

MARINE *Tribute Bike*

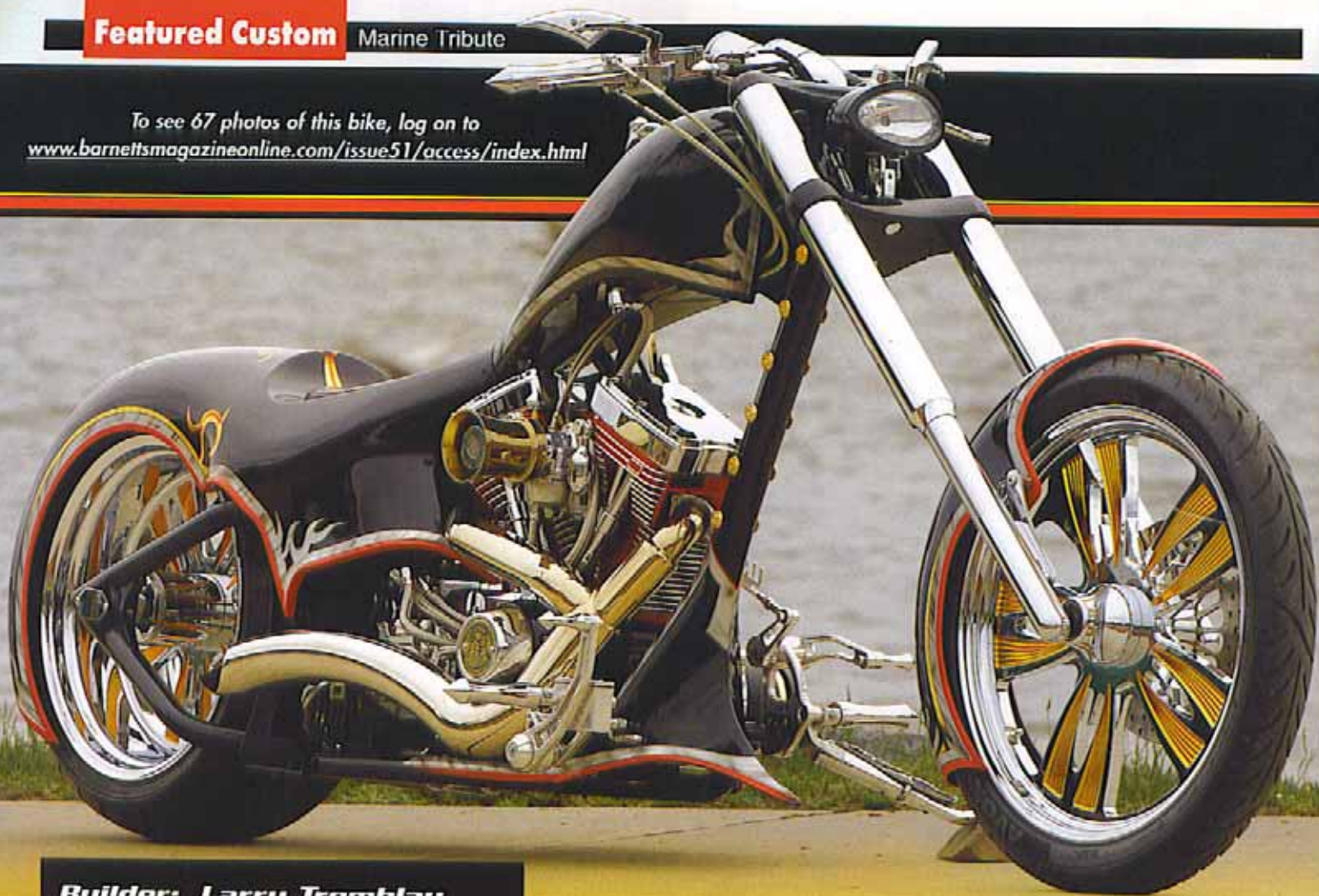


This is a story of devastating loss and life affirming hope, of paying tribute to a man's bravery in the form of what the boy in him loved best, custom motorcycles.

Those who have loved ones fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan have but one collective thought: Be safe. They live in fear of the solemn faced officer in full dress who is out there somewhere, delivering word that loved ones are not coming home. But of course those officers do show up on too many doorsteps. For Larry Tremblay of New Windsor, New York, father of 23-year-old Corporal Joseph "Joey" S. Tremblay, it was two Marines who delivered the horrific news.

