

SIKH RIDERS OF AMERICA

2018-2020

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
DEDICATED TO EDUCATING OTHERS
ABOUT THE SIKH RELIGION

SAVE THE DATE!

for our 10th Annual Ride

October 8, 2022



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4th Annual Texas Ride, 13-14

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2018

- Jan 6 Cleaned Adopted Hwy 880 N (Decoto & Whipple, Bay Area)
- Feb 21 Sikh Awareness Seminar Vista High School
- Apr 28 Sikh Riders of America 4th Annual Ride - Bedford, Texas**
- Apr 28 9th Annual Veterans Memorial Poker Run
- May 6 Bikers for Heros Poker Run
- May 7 Armed Forces Support Foundation (AFSF) Poker Run
- May 12 American Legion's 9th Annual Ride for Awareness
- May 21 Inaugural Torch Ride Benefitting Texas Special Olympics - Texas
- May 28 SHP Memorial Day Run
- 2018 Allied Memorial Remembrance Ride - Texas
- July 4 42nd Annual 4th of July Parade - Alameda, CA
- Aug 4 Day of Seva: Remembering Oak Creek. SROA prepared and served langar at the Bakersfield Homeless Shelter
- Sep 8 Ride for Warriors in Conjunction with 7th Annual Wounded Heros Benefit Concert - Garland, Texas
- Sep 11 12th Annual Support our Troops 9-11 Memorial Ride by Armed Forces Support Found.
- Oct 6 12th Annual Officer Down Ride
- Oct 13 Sikh Riders of America 6th Annual Ride - Bakersfield**
- Dec 2 18th Annual Tehachapi Christmas Parade
- Dec 9 35th Annual Toy Run & Food Drive

2019

- Apr 6 American Legion Riders' 10th Anniversary Veteran's Memorial Poker Run
- Apr 9 Sikh Turban Day - Union City
- Apr 13 5th Annual Awareness Poker Run by Bikers Against Child Abuse (BACA)
- Apr 27 SROA 5th Annual Fundraiser Ride - Bedford, Texas**
- May 5 Armed Forces Support Foundation Poker Run
- Jun 29 Tom Roberts Support Run
- July 4 4th of July Parade - Alameda
- Sep 11 Never Forget 911 14th Annual Support Our Troops & Memorial Ride sponsored by Armed Forces Support Riders (AFSR)
- Sep 27 RIP Officer Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal
- Oct 5 999 Foundation's 13th Annual Officer Down Ride
- Oct 9 Radio Day - Texas
- Oct 10 Allied Memorial Remembrance Ride, - Texas
- Oct 12 Sikh Riders of America 7th Annual Ride - Bakersfield**
- Dec 5 Bakersfield Christmas Parade
- Dec 7 19th Annual Tehachapi Christmas Parade



2020

- Apr 17 SROA donated 5,000 face shields to the Sheriff's Dept, the Kern County Fire Dept, and Rosewood Senior Living.
- Apr 24 SROA donated face shields and N95 masks to LAPD 911 Call Center
- Apr 24 SROA donates 300 pizzas to frontline workers at Parkland Health Hospital - Dallas, TX
- May 28 SROA donated face shields and face masks to Parkland Hospital ENT OPC - Dallas, TX
- May 29 SROA donated food/supplies to frontline workers at Parkland Hospital - Texas
- Jun 16 End of Watch Riders' Respect Ride for fallen Officer Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal - Texas
- July 2 "CSP Magazine" runs piece regarding SROA's assistance to first responders (July 2020, see page 20)
- July 30 "Great Big Story" runs piece on Sikh Riders of America. (<https://greatbig.is/2MLUxwp>)
- Aug 14 SROA donated food/supplies to frontline workers at Parkland Hospital - Texas
- Aug 26 Assemblyman Vince Fong honors SROA as 34th District's Nonprofit of the Year
- Oct 10 SROA's 8th Annual Fundraiser: Blood Drive with Houchin Community Blood Bank - Bakersfield**
- Dec 7 Car & Motorcycle Rally Supporting Punjab Farmers Protest - Texas
- Dec 13 37th Annual Bakersfield Toy Run & Canned Food Drive

* Unless otherwise stated, all events were in Bakersfield.



