



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Chicago Ride of Silence™ to be held May 17, 2017

One day. One time. Worldwide.

We ride...

- * To HONOR those who have been injured or killed**
- * To RAISE AWARENESS that we are here**
- * To ask that we all SHARE THE ROAD**

On Wednesday, May 17th Chicago cyclists will join fellow cyclists around the world on an annual bicycle ride in silence to raise awareness of cyclists' right to ride on the road and to honor the fallen cyclists no longer with us. This year marks the 15th anniversary of the Ride of Silence which was founded in Dallas, Texas, in 2003.

The 2017 Chicago Ride will particularly pay honor to those who died this past year. "We ride to honor the lives and memories of each and every cyclist who has been needlessly killed here in Chicago and throughout the world," said Chicago Organizer Elizabeth Adamczyk.

Beginning in Daley Plaza, Chicago's Ride of Silence™ route will ride in silent procession past several Ghost Bikes, including the sites of 5 of the 7 cycling deaths since May 2016. The Ghost Bikes are powerful memorials to fallen cyclists created by painting a bicycle white and placing it at or near the site of the cyclist's death. The ride will end at the Ghost Bike of Joseph "Jay" Korner, near the intersection of Lincoln and Addison on the city's north side. According to Adamczyk, Illinois has more than 16 Rides occurring this year. "This event unites everyone who seeks safer roadways for all. While we mourn the loss of so many fellow cyclists, we celebrate the unity of the community and the joy of riding a bike," said Adamczyk.

The ride organizers request that black armbands be worn and red armbands if you have had a bike/motor vehicle accident. Helmets are required; bright clothing and lights are highly recommended for the ride home. There are no fees charged to participate.

The Ride will conclude with a post-ride reception at Burrito House, at the site of Jay Korner's Ghost Bike.

The Rides are held in many locations in the US, Canada, Australia, Europe, South and Central America and the rest of the world. This year there are over 300 locations registered throughout the world.

Details:

Wednesday, May 17, 2017

6:30 PM Departure

Start: Daley Plaza; Eternal Flame

Finish: Ghost Bike at Lincoln and Addison; post-ride gathering at Burrito House (3547 N. Lincoln Ave); all are welcome

Details on route: www.rideofsilence.org/chicago

ABOUT THE RIDE OF SILENCE

Mission Statement:

The mission of the worldwide Ride of Silence™ is to honor bicyclists killed by motorists, promote sharing the road, and provide awareness of bicycling safety.

Founder and President Chris Phelan organized the first Ride Of Silence in Dallas in 2003 after endurance cyclist Larry Schwartz was killed by a passing bus's mirror on an empty road.

The Ride Of Silence is a free ride that asks its cyclists to ride no faster than 12 mph for no longer than an hour

The ride hopes to raise cycling awareness during bike safety month to motorists, police, traffic engineers, insurance companies, and city officials. The ride is also a chance to mourn, in funeral procession style, those who have already been killed.

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