

## Ride in style!

Get your official 2013  
Trail of Tears Commemorative  
Motorcycle Ride® Merchandise  
Buy on-line at  
[www.al-tn-trailoftears.net](http://www.al-tn-trailoftears.net)

### Downtown Bridgeport – Bridgeport, AL

..... Leave 8:00 AM CST  
Ride will start lining up in downtown  
Bridgeport on Alabama Street at  
7 AM CDT on Sat. Sept. 21, 2013 and will  
leave at 8 AM CDT. The City of Bridgeport  
will close off the downtown streets to line  
up the motorcycles.

See <http://www.al-tn-trailoftears.net/bridgeport.php> for more information  
and events. **For Bridgeport vendor  
information contact:**  
Ladeeda2424@aol.com or  
call Lisa at (256) 548-0031.

### STOP #1 Huntsville, AL (app. 82 mi)

..... Leave 11:30 AM CST  
Halfway/Lunch Stop - Gas up/Food  
vendors, restaurants, and entertainment.  
Five Feathers Rally - **For Huntsville vendor  
information, contact:**  
tabitha.ivey@gmail.com or  
call Tabitha at (256) 679-3109.

### Waterloo, Official End Of The Ride

(app. 100 mi)..... Arrive 2:00 PM CST  
Free 3 Day POW WOW  
September 20-22  
Starting Friday at 8:30 am  
See <http://www.al-tn-trailoftears.net/townofH20@aol.com> for all the  
events and times!



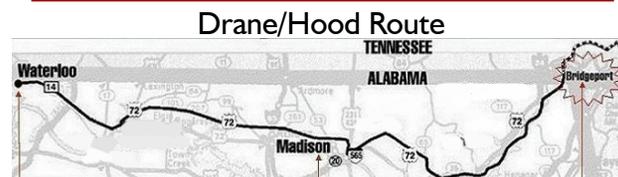
**U.S. Space & Rocket Center®**  
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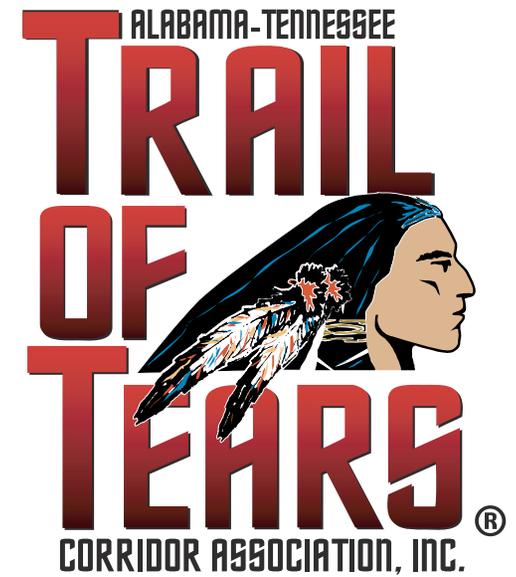
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CGG (25,000) 7-2013



20<sup>th</sup> Annual Trail of Tears  
Commemorative Motorcycle Ride®



Sept 21<sup>st</sup> 2013

Always the 3rd Saturday of September  
[www.al-tn-trailoftears.net](http://www.al-tn-trailoftears.net)

Brought to you by the  
AL-TN Trail of Tears Corridor Association, Inc. (ATTOTCAI)  
An all volunteer, not-for-profit charity organization,  
IRS recognized 501(c)3 corporation.

**Come ride the official Trail of Tears Route, from Ross' Landing in Chattanooga, Tennessee to the official start in Bridgeport and then on to the Certified Trail of Tears National Historical Trail site by the National Park Service at Waterloo Landing in Waterloo, Alabama. This ride is recognized by the Alabama Indian Affairs Commission as the official Trail of Tears Route and was recognized by the Alabama legislature as Joint House Bill 95-346 and signed by the governor on 7-13-1995.**

**Enclosed is what this event and ride was founded for, and why the 72 Highway Route through north Alabama was chosen and why ATTOTCA chose to Ride the Drane/Hood Overland Route as the "TRAIL OF TEARS COMMEMORATIVE MOTORCYCLE RIDE®"**

The Trail of Tears Commemoration and Motorcycle Ride® was started to both raise public awareness about the Drane/Hood Overland Route and to mark this specific overland Trail of Tears route that was in danger of being lost in history. The Drane/Hood Overland Route runs from Ross Landing in Tennessee, closely following what is now known as U.S. Highway 72, to Waterloo Alabama. The Trail of Tears Commemoration and Motorcycle Ride® has followed the same route as 1,070 of the Cherokee Indians removed under Presidential mandate, enduring hardships, deplorable conditions, escapes and deaths that ensued along this route to Waterloo since the first ride in 1994.

