

Guest Column to The Monroe Dispatch  
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From: Mayor James E. “Jamie” Mayo  
City of Monroe, LA

## **31<sup>st</sup> Annual Run for the Wall Travels through Monroe May 19-20**

The 31<sup>st</sup> annual *Run for The Wall* (RFTW) motorcycle pilgrimage will make its way into the Monroe area May 19-20, on its course to Washington, D.C., for annual Memorial Day weekend events.

I, and other city officials, will host the RFTW formation, issue a special proclamation, and attend a formal wreath-laying ceremony beginning at 8:30 am Monday, May 20, at the War Memorials lawn between the Monroe City Hall and the Monroe City Court building.

The RFTW rider formation is expected to arrive in Monroe late Sunday afternoon (May 19). The public is invited to gather on local overpasses to welcome the formation as it travels across Louisiana. They will be the guests of the Barak Shriners and AMVETs Post 66 for a brief ceremony and dinner on Sunday, May 19.

The formation, which will include between 500 to 800 riders, will travel across the I-20 corridor as part of the RFTW’s Southern Route with the mission to support all U.S. military personnel and promote healing for all veterans, their families and their friends. The mission also calls for an accounting and remembrance of all prisoners of war, those missing in action, and those killed in action.

Following the Monday morning ceremony, the formation is expected to depart the Monroe Civic Center parking lot at approximately 9 am. They will be escorted by Louisiana State Troopers and officers from various area law enforcement agencies.

The formation will continue its travels across the country in route to the nation’s capital. Once in Washington, D.C., the riders will visit military memorials, such as the D-Day Memorial, the Vietnam Wall and Arlington National Cemetery. The weekend’s events will culminate with the *Rolling Thunder Parade*, which features more than 500,000 riders from across the country.

By working together, we are making a difference. Monroe is one city, with one future!