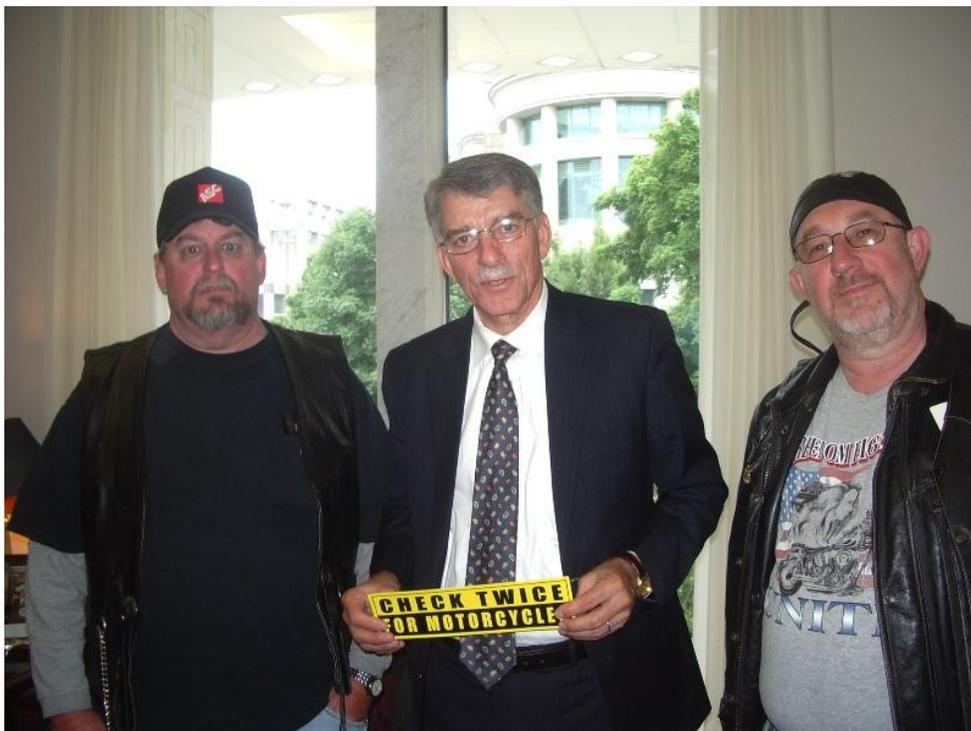
- **US House Bill HR 2057 - Right to Repair Act** - a bipartisan bill called the Right to Repair Act of 2009 has been introduced in the House of Representatives that would, in fact, make it cheaper and easier for millions of consumers to have their cars and motorcycles repaired. Latest Major Action: 4/22/2009 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred

to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. Rep. David Price (Western Wake), Rep. Bob Etheridge (Chatham), and Rep. Brad Miller are already co-sponsors. We are good on this one.

MRF - Bikers Inside the Beltway - Last week the Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) held their second annual national motorcycle lobby day known as the Michael "Boz" Kerr Bikers Inside the Beltway event. This year, dedicated motorcyclists rode in from 13 different states to meet with their entire Congressional delegations. In total, over 200 individual meetings were held with Senators and Members of Congress. The MRF secured free parking at the base of the US Capitol for the motorcyclists who attended. The group was addressed by staff members from the US House of Representatives Motorcycle Safety Caucus. Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords (D-AZ), US House Motorcycle Safety Caucus Chair, had this to say, "As motorcyclists, it is our job to help educate the American public on the differences between motorcycles and other vehicles on the roads today. We all know education is a key component of motorcycle safety. Advocacy is an important part of spreading the message and educating others who may know very little about motorcycles and what it is to ride. A crash avoided is the ultimate goal." Overall, the event was a tremendous success. Keep an eye out for details on next year's event and make plans to attend. Anyone who has attended will tell you about the powerful impact this event has on Congress, and on the attendees themselves. Thanks to everyone who rode out; you are the lifeblood of this event. Look forward to next year's Bikers Inside the Beltway, which promises to be even bigger and badder.

Patriot Guard Riders Barred From Miners' Memorial – From NCOM - Many of the 29 West Virginia coal miners who died at the Upper Big Branch mining explosion on April 5th were veterans and some rode motorcycles, so bereaved families had requested the Patriot Guard Riders to attend the memorial service. PGR is an informal group of motorcyclists which exists to make sure that all veterans are given respectful funerals. But they were barred from attending this service by federal officials who labeled them a security threat. -The appearance of the Patriot Guard Riders at the service, at the request of several families, had been cleared in advance by West Virginia Governor Joe Manchin, who is also a motorcycle rider. But the day before the service, Joe Cumblidge, the West Virginia State Captain of the Patriot Guard Riders e-mailed the men who were scheduled to participate: "Due to circumstances totally and completely beyond the control of the Patriot Guard Riders and Governor Joe Manchin of West Virginia, we are regrettably ordering a STAND DOWN for this mission. Specific details will not be posted here but, we've been told we are not welcome to participate because of certain high-level dignitaries that are scheduled to be in attendance." The "high-level dignitaries" were President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden. A Patriot Guard Rider told WSAZ in Charleston that Manchin had been forbidden to allow them to participate "because of overwhelming security concerns with high-ranking federal officials - it was just not logistically possible for them to be a part of the event." Both Obama and Biden managed to escape West Virginia unharmed.

Awareness is our best defense. Please stay involved legislatively.



Wayne and Mohan with Speaker of the NC House Joe Hackney