In 1830 the Congress of the United States passed the "Indian Removal Act." Although many Americans were against the act, most notably Tennessee Congressman Davy Crockett, it passed anyway. President Jackson quickly signed the bill into law. The Cherokees attempted to fight removal legally by challenging the removal laws in the Supreme Court and by establishing an independent Cherokee Nation. In 1832, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of the Cherokee. In this case Chief Justice John Marshall ruled that the Cherokee

*Nation was sovereign, making the removal laws invalid. The Cherokee would have to agree to removal in a treaty. The treaty then would have to be ratified by the Senate. Most Cherokee supported Principal Chief John Ross, who fought the encroachment of their land. However, a minority (less than 500 out of 17,000 Cherokee in North Georgia) followed Major Ridge, his son John, and Elias Boudinot, who advocated removal. The Treaty of New Echota, signed by Ridge and members of the Treaty Party in 1835, gave Jackson the legal document he needed to remove the First Americans. Even though the Cherokee people had adopted many practices of the white culture, and had used the court system in two major Supreme Court cases, the Senate ratified the treaty despite knowledge that only a minority of Cherokees had accepted it. President Jackson refused to enforce the court's decision. Within two years the Cherokees were to move from their ancestral homelands.*

*In May 1838, U.S. General Winfield Scott was commanded by the President to round up as many Cherokee as he could in Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee. About 17,000 Cherokee were placed in concentration camps near what is now Chattanooga, and over 1200 were placed at a camp in Fort Payne Alabama. Between May and June of that year, over 5000 were moved down the Tennessee River by flatboat to Oklahoma. Then in June, a drought caused the water to get too low to move any more. The U.S. Government knew that conditions in the camps were deteriorating – Indians were dying of dysentery and other illnesses – so the government decided to move 1,070 rebellious Indians to Waterloo, closely following the U.S. 72 route through North Alabama. From here, the official Trail of Tears Corridor that we know today was established; Legislation was drafted to recognize this route and the founding organization, the Alabama Waterfowl Association used their non-profit status to sponsor a commemorative ride, and in following years sold t-shirts and other merchandise to fund the placement of the signs and historical markers currently placed along the corridor. Not only did this raise awareness of this specific route, but it helped raise public awareness of this important piece of history resulting in the deaths of over 4000 Cherokee and the removal of many thousands of Cherokee, Choctaw, Creek, Chickasaw and Seminole on the Trail of Tears.*

### **Pave a Path to History**

Buy a Brick on the Trail of Tears River Walk in Waterloo, AL.

Phase 3 is underway for 2007. Phase 2, the Retaining Wall, was finished in 2006.

As we continue paving the River Walk with the bricks you purchase, we have also built a retaining wall to stop the erosion

of the river point at Waterloo and provide support for the construction of the statue.

Phase 3 is underway with continued construction of the River Walk. The Artist Concept shown here was approved for the statue design and the retaining wall was completed during Phase 2.

Take this opportunity to buy your brick and help construct the memorial statue honoring the American Indians removed from their homelands and forced west along the infamous "Trail of Tears."



Find the Brick Order Form online at <http://www.al-tn-trailoftears.net/documents/08orderform.pdf>

For more information, email [riverwalk@knology.net](mailto:riverwalk@knology.net)

### **Aftermath**

The Cherokees who were removed initially settled near Tahlequah Oklahoma. The political turmoil resulting from the Treaty of New Echota and the Trail of Tears resulted in the deaths of many responsible for the illegal movement of the Cherokee. But the population of the Cherokee Nation eventually rebounded, and today Cherokees are the largest American Indian group in the United States. Since the first ride in 1994, volunteers have organized the Trail of Tears Commemoration and Motorcycle Ride® following the original route taken more than 150 years prior, in memory and in honor of the First Americans who walked the Trail of Tears.



**Sweet Home Alabama**  
www.alabama.travel

Paid for in part by funds from the State of Alabama Tourism Department