"I was having one of my better days," Larry remembers. "I was in school that day in Winchester County for air conditioning, so I was away from my normal work location and they couldn't contact me there. When I got home I was in a great mood. I was working on my house, or starting to work on my house, when I heard this knock on my door. So I opened the door and saw these two Marine casualty officers standing there, and I immediately said, 'You guys have got to go away. Please tell me that he is wounded and you guys are here to take me to see him.' But deep in my heart I knew why they were at my house. I knew they were not there to invite me out to dinner or something. Then I said 'Let me switch places with him, because 23 years old is too young for my son to die.' At the time I was 52 and I just wanted to switch places with him."

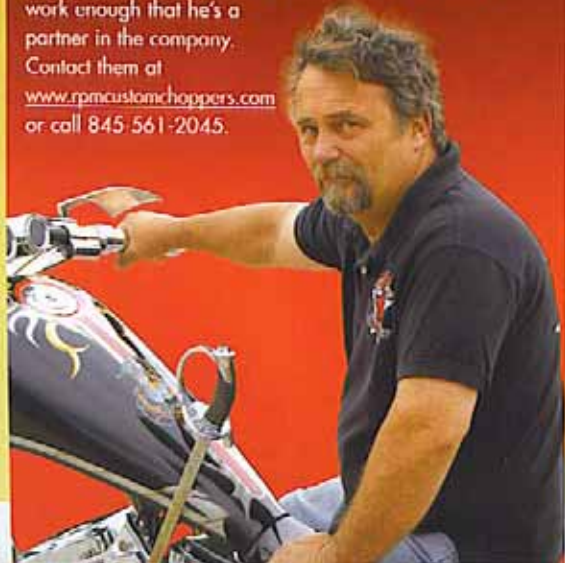
To see 67 photos of this bike, log on to
www.barnettmagazineonline.com/issue51/access/index.html



Builder: Larry Tremblay
RPM Custom Motorcycles

When Larry Tremblay went looking for a builder for the Marine Bike, he researched a lot of builders before settling upon Rich Mauro of RPM Custom Choppers. Rich has a typical story of starting out building bikes for friends before deciding that this was his true passion and to pursue it as a business instead of a hobby. RPM offers a line of "Low Dough" customs starting at \$16,995 for a turnkey Pro Street or Chopper bike featuring a 96" S&S engine, Prowler trans, and a 250 rear tire. Over 100 options are available and paint is by JB Grafix, no less. He describes his style as a combo of old and new with a funky twist. Larry liked Rich's work enough that he's a partner in the company.

Contact them at
www.rpmcustomchoppers.com
or call 845 561-2045.

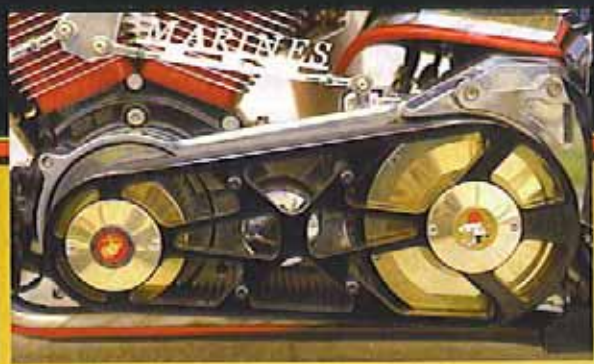


It's natural to wonder how one can carry on from that point, how does one get out of bed in the morning and reach inside themselves when there is perhaps nothing to reach for. But just as soldiers find within themselves great strength they perhaps never knew existed, Larry found new strength in the memory of his son. Joey always enjoyed watching Jesse James on the Discovery Channel's Monster Garage and the Biker Build-Off series with his father. He had a passion for custom motorcycles. In memory of his son and all those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, and for those who are currently serving their country, Larry decided to build a custom motorcycle in their honor. Joey was a Marine and after completing a four year tour remained in the Marine Corps Reserve before signing up for active duty when the call went out for volunteers, so Larry wanted to build a bike that represented that branch of service his son served so proudly. He wanted the

end result to be a bike when viewed would remind people of an actual Marine standing proudly at attention.

There were several custom bike builders in the Hudson River Valley who were capable of building such a machine, but Larry selected RPM Custom Choppers in Newburgh, New York, because he felt they would best build the bike to the





same tough standards of the US Marine Corps. He wanted a Marine Tribute bike that didn't just have a special appearance, but one that could also get out on the highway and run without encountering any mechanical problems. RPM was a relatively new custom bike building operation, but had developed a reputation for producing top-quality, dependable motorcycles, and Larry later became partners with owner, Rich Mauro.