Gurinder Singh Basra , SROA President

I am happy to report that both 2018 and 2019 were very productive years. As an organization, Sikh Riders of America was successful in achieving its mission by educating people about the Sikh religion and advocating against hate crimes. We were also able to provide financial assistance to local charities such as MADD Bakersfield Chapter, Kern County 999 Foundation, American Legion Chapter 26, Kern Law Enforcement Association (KLEA), the Bakersfield Homeless Shelter, and the Kern River Blue Star Moms as well as helping those out on the ground including law enforcement, veterans and veteran services, and children with special needs.

Sikh Riders of America would like to take this opportunity to once again express its deepest and most sincere appreciation for the ongoing services that our law enforcement and health care professionals have continued to provide throughout this unprecedented pandemic.

Since COVID-19 and all the restrictions that followed, many organizations, including ours, have had to change the way we move forward with conducting our fundraisers, education/outreach, and other similar events. Accordingly, our focus changed to meet the need of those charged with protecting our health and safety during this pandemic. In 2020, we modified our annual event to host a much needed blood drive. 2020 also saw us busy with a new focus on providing and delivering PPE equipment, supplies and lunches to our dedicated front line of first responders - including the Los Angeles Police Department, LAPD's 911 Call Center, Kern County Fire Department, Kern County Sheriff's Office, the Bakersfield Police Department, the California Highway Patrol, Mojave Highway Patrol, Mojave Police Department, Mojave Sheriff's Office, health care professionals, local hospitals, nursing homes, churches and other non-profits who were making door to door distributions. We were also able to assist many other individuals and small business owners with funds for food and rent during COVID.

In closing, I would like to take a moment to give special thanks all our members, as well as their families and friends, who continue to show their strong support year after year. I also want to thank every single person in the community who has also contributed in helping us become the great organization that we are and allowing us to continue helping and educating others.

ASSEMBLYMAN VINCE FONG HONORS SIKH RIDERS OF AMERICA AS 34TH DISTRICT'S NON PROFIT OF THE YEAR!

Posted Aug 26, 2020

BAKERSFIELD, Calif. (KGET)

Assemblyman Vince Fong on Wednesday honored the Sikh Riders of America as the 34th Assembly District's Nonprofit of the year, noting the fundraisers the group has held supporting public health, veterans and local law enforcement.

"We, as a community, are incredibly fortunate to have an organization like Sikh Riders of America who are always helping those in need," Fong said in a release. "During this time, they donated over 5,000 face shields to our front-line workers when they were in need of PPE on top of their support for other local charities."

Established in 2012, Sikh Riders of America formed after many Sikhs became the target of hate crimes. The group works to promote greater understanding, and has raised almost \$165,000 to benefit local nonprofits including Kern County Blue Star Moms, Mothers Against Drunk Driving Bakersfield Chapter, American Legion Chapter 26 and the Kern County 999 Foundation.

The nonprofit's president, Gurinder Singh Basra, said, "We are so honored to be a part of this community and to be able to make a difference at home."



Cleaning Adopted Hwy 880 N. (Decoto & Whipple Road Exit)



Sikh Awareness Seminar

Vista High School, Bakersfield

February 21, 2018

Members of Sikh Riders of America visited Vista High School to share their stories and experiences about Sikhism. The students were receptive, respectful, and very inquisitive - asking some good questions about both the culture and religion. They asked questions concerning the significance of covering our heads ie, wearing turbans; our articles of faith - also known as the 5 k's [specifically, the Kara (bracelet), Kesh (uncut hair), Kanga (wooden comb), Kirpan (sword), and Kachera or undergarment]; and even about the practice of arranged marriages. The exchange was very positive and we appreciated the opportunity to bring more awareness to our community.



Sikh Turban Day Celebration

Union City, CA





Excerpt: Why Sikhs wear a turban and what it means to practice the faith in the United States

by Simran Jeet Singh, New York University - September 13, 2019

The founder of the Sikh tradition, Guru Nanak, was born in 1469 in the Punjab region of South Asia, which is currently split between Pakistan and the northwestern area of India. A majority of the global Sikh population still resides in Punjab on the Indian side of the border.

