

August 2, 2006

Congressman thanked Patriot Guard for honoring fallen heroes

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On the afternoon of July 29, U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer and his wife, Joni, hosted a picnic for members of Indiana's Patriot Guard at their home in Monticello. There were no fanfare, TV crews or prepared speeches. Buyer, as House Veterans Affairs Committee chairman, invited the Patriot Guard simply to thank the riders for taking the initiative to honor the fallen heroes of our nation.

Most of about 100 visitors were veterans -- people who refused to let the sacrifice of other military personal go unnoticed or unhonored. Others were families of soldiers who had died in battle. The congressman thanked the riders for showing their loyalty to our American heroes by attending funeral after funeral, regardless of weather and inconvenience. He warned them that the job of parading in honor of fallen comrades is far from over.

If a congressman can allow a bunch of motorcycle riders to park on his lawn just so he can tell them what they are doing is important to this country, maybe that is a message we all need to be reminded of.

We need to honor all those who in large ways and small, make this country great, not just the military but the teacher who is at physical risk from students, the farmer who tends fields so that we all may eat, and the firefighter who climbs out of bed no matter what time it is. Loyalty demands that we stand together, honoring our heroes, whether it is convenient for us to do so or not.

It takes all of us to honor the fallen heroes and to demonstrate our loyalty to those who must continue to fight. Thank you, Congressman Buyer, for reminding us of that connection.

Margie Porter

Tipton