Rich began this build by choosing a 96" S&S engine with a two-into-one Stainless Creations exhaust that delivers the goods simply, but effectively. The engine's output of 105 horsepower is passed on by the ornate BDL primary to a 6-speed LSD Prowler transmission connected by belt drive to the rear wheel. An accepted drivetrain of such proven substance is a reliable

basis of both power and strength, much like what the Marines are famous for. RPM then installed it in a stout DNA frame with a 42 degree rake and 5" of stretch. American Suspension forks proudly lead the way forward with heavily decorated DNA wheels, mounting Avons fore and aft, giving an air of solemn dignity. RPM went all out with the in-house bodywork with a seemingly one-piece unit that flows from the stem of the tank to the stern of the rear fender. The seat is almost housed within it and does nothing to break up the smooth, flowing lines. RPM also fabbed the tire hugging front fender with dress points that mimic the rear. RPM supplied a set of unobtrusive handlebars which add just the right touch of respect, yet adds to the flowing lines of the bike. The exceptionally talented young painter Justin Barnes of JB Grafix, also of Newburgh, was called in to do the special tribute paintjob and fine work he did. Not an easy or a fun job to do, but Justin stepped up and decorated this tribute bike in the best military manner.

Rich (who was sole owner of RPM at the time) and Larry did the bike's fabrication, with Larry adamant about

not deviating from any of the special features he'd envisioned for the bike. And special features it has; the buttons on the downtube indicate the gig line of a Marine dress uniform, the sword is the traditional Marine Corps symbol, and the pictures of Joey and his three fellow Marines painted on the rear fender. They were the only four members from Company K, 3rd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Marine Forces Reserve who died during that particular deployment. The photos on the rear fender starting at top center and moving clockwise are Corporal Joseph S. Tremblay, Lance Corporal Ryan J. Kovacicok, Staff Sergeant Joseph P. Goodrich, and Corporal Bryan J. Richardson. Larry easily obtained written permission and photos from the fellow Marines' families to paint their pictures on the rear fender. "Mrs. Amy Goodrich, the widow of SSG Joseph P. Goodrich, is a huge custom motorcycle fan and was extremely proud and impressed when she saw the bike," Larry said. "All of the family members were very nice and supportive."

The Marine Tribute Bike took first place in its first competition at an Easyriders Show, but since that particular showing, Larry has not entered the custom machine in any other competition, his reason being that he did not build the bike to win show trophies. He built the



SPECIFICATIONS:

Bike Name: Marine Tribute Bike
Owner: Larry Tremblay
Fabrication: RPM Custom Choppers
Assembly: RPM
Build time: Four months
Engine: 2006 96" S&S
Ignition: Crane Hi4
Carb: S&S
Pipes: Stainless Creations
Air Cleaner: Sifton
Transmission: 2006 6-speed Prowler
Primary: BDL
Clutch: BDL
Frame: DNA
Rake/Stretch: 42 degrees, 5"
Forks: American Suspension
Rear Suspension: Progressive Suspension
Front Wheel: 3.25 X 21 DNA
Rear Wheel: 8.5 X 18 DNA
Front Tire: 90 X 21 Avon
Rear Tire: 250 X 18 Avon
Front Brakes: American Suspension
Rear Brakes: GMA
Fuel Tank: RPM
Oil Tank: RPM
Fenders: RPM
Handlebars: RPM
Risers: Dakota Digital
Headlight: V-Twin
Taillight: V-Twin
Hand Controls: PM
Paint/Graphics: Justin Barnes / JB Grafix
Seat: Fidel's Upholstery

Featured Custom Marine Tribute Bike

UP CLOSE



Dakota Digital Gauges

A quick way to tell if a custom is actually ridden is to see if it has any instruments, as most states require them to be licensed for road use. The problem is finding some that not only work, but look good at the same time and don't destroy the clean lines of a custom. Mechanical speedos require too many compromises that they're generally out of the question and that's where the digital instruments from Dakota Digital tastily fill the void. Very unobtrusive and with the ability to be mounted almost anywhere has made them a mainstay of custom instrumentation. Available in speedo/tach combinations, these highly accurate gauges can also display turn signals, high beam, neutral light, check engine light and low oil pressure indicators all within a compact attractive package. Check out www.dakotadigital.com for information on Dakota Digital's custom and stock replacement instruments.