From a young age, Guru Nanak was disillusioned by the social inequities and religious hypocrisies he observed around him. He believed that a single divine force created the entire world and resided within it. In his belief, God was not separate from the world and watching from a distance, but fully present in every aspect of creation. He therefore asserted that all people are equally divine and deserve to be treated as such.

To promote this vision of divine oneness and social equality, Guru Nanak created institutions and religious practices. He established community centers and places of worship, wrote his own scriptural compositions and institutionalized a system of leadership (gurus) that would carry forward his vision.

The Sikh view thus rejects all social distinctions that produce inequities, including gender, race, religion and caste, the predominant structure for social hierarchy in South Asia. Serving the world is a natural expression of the Sikh prayer and worship. Sikhs call this prayer service "seva" and it is a core part of their practice.

Turbans are also an important part of the Sikh identity. Both women and men may wear turbans. Like the articles of faith, Sikhs regard their turbans as gifts given by their beloved gurus, and their meaning is deeply personal. In South Asian culture, wearing a turban typically indicated one's social status - kings and rulers once wore turbans. The Sikh gurus adopted the turban, in part, to remind Sikhs that all humans are sovereign, royal and ultimately equal.

9th Annual Ride for Awareness

May 12, 2018

Sponsored by the American Legion, Post 20, Porterville, CA.



Inaugural Torch Ride Benefiting the Special Olympics of Texas

May 21, 2018

Sikh Riders of America participated in the Inaugural Torch Ride benefiting the Special Olympics of Texas.



SHP Memorial Day Run

May 28, 2018



Allied Memorial Remembrance Ride in Texas

Sikh Riders of America participated in the Allied Memorial Remembrance Ride. May also those who sacrificed for our freedom be remembered.



42nd Annual 4th of July Parade

Alameda, CA



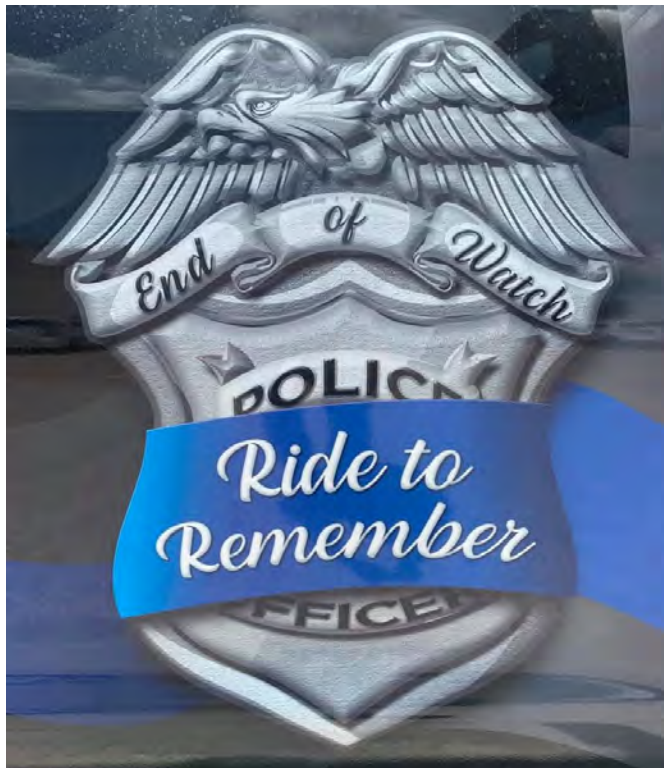
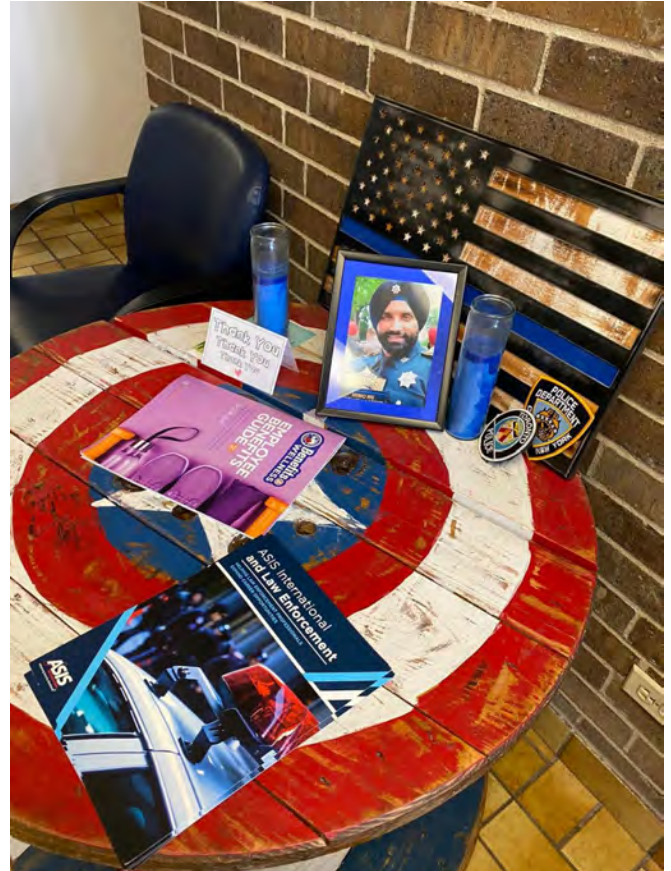
SROA won
1st place in
the vehicle
category.



