

Featured Member

Joe Talluto

I first started riding motorcycles back in 1969, when I bought a Honda CB350. I was a sergeant in the United States Marine Corps and living off base in San Clemente California with my wife, Janice.

I loved that bike and soon outfitted it with windshield and crash bars with highway pegs.

Harleys seemed just too big and I wasn't sure I could handle one, even though I really always wanted to ride a Harley.

I did a lot of sightseeing and highway

travel on that bike, and when I was discharged in 1970, I had it transported back here to Missouri along with all our other belongings.

Jan and I were married in 1969 here in Missouri, and she moved back to California with me until I was discharged from the service. She used to ride the back of that bike with me everywhere and we really had some great times together.

I attended Meramec Jr. College in the early 70's and used to ride my Honda to school every day while I worked toward an associate's degree in architecture, then one day, I forget what year, my bike was stolen off the school parking lot while I was in class and that ended my motorcycle riding for a number of years after that. In those days proof of insurance wasn't a requirement, and I let it lapse right after I made the last payment, and you can easily guess what that meant, since the bike was stolen only a couple months after I paid it off.

Jan kind of lost her interest in riding, and felt we had more important things to invest our money and time in, so my dream of ever getting a Harley went by the wayside for a long time.

As the years went by, we became the parents of three children, Jeremaiah, Debbie and Pamela. Pamela is the last one still living at home with me while she attends college towards a law degree. The other two are "Off on their own." I have 5 wonderful grandchildren.

I was saved in 1972 while driving on highway 270 just east of the Chain of Rocks Bridge. My wife was saved months before me and was working hard at trying to get me to understand salvation, but I resisted it until the Lord illuminated my understanding, and right at that moment, while driving alone, I accepted Him into my life and couldn't wait to get home and tell Jan all about it.



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2011 Harley Davidson Heritage Softail Classic

We have walked with the Lord ever since, and it has been an exciting adventure as we discovered more and more of His great Love and Truth throughout our lives but Jan went home to be with the Lord last November 14th and I will never forget her.

After 33years I am getting ready to retire from Ameren Missouri on December 22nd of this year and I give thanks to our Lord for the many blessings He has given me in my lifetime. I thank Him for the 2011 Harley Davidson Heritage Classic that He has allowed me to purchase this year, and for the friendship and brotherhood of the Road Riders For Jesus. I became a member in July of 2011 at the Days of Praise Rally.

Just when it seemed as though my life were drawing to a close, the Lord has opened new and exciting chapters to it and I look forward to all that lies ahead. It will be exciting to see what new experiences and opportunities await.

I love to ride and have just purchased my first winter gear, heated gloves and chaps. I haven't been able to master putting the chaps on without help yet, I guess it'll take some practice. I ride whenever I can and after retirement, I plan to do a lot of it.

Blessed and safe riding to all my brothers and sisters in Chapter 9.

Submitted by: Joe Talluto