"Larry selected RPM Custom Choppers in Newburgh, New York, because he felt they would best build the bike to the same tough standards of the US Marine Corps."

bike, he said, so it can be displayed at major events for all to see and to remind everyone not to forget our kids fighting in the war. He also actively joins in on motorcycle parades supporting the military and events such as those organized by the non-profit organization Rolling Thunder Inc.

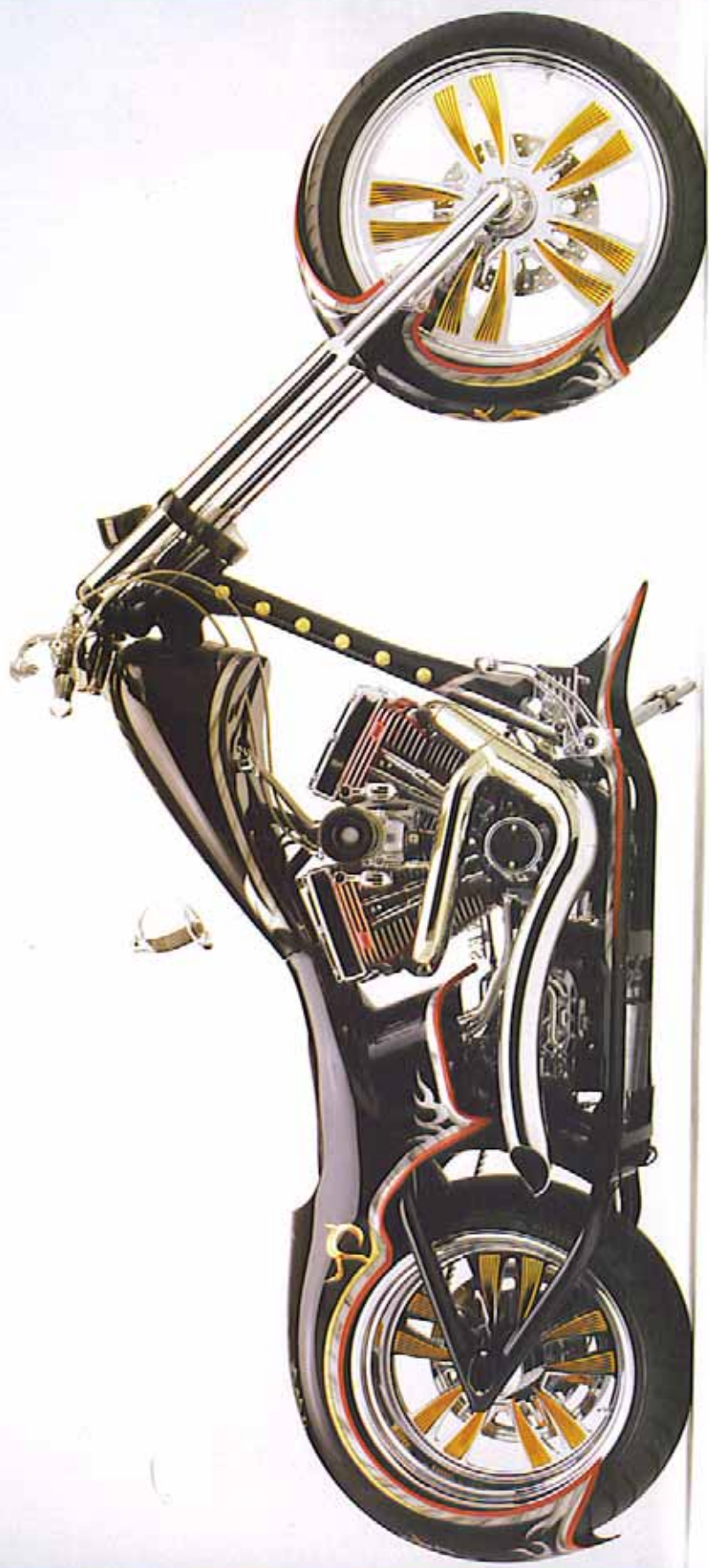
During the 2006 Rolling Thunder Ride for Freedom in Washington DC last May, the bike was ridden by a highly-decorated Viet Nam War veteran, Ken Zipp, and the machine easily traveled the entire distance without any mechanical problems. Larry plans to continue showing the Marine Tribute Bike all across America and possibly Europe as long as he is "alive and healthy." He said he will

ultimately donate the bike for permanent display at the new National Museum of the Marine Corps which is currently under construction adjacent to the Marine Corps base in Quantico, Virginia, and is expected to open in November of this year.