End of Watch Ride

June 16 2020

Sikh Riders of America were honored to ride with End of Watch Riders to Harris County Sheriff's office to pay respect to Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal. End of Watch Riders are riding across the country to pay respect to all fallen officers in 2019.



4th Annual Ride in Bedford, Texas

Hosted by Sikh Riders

Sponsored by SROA, over 130 bikes were in this ride! Big thanks to the Irving Police Department for escorting the ride. We would also like to thank everyone who attended, volunteered or sponsored this successful event. We were able to raise funds for American Legion Riders, Steel Horse Patriots, Southern Dawg 286 MC, and Third Watch LEMC. Yesterday's SROA ride was a blast.

"May I preach for a moment??? Sikhism is an eastern religion, mostly from India. The men usually wear turbans and have beards. I have found them to be most friendly and gracious. Service to others is important so they organized this ride to support law enforcement. Bringing together our different cultures, tied together by motorcycles, the Sikh Riders of America are helping us all to understand one another a little bit better. So, if you see a bearded man in a turban, put your hand out and say "hello". You may find a that you've just met a new friend the way I did 4 years ago when Gurjit "Bobby" Sidhu smiled and said hello to me at a bike ride in Terrell."

- Ron Rawlinson





12th Annual Officer Down Ride

Sponsored by the 999 Foundation. SROA provided breakfast burritos and coffee.



8th Annual Ride in Bakersfield, CA

Hosted by Sikh Riders

October 10, 2020



Honoring law enforcement at the Sikh Riders of America 8th annual event. Thank you to Sikh Riders of America for hosting a blood drive in recognition of Bakersfield Police Department. Instead of its annual ride, Sikh Riders joined with Houchin Community Blood Bank, Bakersfield Harley-Davidson, Kern County 999 Foundation, American Legion, Kern River Blue Star Moms, and MADD Kern County to thank law enforcement with the gift of life. Honored to join the offices of District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer, Senator Shannon Grove, Assemblyman Vince Fong, and Supervisor Mike Maggard to offer words of gratitude. Special thanks to Sikh Riders President Gurinder Singh Basra for coordinating the event.

- KAREN GOH, Bakersfield Mayor



Thank you to the Sikh Riders of America for organizing today's community blood drive and for recognizing our local law enforcement and thanking them for the work they do. Great to see MADD Kern County, the Kern County 999 Foundation, Kern River Bluestar Moms, and the American Legion present to show their support. I am honored to have been able to name the Sikh Riders of America as my 2020 Non-Profit of the Year for your continued work helping our community.

