



# SPORTS



## The Ride of Silence May 19

In the evening of May 19 the Ride of Silence will begin in North America and roll across the globe. Cyclists will take to the roads in a silent procession to honor cyclists who have been killed or injured while cycling on public roadways. Although cyclists have a legal right to share the road with motorists, the motoring public often isn't aware of these rights, and sometimes not aware of the cyclists themselves.



*Participants prepare to leave*

In 2003, Chris Phelan organized the first Ride Of Silence in Dallas after endurance cyclist Larry Schwartz was hit by the mirror of a passing bus and was killed. Phelan, a friend

of Mr. Schwartz and the person responsible for starting this initiative, thought the ride was a one-time event. However, as word got out other cyclists began to contact him with a desire to do the same thing in their own communities. The ride, which is held during Bike Safety month, aims to raise the awareness of motorists, police and city officials that cyclists have a legal right to the public roadways. The ride is also a chance to show respect for those who have been killed or injured.

This will be the fifth year that the Ride of Silence will be celebrated in the Green Valley - Sahuarita area. Cyclists will gather at 5:30 PM on Wednesday, May 19 at the Green Valley Recreation East Social Center and leave at 6:00 PM on their seven mile ride to honor

those fallen cyclists. The Pima County Sheriff Department and the Sheriff's Auxiliary Volunteers will provide motorcycle and vehicle escort for the bike riders. Light refreshments will be served at 5:30 PM.

The seven mile route for this year's ride will pass by the scene where a cyclist was killed last September by a distracted driver. A 'ghost bike' will be placed at the scene of the crash to honor and remember Jerome Featherman.

Participation for the local Ride of Silence has increased in the few years that the Ride has been a local event and close to one hundred riders are expected to turn out this year.



*Cyclists gather early for light refreshments*



*The Ride is escorted by Pima County Sheriffs*