**Run For The Wall®**

Presentation Outline/Template

This outline/template is intended for use as a guide, to highlight some of the Run’s most important points. The template should be modified for each situation; not all the subjects on this document need be covered at every presentation. The Key Points, Philosophy, Goals are straight out of RFTW documents and should not be altered.

1. **Introduce yourself**
	1. Number of years on the run, positions held, routes taken
	2. Why you do the Run
2. **Key points about the Run** (these directly from the Mission Statement)
	1. To promote healing among **ALL** veterans and their families and friends
	2. to call for an accounting of **ALL** Prisoners of War and those Missing in Action (POW/MIA),
	3. to honor the memory of those Killed in Action (KIA) from **ALL** wars,
	4. and to support our military personnel all over the world.
3. **Philosophy**
	1. We strive to maintain a safe, supportive and private atmosphere in which **ALL** participants can reflect and heal on their journey to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, in the hope they can return home to a new beginning
4. **Goals**
	1. To guide the participants across America.
	2. To educate future generations on the importance of accountability in wartime actions, emphasizing that no one should be left behind.
5. **History:**
	1. Started in 1989 by James Gregory and Bill Evans, two Vietnam Veterans who traveled across the heartland of America on motorcycles. They talked to local radio, TV and newspapers about the thousands of men and women still unaccounted for from all wars. The need for this awareness continues today and we carry on this tradition every May.
	2. We still have riders with us today that were on that first run. And every year, we see more and more FNGs (Fine New Guys/Gals). We need the FNGs, we need to continue this mission.
6. **We “Ride for Those Who Can’t.** We don’t give political speeches or stage demonstrations. RFTW gets its message across to the public by riding through the United States. We obey traffic laws and treat **all citizens with dignity and respect**. The issue of public awareness is only part of the reason for RFTW. We also give **ALL** Veterans the opportunity to get their own “Welcome Home” and start their healing process.
	1. We’ve had veterans from WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, Desert Shield, OIF/OEF – we are about veterans. We have active duty units ride a day or two; Guard and Reserve units that do the same.
	2. Many who participate in the Run find that whatever they’ve been missing can be found in the RFTW family. They can finally start settling issues that have been “stuffed” away for many years.
	3. Oftentimes, while riding you may find yourself eating lunch at Anywhere town, USA and someone will come up to you and thank you for what you do. I can’t tell you the number of times that has happened to me, or of the stories from fellow riders who experience the same. I’ve had men come up and thank me for representing them, tell me they still cannot go to D.C. I always am careful to thank them for their service and give them a heartfelt Welcome Home. I try to keep RFTW pins in my pockets just for those occasions. I like to think that maybe they will sleep well that night knowing we care.
7. **The Run**
	1. There’s a nominal charge for participating in the Run, plus you pay your own expenses such as lodging. The registration fees help pay insurance and covers administrative costs, hosting the web site, etc. We’ve been fortunate in the past to receive support from organizations and people along the way. Most evening dinners and many breakfasts and lunches are provided free or for a small donation by concerned citizens.
	2. There are provisions to bring along minor children. Families are welcome on the Run, whether for a day, a week or All the Way. This provides a great opportunity for Fathers and Mothers to teach children about service to others, patriotism, how one’s contribution can make a difference.
	3. All the Way is a 10-day\* organized trip from Ontario, CA to Washington D.C. Each route stops at VA hospitals, memorials, schools, community centers, oftentimes parading into a town where local citizens welcome us to their community and thank us for riding **“For those who can’t”** One does not have to go All The Way; you can ride a day or two, a week; participation All the Way is not a requirement. (\*The Midway Route is an 11-day route.)
	4. After a day or two, one realizes this is something special and unlike anything you’ve experienced. You become part of the RFTW family whose members come from all over the United States, Australia, Canada, Netherlands and other countries
	5. Following our Friday arrival in DC, on Saturday we gather at the Lincoln Memorial for a group photo and then we proceed to the Vietnam Memorial Wall and perform a ceremony where we leave a Mission Accomplished plaque commemorating that year’s mission.
	6. The Run is an organized, structured event. Each route takes between 300-400 plus riders across the country. Riders are assigned to a platoon, complete with platoon leaders and tail gunners, leading their platoon across the country. Imagine fueling 300 plus motorcycles in 20-25 minutes!! That takes planning. Imagine parking those same motorcycles each time we stop (sometimes up to 6 times a day) so we all leave in the same group or platoon we started with. Imaging the effort involved in getting police escorts so we can enter and depart a city with as little disruption as possible.
	7. We ride about 2.7 million vehicle miles each year. 1200 motorcycles riding 2300 miles… Safely.
	8. The Main Rule is NO ATTITUDES. We are there to provide comfort and support to those among us who may benefit from our understanding; we are there to recognize the sacrifices and contributions of our veterans; WE RIDE FOR THOSE WHO CAN’T.
8. The sound of 1200 motorcycles with veterans and veteran supporters is a truly awesome sound. We need your voice to join in this chorus.