- VINCE FONG

California State Assembly Member, 34th District



Thanks to Sikh Riders of America for today's blood drive and for honoring the work of the Bakersfield Police Department. The pandemic has had a negative impact on public safety, and the Sikh Community's support of law enforcement in Kern County is strong and much appreciated. Beautiful print presented by Billy Owens of Kern County 999 Foundation to Assistant Chief Mike Hale as a reminder of the work done by the Department this year.

- CYNTHIA ZIMMER

Kern County District Attorney



7th Annual Ride in Bakersfield, CA

Hosted by Sikh Riders

October 12, 2019

This year's event benefited the Kern River Blue Star Moms, MADD Bakersfield Chapter, American Legion Chapter 26, and the Kern County 999 Foundation.







6th Annual Ride in Bakersfield, CA Hosted by Sikh Riders

October 13, 2018







MANY THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS

	DEEP S SIDHU	MANDEEP S CHAHAL	A&J CARRIER J BRAR		
	MANBIR SINGH MD SINGH MEDICAL CLINIC	TALWINDER SINGH GILL	DHARMESH K PATEL PRITI D PATEL		
	GURMANT P. SINGH, MD, INC	BIR SINGH DHILLON	HONEY SIDHU (REALTOR)		
		JASTEJ SINGH GREWAL			





Sikh Riders of America



COVID-19 has changed many things, but it has not changed who we are: Sikh Riders of America is a non-profit organization established to increase awareness about the Sikh religion. The group is actively engaged in various community events and wants you to know that they are here and ready to assist during this unprecedented health emergency.

The CDC has outlined recommended personal protective equipment (PPE), which includes face shields for those directly providing care and unable to social distance due to their profession. To that end, Sikh Riders of America has made 5,000 face shields to distribute to our community's first-responders and healthcare providers. Tomorrow, April 17th, 2020 it will deliver 1,000 shields to the Kern County Sheriff's Department and another 1,000 to the Kern County Fire Department. In addition, we are also delivering masks to Rosewood Retirement Community and other small assisted living facilities.

If your Kern County agency is in need, we would like to help!

For more information:

www.sikhridersofamerica.com | sikhridersofamerica@yahoo.com

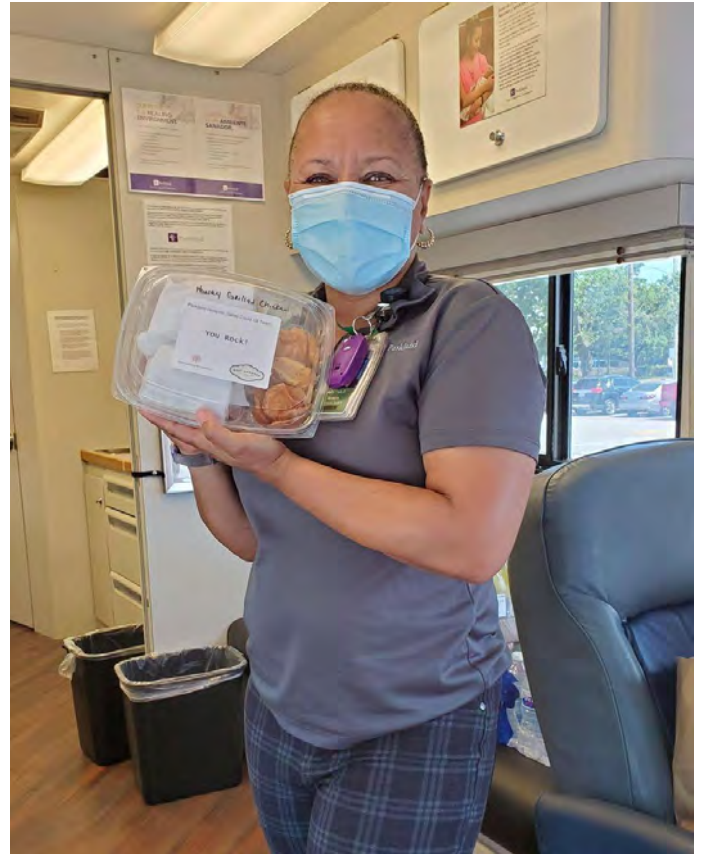
Gurinder Singh Basra

661-873-5181

Lunch for First Responders



We are grateful for our community's support of our teams on the front line during this pandemic. Thanks to the many generous people who have donated food or supplies, including the Sikh Riders of America in Texas.



