

AMERICAN LEGION POST 14 BOZEMAN FATALITY MARKER TALKING POINTS

COORDINATOR FATALITY MARKER PROGRAM AMERICAN LEGION POST #14 BOZEMAN

Greg Harbac

ARE THESE MARKERS MEMORIALS?

One of the tenants of the American Legion is SERVICE. For over 60 years the Montana American Legion has been placing markers beside the road in the location of a fatality as a **SAFETY** reminder, not as a memorial. They stimulate reverence, sorrow, sympathy, curiosity and caution. It is estimated that over 2,000 markers have been erected.

I SEE MANY OF THESE MARKERS ADORNED WITH WRITING, FLOWERS AND WREATHS, IS THAT OK?

It is said that "Montana is a big state with long streets." Many accidents happen close to home and the site might be someplace a family passes often and monuments appear in memory and sorrow. We encourage people to express themselves, but we respectfully ask that the fatality marker itself not be adorned as that reduces visibility and defeats the purpose of this safety program.

DOES THE COUNTY OR THE STATE OF MONTANA PROVIDE THESE MARKERS?

NO TAX MONEY IS USED IN FABRICATION, ERECTION, OR MAINTENANCE OF THESE MARKERS. They are purchased by local posts through fundraisers and donations, and placed and maintained by members of the American Legion to remind motorists that driving can be dangerous; people need to be aware of their surroundings; and drive cautiously, maintaining safe speeds.

When entering Montana, the Montana Department of Transportation has put up blue signs stating that the white markers represent highway fatalities; maintained by the American Legion of Montana.

DOES AMERICAN LEGION POST #14 PLACE MARKERS IN THE ENTIRE STATE?

In striving to do our best to represent the Legion, we set about to place and maintain those markers. Post #14 maintains in excess of 70 markers from the edge of Bozeman to Churchill road on MT 84, Four Corners to the mouth of Gallatin Canyon on SR 191, I-90 from the Thorpe Road underpass to the Park County line at the pass; Jackrabbit (MT 85) to Frontage Road (SR 205) in Belgrade, and all of Frontage Road to the Thorpe Road intersection; Bridger Canyon Road to the Park County Line, and Springhill Road to Flathead Pass.

DOES THE AMERICAN LEGION POST #14 PLACE MARKERS IN THE ENTIRE COUNTY?

Each Post has an area of responsibility; Ennis meets us at Churchill Road on MT 84 - Norris Road; Manhattan meets us at Thorpe Road; Livingston meets us at the top of the Pass; and

West Yellowstone does most of the work in the Gallatin Canyon. Not all of the Posts in Montana participate in this program.

WHAT IF WE HAVE LOST A LOVED ONE AND THERE IS NO FATALITY MARKER?

When a highway has been reconstructed and corrects what might have been a problem, markers are removed permanently. However, if a safety marker has been removed or misplaced, please contact American Legion Post #14 and we will assess the issue.

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