



NEWS RELEASE



STATE OF NEW JERSEY State Parole Board

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STATE PAROLE BOARD REPRESENTED IN CYCLING EVENT TO RAISE FUNDS FOR FAMILIES OF FALLEN OFFICERS

Coronavirus Doesn't Stop Event as Participants Keep the Legacy of Those Killed in 9/11 Attacks Alive While Assisting Families of Fallen Police Officers Throughout the U.S.

TRENTON, NJ, September 29, 2020— *Tour de force* is a French expression—translated, it equates to: “*an impressive performance or achievement that has been accomplished or managed with great skill.*” Over the last 18 years, great skill has been required for cyclists throughout the country whose annual performance has led to an impressive array of achievements, and all for an important cause that recognizes sacrifice.

The *Tour de Force*, serves a dual mission—to honor the victims of 9/11 by keeping their memory alive and to raise funds to benefit families nationwide of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty.

Recently, cyclists from all over the country, including New Jersey State Parole Board Member Robert Riccardella of Wood-Ridge, Bergen County, took part in the Tour de Force but not in the conventional manner. They rode virtually as well as physically.

Participants rode various routes within their designated state, including Mr. Riccardella, who rode nearly 100 miles up in the Finger Lakes region of New York.

“Obviously our world has changed since the beginning of the pandemic,” said Mr. Riccardella. He continued, “Coronavirus has made a major impact on the way we do things, but has not stopped us from our mission to help the families of officers killed while making the ultimate sacrifice in protecting the public all across the U.S.”

Following a day of cycling, the riders all joined together, taking part in an online virtual chat where they discussed the subject of riding as well as why they decided to join in the conversation to help honor those killed in the 9/11 attacks. The group raised approximately \$400,000 which will go to benefit the families of the fallen officers.



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