



Members of the NAM Knights Motorcycle Club (NKMC) chapter of Woodbridge VA recently held a fundraising drive in front of the Giant at Lakeridge Commons. Front Row, from left, Bob Townsend, NKMC; Larry Merritt, store manager, Giant Food; Ron Coplan, NKMC; T.C. Miller, Giant Food employee; and Gary E. Lowman and David Alvarez, both NKMC. Back Row from left, Jay Mattice, Terry Devine Jr., Bryce Nicole, Frank Zubko and Ken Schmanski, all NAM KNIGHTS Motorcycle Club (NKMC) members. The little girl at far right is the daughter of one of the group's members.

Courtesy photo

NAM Knights Motorcycle Club receives community donations for veterans, police officers in need

FROM STAFF REPORTS

NAM Knights Motorcycle Club (NKMC) chapter of Woodbridge VA recently held a fundraising drive in front of the Giant food store in the Lakeridge Commons shopping center.

According to Gary Lowman, one of the club's organizers, "The NKMC members neither pressured nor requested monetary support from anyone; they simply explained the mission of the NKMC." The response from the store's patrons, predominantly local residents from the Lake Ridge community, law abiding citizens who love their country, was overwhelming, he said.

The club honors the memory of American veterans and police officers who lost their lives in the line of duty and offers assistance to veterans and police officers in their time of need.

The organization's main interests "are to stress the importance of helping our fellow police officers and family members" who may need assistance, explained Gary Lowman, one of the organizers.

"We also place a great deal of importance in the well-being of our veterans and to bringing out the

message to the general public about our prisoners of war and those that are missing in action. We support legislation for the benefit of veterans and veteran's facilities, the advancement of studies and treatment for our veterans," Lowman said.

Vietnam War Veterans and Law Enforcement Officers founded the NKMC in 1989. The NAM acronym derives from Vietnam and the term Knights is commonly associated with law enforcement.

Today, the NKMC accepts military veterans from all branches of service who are active or previously served and received an honorable discharge.

According to Lowman, "It retains the acronym NAM out of respect for its founders and the remaining Vietnam Veteran club members. "Local, state and federal active or retired law enforcement officers are welcomed and encouraged to join the NKMC, he added.

The Woodbridge group was chartered in January of this year.

A person in need of assistance should contact Ronald Coplan via email at Ronald.coplan@us.army.mil or call 703-398-7531.