

## Patriot Guard riders complete mission

The Patriot Guard Riders updated their final itinerary for the mission to honor Spc. Carl A. Eason of Lovelady who made the ultimate sacrifice in Iraq on Oct. 23.

After receiving permission from the family to attend the services of Spc. Carl Eason, Doug "Streaker" Smith and Rollie "Big R" Winfree volunteered to be the Ride Captains for the mission.

After all contacts had been made, the mission was a "go" on Nov. 2, where the riders, from Houston, Tyler, Palestine, Jacksonville and other Texas cities, met at 2 p.m. at the Lovelady Community Center, also known as "the old Gym" on Hwy. 19 in Lovelady.

Riders were notified of weather conditions: 67 degrees, partly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of isolated showers. "In Texas," the report said, "anything is possible."

They were advised to wear leathers for protection on the road, bring rain gear, flag poles and flags. Directions were given, approximate times of travel, and a meeting place designated.

The mission was to honor the fallen soldier and pay respects to his family; stand tall and silent, and be proud as they saluted an American hero.

One biker's email statement exhorted participants, "Remember that no matter how many missions you have been on, all that matters to the family is the one you are on today."

Mourners attending Eason's funeral Thursday and those who followed the funeral

procession to Crockett noted that the respective attitude portrayed by the Patriot Guard

Riders was personally heartening and inspiring and will not be forgotten.



**Patriot Guard Riders honor a fallen soldier, SPC. Carl A. Eason in funeral procession.**

### A prayer for my son

Give him the ability to listen. To learn in his training the ways to keep him and his fellow soldiers out of harm's way; to not jeopardize his fellow comrades. God, grant him the courage he will need to carry him through each day. Please lead him on the right path of life. Grant him the good sense to stay out of trouble and to always do the right thing. Grant him the ability to remember all his training to keep him safe. Help him to always show respect to those who are his commanders, respect his fellow soldiers and that they return their respect to him. Help him to realize his life's path may detour before he may achieve his life's ambition. Grant him the ability to open his heart and to keep You there always. He needs help to realize You are the only one to keep him safe and not take him away from us. May he realize there is a higher power that leads and loves him.

Please help him to achieve his goals in life, to strive to be the best he can be. Grant him the sight to always see the beauty and wonders of the world around him. Give him the strength to keep going even if he meets with obstacles in his path. Please give