

## Scott Gillard

My name is Scott A. Gillard (aka Lizzard). I live in south Texas, and through the Sponsor a Vet program was able to participate in the 2010 Hoka Hey Motorcycle Challenge. I was rider #269. I bought a brand new Harley and broke it in by riding to the R.O.T. Rally in Austin, TX. I have no information on my sponsor other than he is a father that was supposed to ride this ride with his son; however, his son was killed in Afghanistan, and that he was a Sergeant in the Marines. I am a former Marine and he picked me to sponsor. I dedicated my new bike to this Marine by having Sargent painted on the back fender in Austin. I took time off from work and, with help from family and friends, loaded up my bike in my pick-up truck and had my wife drop me off in Key West, FL. I rode with different people in the beginning, like Stray Dog Sam from AZ, but rode almost 95% of the ride with Smiley Bob Nesson from Massachusetts. We had a blast – tough times, rough times and not enough time. Seems impossible to say that, but it was the ride of my life.

I was honored to gather souls for Jim and Beth to complete the circle of life for Jim's people. They are true Americans and have shown nothing but support and a warrior "can do" attitude that is contagious. I met so many wonderful people and saw so much of America and Canada that it is impossible at any given time to recall it in its entirety. To this very day I look at my photos and cannot believe I participated in such a spectacular event and that I made that trip! If there is a slim chance that any who reads this has the adventurous spirit somewhere in their heart and soul, then do the next ride.

~ Scott A. Gillard, Texas

