

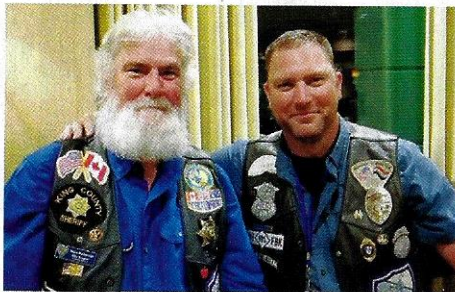
# FATHER – SON MEET AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

By Russell Patterson, Sr., Washington II

I wasn't going to attend the Int'l Conference this year because it was so far away. That was until my son, Russ Patterson, Jr., told me that his chapter, GA XVI, was the host chapter. That changed things. What father would turn down a chance to ride with his son? I have always been very proud of Russ and the career path that he has chosen; except for the fact that it took him from Washington State to Georgia. We don't get together as much as I would like. He still calls me for advice on different issues. I just wish that he would take the advice I give him. I don't think that I am the only parent that feels that way.

I attended the WCC convention in Calgary, AB, July 1-4. With the two-day ride home, I had enough time to and wash my clothes and take off for Georgia. I have to admit that I trailered my bike to Georgia. It took five days to get there. I stopped at my son's and left the truck and trailer at his house and we rode to Stone Mtn. together. It was great to step back and watch Russ and his chapter organize the events and meetings. I have to admit that I felt very proud of Russ watching him lead one of the rides. No one was lost and no accidents. Meeting GA XVI I can see why Russ chose to join them. They exemplify what it means to be a Blue Knight.

It was hard having to leave Russ and his family to head home. What makes it easier is I know that he is good hands with his fellow Blue Knight brothers and sisters.



By Russell Patterson, Jr., GAXVI

I was excited that my chapter was hosting the 2018 International conference. When we had more details, I contacted my father who is a member of the Washington II chapter. He was excited and decided that he would attend. This was to me, a chance to ride with my dad again. The last time was in 1997 when I still lived in Washington State. Once I entered the military I did not get too many chances to make it back to Washington, so this was to me, a once in a lifetime chance to ride side by side with my dad especially at an International conference.

Around the first of the year I found out that I had Annual training for the National Guard during the conference time and would not be able to attend. Fortunately, after explaining the situation to my command, I was able to miss some of the training and I was now able to attend the convention with my dad. I cannot express how amazing it was to share this experience with him. My dad literally crossed the country to ride with me. What son wouldn't love this? I will admit it was a bit stressful leading my first ride and having my dad there, but everything went great and we had a blast. My chapter brought my dad in as one of their own; True Brotherhood. You don't find this too many places.

It was truly an amazing experience to share this with him. I wish I was closer and could spend more time like this with him. These are now memories that I will hold onto for the rest of my life.

