

Dr. Burgess Weekly Video Address May 30, 2013

“Motorcycle Awareness Month”

Hello, this is your congressman, Michael Burgess. As Co-Chair of the Congressional Motorcycle Caucus, I want to highlight that May is Motorcycle Awareness Month. In recognition of Memorial Day, this week, thousands of riders came to Washington to honor our fallen soldiers.

There are a lot of bikers out there who enjoy riding along the open road in a place as beautiful as Texas. And with warmer weather heading our way, more people across America will start using their motorcycles to get to work, to go to the store, to travel, or to just go for a ride.

Riding in America has been an increasingly popular pastime. In Texas last year, motorcycle registration increased by over 10 percent. Indeed, more than a quarter of a billion Americans will ride a motorcycle this year. However, as ridership increases, so does the risk for accidents on our roads.

As the old saying goes: an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. For bikers, prevention is riding the right way – and that is responsibly. That means getting trained, wearing protective gear and being aware of the cars and trucks around you. And for drivers, that goes for you too. A simple distracted child or texting on your cell phone can lead to a dangerous situation with riders. If everyone does their part, we can ensure that everyone makes it home safely.

In addition to the thrill of riding, motorcycle usage also contributes to the general good of our society; motorcyclists ease congestion, reduce overall fuel consumption and decrease wear and tear on our nation’s infrastructure every time they choose to forego an automobile. Since we all want safer roads, shorter commutes, and less dependence on foreign oil, and to make transportation dollars go a little further, let’s promote motorcycle usage but safety year-round.

Thank you for taking the time to listen. For more information on legislative issues before the United States Congress please visit my website, burgess.house.gov. May God bless you and your family - and as always, may God bless Texas.