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- [Safety](#)
- [Pressroom](#) (web)
- [Ask the CEO](#)
- [CEO Forum](#)
- [Employee Recognition](#)
- [Employee Activities](#)
- [Metro Projects](#)
- [Facts at a Glance](#) (web)
- [Archives](#)
- [Events Calendar](#)
- [Research Center/Library](#)
- [Metro Classifieds](#)
- [Bazaar](#)

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- [30/10 Initiative](#)
- [Policies](#)
- [Training](#)
- [Help Desk](#)
- [Intranet Policy](#)

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Video by Rich Morallo. Not hooked up to YouTube at work? Watch at home at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ogE8OuXmBds&feature=email>
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Metro Bikers Join 'Run for the Wall' Motorcycle Ride to Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C.

- Rey Coutts and Jes Godinez took off May 19 on the 2,500 journey to honor their uncles and others killed in Vietnam on Memorial Day.

By Rich Morallo
Community Relations/Volunteer Coordinator

(May 25, 2010) Metro employees Rey Coutts and Jes Godinez were both teenagers in the late 1960s when their uncles, both U.S. Marines, shipped out to Vietnam.

"My uncle, Staff Sergeant David Louie Munoz, was declared missing in action in May 1969," recalled Coutts, a transportation operations supervisor at Metro Operations Central Instruction.

Almost two years earlier, in June 1967, Lance Corporal Alejandro Godinez was reported killed in action.

"My uncle used to take all of us kids on day outings," remarked Godinez,

an assistant manager with the Revenue Collection Equipment Maintenance Department.

Early on May 19, Coutts and Godinez, both former Marines themselves, throttled off on a 10-day, 2,500-mile motorcycle ride from Ontario Mills to Washington, D.C. to honor their uncles and the 55,000-plus others who served and gave their lives in Vietnam.

"We're joining about 9,000 other military bikers on this journey. We call it a mission, to the Vietnam Wall Memorial," said Coutts.

Known as the "Run For The Wall," the trip honors all veterans and their families and friends. "It also calls for an accounting of all prisoners of war and those missing in action," explained Godinez.

Coutts and Godinez will log about 300 miles a day aboard their Harley-Davidsons and make about 10 stops en-route to the nation's capital.

"At the end of the journey when I reach the memorial, I'll look for my uncle's name on the wall," said Godinez. "He used to take us swimming and hiking. 'Semper Fi,' Uncle Alejandro."

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