Guest Column to The Monroe Dispatch
For the Thursday, May 23, 2019 Edition
From: Mayor James E. "Jamie" Mayo
City of Monroe, LA

Thank You to Those who Gave their All

Monday, May 27th is Memorial Day. Unlike Veterans Day, where we recognize all those who are or have been in our U.S. Armed Forces, Memorial Day is a day to reflect upon the sacrifice given by the men and women who died while in military service.

We want everyone to be safe, have fun and enjoy Memorial Day. However, let us not look upon this day as just another holiday. Let us take a moment to pay homage to the patriotism of those who were willing to make the ultimate sacrifice to protect the freedoms we enjoy today.

A few days ago, an estimated 600 men and women, mostly veterans, rode into town on motorcycles as part of the 31st annual Run for the Wall. They are riding along the southern route of a larger cross-country trek to Washington, D.C., to participate in the "Rolling Thunder" Memorial Day activities. The "Rolling Thunder" motorcycle ride began as a group of 2,500 in 1988 and grew to an estimated 500,000 motorcyclists in 2018.

These men and women are riding to the war memorials in our nation's capital to honor veterans killed in combat, missing in action, and those who were taken as prisoners of war. We are always Monroe Proud to host a brief memorial ceremony for this group at Monroe City Hall. We wish them Godspeed in their journey to Washington, D.C.

We also pray for the family members and friends of those who lost loved ones while they were serving in the military. We thank you for the service of those who gave their all!

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