

American Legion Riders welcome home McConnell Airman

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Much to his surprise, one McConnell Airman experienced the motto of a local chapter of legion riders up close and personal.

Senior Airman Anthony Crone, 22nd Services Squadron, information manager, sat down to dinner Nov. 1, but was unexpectedly interrupted with the surprise of his life.

More than 50 motorcyclists from the American Legion Riders Post 136 gathered outside his home in Mulvane, Kan., to give him a special message.

"They thanked me for what we did over there and what we do everyday," said Airman Crone referring to the dozens of ALRs who lauded him for his military service. "It was their way of showing support for the troops."

Airman Crone was selected by the group to receive an ALR "Welcome Home" after being nominated by his daughter's grandfather, who previously worked with a member of the ALR.

"Initially I was shocked and confused," said Airman Crone. "I was probably a little defensive too. Its not everyday 50 motorcycles stop outside of your door."

After going outside to shake the hands of the hog-riding patriots, Airman Crone was presented with an American Legion Flag signed



Courtesy photos

Senior Airman Anthony Crone, 22nd Services Squadron, information manager, was surprised by more than 50 American Legion Riders outside his home Nov. 1 with a welcome home message.

by the group, and became the star of an impromptu photo session.

"It makes you proud of what you do, when you get support from the community like this," said Airman Crone, who recently returned from a four-month deployment in support of Operations IRAQI and ENDURING FREEDOM.

According to Terry Houck, American Legion Riders Post 136 Veteran's Affairs Coordinator, the purpose of the ALR is to promote and support programs of the Legion, to include but not limited to participation in pa-

rades, charities, veteran's issues, and keeping with the aims and purposes of the American Legion.

"We do 2-3 rides per month," said Mr. Houck referring to the ALR's "Welcome Home" rides.

The Legion prides itself on showing support for the troops and their families in many ways and are committed to preserving the freedom and liberty this country was founded on.

"It makes you proud to serve when you can come home to this kind of support," said Airman Crone.