Although the bike and his involvement with RPM keep him busy, Larry still has times when the loss of his son overcomes him. "There are days when I'm driving down the road listening to the radio and I hear a song that my son and I used to listen to, and I just break out in tears," he said. "It is something that I will never get over."

- Story and Photos by Sedrick C. Mitchell and Wendy Manning





dino petrocelli photography

MARINE MEMORIAL BIKE

Tech Sheet

Owner: Larry Tremblay
Name of Bike: Marine Tribute Bike
Home: Newburgh, NY
Builder: RPM Custom Chopper
Year: '06
Time to build: Four months
Powdercoater: Powder Tech of NY
Painter: Justin Barnes of JB Grafix
Color: Black



Engine
Model/Year: 96" S & S / 2006
Builder: S & S
Displacement: 96 inches
Horsepower: 105 h/p
Pistons, Heads, Cam, Valves, Rockers, Lifters,
Push Rods, Carburetor, and Oil Pump: S & S
Air Cleaner: Sifton
Exhaust: Stainless Creations
Ignition: Crane Hi 4
Primary Cover: BDL



Transmission
Year/Model: '06 Prowler
Gears: 6
Clutch and Primary Drive: BDL
Final Drive: Belt



Chassis
Frame: DNA
Rake: 42 degrees Stretch: 5
Front Forks: American Suspension
Swingarm: DNA
Overall length: 9 feet
Rear shocks: Progressive
Front Wheel: DNA 21 inch
Rear Wheel: DNA 18 x 8 1/2

Front Brake: American Suspension
Rear Brake: GMA
Front Tire: Avon 21 inch
Rear Tire: Avon 250
Fenders: RPM



Accessories
Headlight, Taillight, Mirrors: V-Twin
Fuel Tank: RPM/Custom/ 4 Gallon
Oil Tank, Handlebars, License Bracket: RPM
Risers, Speedo: Dakota Digital
Seat: Fidel's Upholstery
Pegs, Foot controls: Brama
Hand Controls, Levers: PM



Special Custom Features: Shifter by Larry Tremblay and Custom
Machine, Portraits by Gavin Baker, Buttons by Hannoush Jewelers

TRIBUTE



Der Einmarsch in den Irak hat auf Seiten der Amerikaner bis heute über 2800 Soldaten das Leben gekostet. Eines dieser Opfer war Joseph „Joey“ S. Tremblay. Das Bike hier entstand ihm zu Ehren

TEXT & BILDER: SEDRICK C. MITCHELL,
ÜBERSETZUNG: JENS MÜLLER



TE BIKE



Mit der sogenannten „Befreiung“ des Irak haben sich die Amerikaner bekanntlich eine knüppeldicke Suppe eingebracht

Beklemmende Details: Der Ordonanz-Säbel dient als Jockey-Shift, die goldenen Knöpfe am Single Down-tube stammen von der Ausgehuniform der Marines



Kurz nach dem Tod des erst 23 Jahre jungen Mannes beschloß sein Vater, zu Ehren seines jüngsten Sohnes ein Tribute Bike zu bauen, denn Joey liebte Custombikes. Oft hatten Vater und Sohn gemeinsam die Fernsehserien mit Jesse James und die Biker Build Off's im Discovery Channel angeschaut. Um seinen Sohn und die anderen Gefallenen zu ehren, wollte Larry Tremblay ein fahrbares Denkmal erschaffen. Mit seinen Worten beschreibt er es so: „The Marine Bike was built for one, dedicated to a few and in honor of all who have fallen ...“

Um ein Bike zu erhalten, das nicht nur gut aussieht, sondern auch fahrbar ist, suchte sich Larry Hilfe bei RPM Custom Choppers. Der modifizierte Rahmen stammt von DNA. Er arbeitet nach dem Softail-Prinzip. In ihm verrichtet ein S&S-Motor mit 96 cui sein

