

## RIDE 2 RECOVERY TEXAS CHALLENGE 2011 REPORT FROM DISTRICT 12

On April 3, 2011 more than 200 injured veterans on bicycles rode into Mansfield Post 624's rest stop on their last day of cycling on a 350-mile journey that started in San Antonio and ends in Arlington's Texas Rangers ballpark.



Many of the riders are recovering from brain injuries, post-traumatic stress disorder, back injuries or amputations and some required the creation of special bikes.

Representatives from several American Legion posts and local residents cheered on the vets, and served fruit and donated sandwiches.

The event is coordinated by the American Legion Auxiliary in Texas and most stops are at American Legion Posts across the state.



In addition to American Legion Riders the escort included the USO at each rest stop, Ride to Recovery, Red Cross and several volunteer vehicles for bicycle and rider assistance along the road.

The nationwide event is sponsored by United Healthcare and the Military and Veterans Affairs Volunteer Services. The cyclists are being escorted by American Legion Riders. This is the third year for the Ride 2 Recovery event, which grew from 40 riders in 2009 to 210 this year.

Submitted by Ken Cox, District 12 Hubmaster