In the appreciation of our front line fighters during this unprecedented times with COVID-19, SROA is providing lunch twice a week for the staff at Parkland hospital Dallas, Texas.

PPE Equipment




Sikh Riders of America donated face shields and face masks to Parkland Hospital ENT OPC department Dallas, Texas.




Sikh Riders of America donated 1,100 face shields to our first responders at the Kern County Fire Department.



GARDEN PATHWAYS "Heart for Bakersfield"–virtual event celebrating our COVID Heroes. Thank you, COVID Heroes, for your service!



Sikh Riders of America



Sikh Riders of America would like to express its deepest and most sincere appreciation for the ongoing services that the LAPD has been providing to our fellow citizens in California, especially with the unprecedented challenges that COVID-19 is presenting.

SROA is happy to donate 1,000 face shields and 500 kn95 face masks to the LAPD's 911 Call Center to keep them safe as they continue to protect us.

The protective equipment will be delivered to 23001 Roscoe Blvd., West Hills, CA 91304 on Friday April 24, 2020 at 12:00 noon.

For more information:
www.sikhridersofamerica.com | sikhridersofamerica@yahoo.com
Gurinder Singh Basra
661-873-5181



April 2020. Sikh Riders of America, RiverLake Community Church and Gurdwara Angad Darbar Temple, teamed up to help Bakersfield first responders. Sikh Riders of America, "There is nothing more powerful than a community when it comes together to help one another in times of need. What a blessing. We made 1,200 in less than 4 hours."

Making a Difference Radio Day Show

October 9, 2019

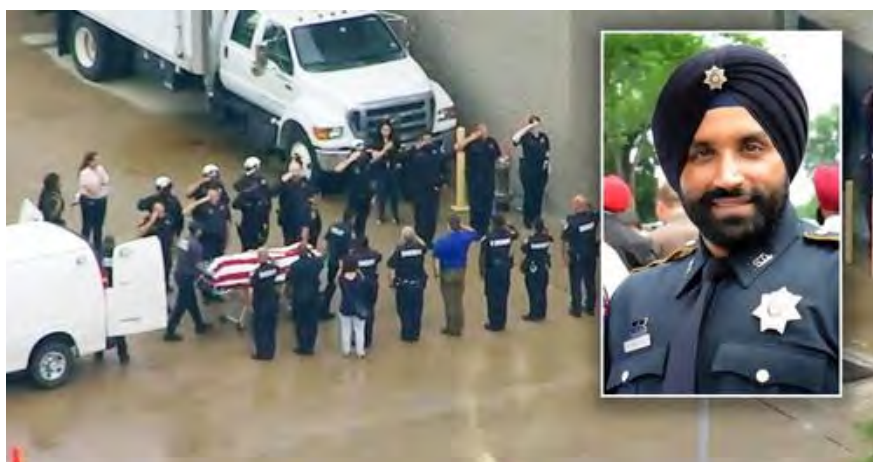


What an amazing Making a Difference Radio Day it was with the 99% and Mad Radio Shows in the Fishbowl.

We want to thank all of our Guests from: The Sikh Riders of America, The Project Save program and Brighter Tomorrows.



On October 9, 2019 we welcomed to the studio Gurvinder Singh of the Sikh Riders of America. He joined us as we honored the service and sacrifice of Deputy Sandeep Dhaliwal, Harris County, Texas Deputy Sheriff tragically killed on while on duty several weeks ago.



