



Another Old Man on a Bike



Brother Knight Joe Cronin of Fr. Edmond P. McCarthy Council 9428 in Gloucester and Fr. John P. Washington Assembly 2184 is cycling from Gloucester to San Diego, California, starting in September.

Joe wants to do this as a fund raiser for VKCCI because, as a Past Grand Knight and a longtime member of the Knights, he has witnessed the good works that VKCCI does to help those in serious financial need.

Joe is asking his Brother Knights in Virginia to make a pledge of as little as one penny for every mile that he cycles. Estimating that the trip is about 3,000 miles, that amounts to a \$30.00 tax deductible contribution with your check payable to VKCCI.

If we get as little as 100 supporters for Joe, that amounts to \$3,000. The more supporters, the more we raise for your VKCCI Charity Corporation. Can you imagine 500 supporters raising \$15,000?

Now the big question – Can you imagine you being one of those 500 supporters?

If so, PLEASE make your pledge to VKCCI now. Send your pledge to Rosario Chechile at rc hechile@ymail.com (please note that it is “Y” mail not “G” mail). Please include your name, phone number and amount per mile being pledged. We will send you a confirmation of your pledge.

Joe will also be creating a Blog which we will send you during his two month journey which is scheduled to begin in September.

For Joe’s full story, please see the other side.

Please Act Today – Your Charity Needs Your Help.

Another Old Man on a Bike

I am planning a trip to California beginning September on September 7th, leaving from Gloucester Point, Virginia and following a route which will take me through Richmond, Culpepper, Winchester and hooking up with the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Towpath up to the Pittsburgh area before heading southwest through Columbus, Indianapolis, Saint Louis, Wichita, Albuquerque, Flagstaff, Laughlin, and San Diego. In all, the trip should be a little less than 3,000 miles and should take about 60 days to complete. The "plan" is about 2,980 miles, but there is a lot which can happen along the way to revise the route and the timing.

Knowing me, I will get about half way and wonder: "Why I am doing this at the age of 73 when I could be home watching my Chicago Cubs win the World Series?" I will need some incentive to continue and I am hoping that I can be earning \$1.00 or more per mile for the Virginia Knights of Columbus Charities. Just 100 sponsors at a penny per mile would make that possible. Of course the more that is pledged, the stronger my incentive. In my dreams I see \$10.00 per mile and think that is possible.

I have personally seen what VKCCI does and know many of the people coordinating their efforts. They are amazing, dedicated folks who are making a difference in the lives of thousands by giving people a hand up when they are done and see no other way of making it. There are thousands of stories where this charity is the difference between prolonged dependency and a step toward independence.

When I am saddle sore and feeling sorry for myself, I will be able to focus on one more turn of the crank for those in need and quit worrying about my a little inconvenience. I was fortunate to be a Grand Knight for my Council and a District Deputy for a couple of years. In that, I got to know a number of wonderful men who take seriously their mission of charity. The list is far too long to mention, but as I looked at them, a number of them are involved in the Virginia Knights of Columbus Charities, Inc.

Now I must be honest, I didn't start out to make this a charity ride. This great country of ours is something to see I have lived in many parts of it and traveled through much more of it over the years. I wanted to see much more of it up close and personal. I have always loved a challenge and this seemed like a good one for me. The time seemed right. I just retired again and in a few more years, I might not be able to do this. It won't be easy, especially against the prevailing winds from the west and a few significant hills on the route, but others have done it and so will I.

I intend to create a blog by which the sponsors can keep track of where I am and how I am doing. I have purchased a bike that is sturdy enough to make it and has a little suspension in the front end to cushion some of the potholes and rough patches. It is a Ghost which will have a few hundred miles on it before I start and will receive one final re-tune in August to be sure it is ready for the trip.

I have enlisted a support crew of one. I actually enlisted her a little more than 50 years ago and she is well aware of how crazy I am and how determined I am to do this. She will be riding in the air-conditioned comfort while her husband is on the pedals.