

## Black Friday Wrap Up

When I last wrote about Black Friday, for our February Freedom newsletter, I was just taking off for a cruise, with 3 other solid ABATE of Washington Freedom Warriors. It was kind of surreal, seeing the event worked on for so many months, and not be here for part of it.

From the masses reporting this Black Friday was an excellent time! We had a record number of new people, well...record since I've been paying attention anyway, and the legislative offices showed up at the breakfast, in droves!

We are making an impact in Olympia, and it shows in our numbers! Are we making laws and change? Well, no and yes. No, we haven't had any bill movement, in the direction we want. But Yes, we are making change, and leaving a lasting impact.

I heard that there's been conversations for years, with the DOL Motorcycle Safety and Education Advisory Team, but when have you seen the Department of Motorcycle Safety come to a Black Friday? The last few years the Washington State Department of Licensing Motorcycle Safety Team has come to the Columbia Room, and engaged with riders. Also last 3 years, growing numbers of legislators have come to the Columbia Room to meet with us, and we are having meaningful conversation about our issues.

Are we getting them to sign on in favor of our proposed legislative actions? No. But those conversations shape the future. Doing our homework, by engaging our legislative representatives while they are not in Olympia, is the best way to keep that conversation going.

If you haven't been to Black Friday in a while, it's definitely worth coming to. From the presence of our proud Brothers and Sisters in black leather standing together, and roaming the Capitol grounds, to standing on the steps for the pledge of allegiance..... seeing the black clad folks taking flowers to the offices to have the meaningful conversations and personalize what a "biker" is. The new, somber event, of the Bell Ringing Memorial Ceremony, remembering the riders killed on Washington roads was a stark reminder of WHY we do what we do, every year.

Black Friday has evolved beyond helmets burning on the Capitol Steps. But never forget to respect those who have gone before us and paved the way, or the ones who lost their lives, because some of people in Olympia fail to recognize that Biker lives matter, too.

We need meaningful safety changes in Olympia and across Washington. Do that, means we have to create a seat at the table, for motorcyclists in the Transportation community. This is how we build that into a reality.

A heartfelt thank you to every single motorcycle community member who came, who held a sign, who went to a meeting, who rode in, who volunteered, and more. You all are what makes our community strong!

Keep that energy alive, as we move into the future, and demand safer riding in Washington State.

See you next year, on Black THURSDAY, January 21, 2027.  
MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

Kim Adair  
Black Friday Committee