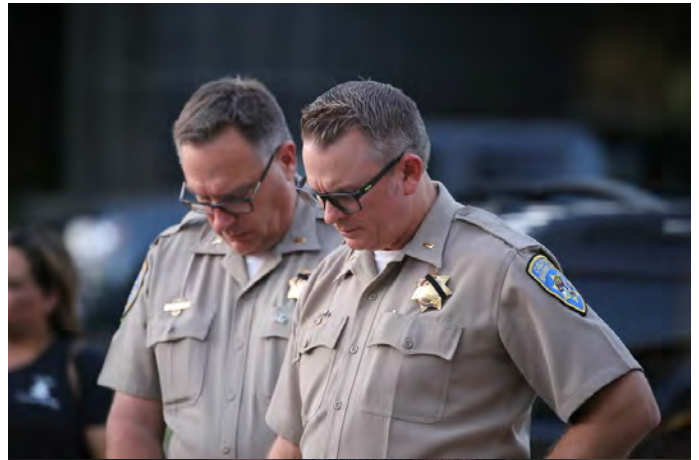
If you missed it please check out the replays.

Bakersfield Prayer Vigil

July 28, 2021

Sikh Riders of America participated in prayer vigil for our Law Enforcement, First Responders, the victims, and families. Please keep them all in your prayers - especially the Kern County Sheriff's Office family.

Deputy Sheriff Phillip Campas was shot and killed on July 25, 2021 during a barricade at a home near the intersection of 1st Street and Poplar Avenue in Wasco. Deputies had initially responded to the home for reports of a shooting at about 1 pm. A subject inside fired at the deputies and then barricaded himself in the home, prompting the agency's SWAT team to be deployed. At about 3 pm the subject opened fire on members of the SWAT team as they approached the home. Deputy Campas and another deputy were struck by the gunfire. They were both transported to a local hospital where Deputy Campas succumbed to his wounds. The subject was shot and wounded when he exchanged more shots with the SWAT team at about 6:30 pm. Deputy Sheriff Campas was a U.S Marine Corps veteran and had served with the Kern County Sheriff's Office for five years. He is survived by his wife, and three children.



Tehachapi Christmas Parade



Every year Sikh Rider's of America participates in Tehachapi's Annual Christmas Parade (2018 & 2019, pictured above).

Unfortunately, in 2020 the Greater Tehachapi Chamber of Commerce saw a spike in the number of confirmed coronavirus cases making it unsafe to move forward with the tradition. Therefore, the chamber made the difficult decision to cancel the parade in 2020 due to the rising coronavirus infections.

SROA looks forward to participating in 2021 when the parade is scheduled to return.



ANNOUNCEMENT

Sikh Riders of America (SROA) would like to publicly address the following recent horrific local headlines. Specifically: "Bakersfield Man Admits to 'Honor Killing of Daughter-in-Law Due to Affair'" and "Teen Gives Birth, Teen's Mother Kills & Buries Baby to Prevent Shame".

As a non-profit organization dedicated to educating others about the Sikh religion, Sikh Riders of America strongly condemns honor killings of any sort or type. The Sikh community in general has been stunned by these events and SROA wants to take a moment to convey to the community at large that neither the Sikh religion nor Punjabi culture, supports any such acts of hatred or violence. Furthermore, in the Sikh religion there is no such thing as an "honor killing" -- despite this fact, we have seen many people wrongly claiming as such on social media and unfairly sensationalizing these killings in the news and putting forth incorrect information.

Shri Guru Granth Sahib Ji (the Sikh holy scripture) teaches us that every human being is equal. Holding women in high regard is deeply embedded in our teachings - concerning the condemnation of women, the Guru Granth Sahib states, "from the woman is our birth, and in the woman's womb are we shaped. To the woman we are engaged and to the woman are we wedded. The woman is our friend and from woman is the family. Through the woman are the bonds of the world. Why then call her evil, who gives birth to the world's leaders? From the woman is born woman, without the woman there is none." (Guru Granth Sahib, p.473)

Sikh Riders of America condemns these actions that have been falsely taken in the name of our religion. We believe that individuals with these kinds of mental and hate-filled ideologies should seek counseling and be punished for their crimes to the fullest extent of the law. We feel it is the Court's place to take action and that no sympathy should be bestowed upon these criminals.

If you have any questions about the Sikh religion, please reach out to someone in our organization for more information. We can be reached at (661) 873-5181 or by email at SikhRidersofAmerica@yahoo.com.

