

On Sunday, August 26th, in honor and memory of my late husband, Roger Ballantyne, *Roger's Ride* celebrated the 10th Anniversary of his passing with a sun-filled 100-mile motorcycle ride enjoying the exquisite NH roads and landscape with the surround of six bodies of water sparkled that day. This concludes the Final Ride. As I reflect over the years of Roger's Ride, I am amazed by the number of remarkable people who made Roger's Ride possible and successful. This year we raised nearly \$8,000 for Laconia Kiwanis.

Roger was a 30-year Kiwanian. We found it only fitting that monies raised would be donated to Laconia Kiwanis. The Kiwanis Club has a long history of supporting local charities such as Central NH VNA & Hospice Pediatric Program, Special Olympics, Got Lunch Laconia, the Salvation Army, the Circle Program, Lakes Region Scholarship Foundation, Camp Mayhew, many Youth Team Sports, the Boy Scouts and Kiwanis KARES.

Thank you to our adult children and grandchildren. Andrea & Pete Cravenho, Matt & Heather Roy, Lisa & Lou Alden and Blaine & Jill Ballantyne. All was right in my world when you participated with all the Rides. At the start of the Ride early on, our four-year old Grandson, Cord Ballantyne, attended the very first Ride. Then it grew to five more grandchildren, Sarah, Nathan & Ian Cravenho, Vivienne Semer Roy and the youngest Isabella Ballantyne. I believe the Ride was the start of our grandchildren's life lesson to "pay it forward." Sarah, Nathan & Ian's lemonade stand earned us \$29.00 this year!

My brother, Dan Thompson, contributed every year to the Ride. Each year he had a large contingency of Bikers from my home State of Maine. He provided signage, waters, sodas and silent auction donations. Thank you, Lynn Rollins. You and Dan make a good team. My brother John came each year to ride along with my lovely sister-in-law Phyllis and their friends. John donated his winnings right back to Roger's Ride. Siblings and in-laws Jim, Suzanne, Mary and Gary and my mother, Doris Thompson, may not ride a motorcycle but they were very supportive and contributed to the Ride from day one! My brother and sister-in-law, Bob and Patricia Ballantyne, thank you for all you've done for us over the years. Tom & Linda Peary's vision was the start of *Roger's Ride* and their tag team Darcy Peary & Kelly Hogan. Longtime neighbors, friends and co-workers contributed with the planning, organizing, the baking, the cooking, the setup, the tear downs and ticket sales for the entire decade of the Ride. Thank you to Abe & Lynn Dadian, Carol Anderson & Tobias Paddock, George & Donna Davison, Chris & Steve Fay, Denise & Bob Joyal, Larry & Jane Lacroix, Colleen & Ernie Bownes, Carolyn Fay Muller, Sue Jaynes, Dan & Rosemary Mack, Andre Paquette, Grant Dobens, Carrie Chandler, Joan & Frederick Brierly, Michelle Whitney, Dennis Marhefka, Alan Beard, Lee Duncan, Alan Faro, Steve & Brook Bellows, Susan Lund, Greg Page, Buddy Laurent and Mayor Ed Engler. Lisa Abreu, my cupcake and cookie girl, baked them as if Roger was tasting each one as his favorites. Dr. Spencer Brody was always the first to sign up for the Ride. My dear Pediatrician and Rotarian friend Spencer Brody, we missed you this year!

Thank you to my fellow Kiwanian Steve Loughlin for your amazing Roger's Ride website, the photos, group pictures and videos year after year. My fellow Kiwanian women Paulette Loughlin, Muff Kruse,

Kathy Calvin, Arlene Fortier, Rosemary Murphy, Priscilla Breton, Sue Nelson, Joanne Merski, Meredith Michaud and Kara Stanley whom worked diligently for the *Ride* while keeping watchful eyes on my grandchildren.

Thank you to my fellow Kiwanian men: John Walker, Bill Gile, Jim Fortier, Phil Bonafide, Dennis Denoncourt, Charlie St Clair, Larry Murphy, Paul Cotton, Warren Mitchell, Ben & Jake Pearson. Thank you, Road Captains: Dick Breton, Bob & Kaye Hamel, Paul Stickney, Scott Laurent, Rob & Katie Reid, Don Nelson, and Howie Chandler for your unending support.

Thank you to our local businesses for their continued support. Chris & Pete Irwin donated the use of the used car lot at the start of *Roger's Ride* in 2009, Irwin's supplies, equipment, their financial support over the years and importantly Dave Frasca star employee. Kevin Halligan, owner of the Laconia Local Eatery donated his food, cooking, time and compassion for our cause. The meals were fabulous. Craig Parent, owner of Goody Good Donuts...thank you for the many dozens of donuts donated to us over the years for *Roger's Ride* and Nancy Lee, Massage Therapy & Hypnosis. Thank you to Sarah Gray, owner of Body Covers, for your creative designs and contributions to the cost of *Roger's Ride* T-Shirts. Thank you, T-Shirt sponsors: Chris & Peter Irwin of Irwin Automotive Group; Pam Martineau Langlitz, owner of Trustworthy Hardware; David Osman, partner of Martin, Lord & Osman; Kara Stanley of Kara Financial LLC; Bank of New Hampshire and Bill Irwin of Irwin Marine. Gail Batstone of Mills Fall donated many two-night stays at Church Landing for the fund-raising raffles. Thank you, Chief Matt Canfield and members of the Laconia Police Department. Also, many thanks to Kevin Dunleavey of the Laconia Parks & Recreational Department for the use of Rotary Park, Tara Shore, Director of Operations of The Belknap Mill, Ann Saltmarsh and Paul Moynihan of Laconia Public Works, The Taylor Community, Citizens Bank, and Mike Parsons, owner of Winnisquam Printing.

"Remembering our friends from the past, to benefit the youth of tomorrow". Well said Kiwanian Past President, Jack Batchelder.

I am and continue to be in awe and thankful for my remarkable family, neighbors, friends, co-workers, fellow Kiwanians, local businesses, our community and faith in God. May God wrap you with his loving arms and bless you! On behalf of the Ballantyne/Roy/Thompson Family and Laconia Kiwanis Club, thank you for your monumental contributions of services, goods, money, time, commitment and love for *Roger's Ride!*



Betty Ballantyne
Laconia, NH