



Legislative Update - September 2010

The primaries are over and after all the dust has settled ABATE of Florida, Inc. came out pretty well throughout all the races in Florida. I hope that everyone who is a member of ABATE of Florida, Inc. was able to get out and vote. With all the opportunities to vote, there are very few good reasons why you could not. After all, we had early voting Monday thru Saturday until 7pm. The absentee ballot is a great choice for those that will be out of town or not able to leave the home for any reasons. There is no way that you could have forgotten to vote; the ads were almost non-stop on TV, radio, the mail, and even the pesky phone calls.

I have heard from one member that they just did not want to vote. My response was to question why they are a member of a motorcycle rights organization if they are not willing to help the cause by by doing the simplest task: **voting**. If they just want to belong to a group there are plenty of other organizations to join where you do not have to raise a finger to help others.

I offer this quote from "An American Crisis" by Thomas Payne:

"THESE are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands by it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph. What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly: it is dearness only that gives every thing its value. Heaven knows how to put a proper price upon its goods; and it would be strange indeed if so celestial an article as FREEDOM should not be highly rated."

This was written during the lowest point of the American Revolution in 1776 when many Americans had started to grow weary of the fight for freedom.

I urge you to remember why you joined ABATE of Florida, Inc. in the first place! Now is not the time to shrink from your ability to help in this continued fight for the rights of all motorcyclists. ABATE of Florida, Inc. stands up for the rights of EACH and EVERY motorcyclist in Florida. We do not care what they ride; we just want them to have the freedom to ride. It is not about helmets, it is about the freedom of individual choice to decide for ourselves what to wear. It is about a legal mode of transportation and the fight to keep the Legislature from stripping away our rights.

ABATE of Florida, Inc. is **the** leader in protecting motorcycle rights in Florida, and as all leaders, we attract the slings and arrows of those that want to see something better than them fail. The vast majority of the motorcyclist in Florida will never know how ABATE of Florida, Inc. has preserved and protected their ability to ride. Just like the vast majority of Americans will never understand what the veterans' throughout our history did to create and preserve our freedom to cast our individual vote as to how we will be governed.

Now that the general election is upon us, we need every member to **exercise their freedom and vote**. We cannot shrink from our duties to protect the freedom and rights of motorcyclist across Florida.

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