Tagewerk. Die Kraft überträgt ein 6-Gang-Prowler-Getriebe über einen Belt an das Hinterrad. Auf die, ebenfalls von DNA stammenden Felgen, wurde hinten ein 250er Avon aufgezo-gen. Für die Verzögerung sorgt vorn eine Bremse von American Suspension. Die Bremszange versteckt sich

aber die Gänge lassen sich auch normal per Fuß wechseln. Die Bedienung der BDL-Kupplung erfolgt auch konventionell am Lenker. Die Knöpfe am Single-Downtube sollen an die Paradeuniform der Marines erinnern, ebenso wie die Lackierung. Orden wie das Purple Heart dienen als Cover

Tribute: Zu Ehren seines gefallenen Sohnes von dessen Vater gebaut

dabei hinter dem linken Holm der ebenfalls von American Suspension stammenden verkleideten Telegabel. Die hintere Bremse stammt von GMA und sitzt im Pulley. Für eine gebührende Performance war also gesorgt. Das Bike trägt überall Symbole und Wahrzeichen des Marine Corps. So ist der Säbel als Jockey Shifter nutzbar,

an exponierten Stellen. Der ausladende Heckfender trägt ein Airbrush mit den Portraits von vier Marines, denn neben Larrys Sohn Joey wurden drei weitere Angehörige seiner Einheit, die auch im Irak gefallen waren, geehrt. Nach vier Monaten erlebte das Bike seinen Roll-Out. Bereits auf seiner ersten Bike Show erreichte das Marine

Angesichts dieses rollenden Mahnmals fällt es schwer, über LED-Anzeigen zu schreiben (u.) Eingelassener Orden „Purple Heart“ (u.)



TECHNISCHE DATEN

Erbauer/Besitzer: RPM Custom Choppers/Larry Tremblay

Reifen v/h: Avon 90 x 21"/Avon 250 x 18"

Bremsen v/h: American Suspension/GMA

Motor

Typ: S&S, 96 cci (1573 ccm), Bj.: 2006

Vergaser: S&S

Luftfilter: Sifon

Zündung: Crane Hi4

Auspuff: Stainless Creations

Getriebe

Typ: Prowler 6-Gang

Primär und Kupplung: BDI

Fahrwerk

Rahmen: DNA

Rohr/Stech: 42"/5"

Gabel: American Suspension

Räder v/h: DNA 3.25 x 21"/DNA 8.5 x 18"

Accessories

Lenker: RPM

Riser: Dakota Digital

Tank/Öltank: RPM Custom/RPM

Fender: RPM

Fußrasten: Brama

Instrumente: Dakota Digital

Scheinwerfer/Rücklicht: V-Twin

Spiegel: V-Twin

Sitz: Fidel's Upholstery

Pulverbeschichtung: Powder Tech of New York

Lockierer: Justin Barnes (JB Graf)

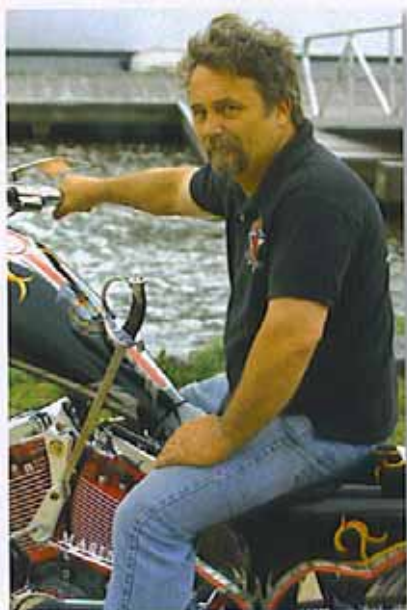
Kontakt

www.rpmcustomchoppers.com



Larry Tremblay (re.) will das Bike später als Museumsstück dem Marine Corps schenken

Tribute Bike den ersten Platz. Doch Larry will an keinen weiteren Wettbewerben teilnehmen. Das Bike wurde nicht dafür gebaut, sondern soll auf Veranstaltungen als Mahn-mahl und Erinnerung an die Gefallenen dienen. Larry Tremblay möchte das Bike auch weiterhin in ganz Amerika und eventuell auch in Europa zeigen. Später will er es dem Marine Corps schenken, damit es im neu errichteten Museum in Quantico, Virginia ausgestellt werden kann. Die tröstliche Seite an dieser sehr persönlichen Geschichte ist, dass der trauernde Vater es nach eigenen Aussagen durch die Arbeit an diesem Custombikes besser geschafft hat, mit seinem schmerzlichen Verlust fertig zu werden. ■





Dem jungen Joey hätte es gefallen – er liebte Custombikes

