

## Ride of Silence, Inc.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### ***Ride of Silence commemorates cyclists killed by careless drivers.***

**Houston, Texas—May 2—**On **May 18, 2005 at 7:00 PM** cyclists around the county and across the globe will take to the roads in a silent protest of the carnage taking place on the America's public roads.

Although cyclists have a legal right to share the road with motorists, the motoring public is not always aware of this fact. Over 800 cyclists are killed by careless and hostile drivers every year in the United States. Accidents involving motor vehicles account for 90 percent of all cycling fatalities. Texas ranks in the top four states for bicycle/motor vehicle fatalities. Houston is the most dangerous city in Texas for cyclists.

In 2003, after endurance cyclist Larry Schwartz was killed when struck by the mirror of a passing bus on an otherwise empty north Texas road, his friend, and fellow cyclist, Chris Phalen organized the first *Ride of Silence*.

With the few simple goals of paying homage to his fallen comrade, raising awareness of cycling during Bicycle Awareness Month and affirming that cyclists are allowed to share the road with motor vehicles, Phalen came up with the idea of a simple and silent bicycle ride. Over 1200 cyclists rode in Dallas that year.

In 2004, more than 2500 participated at sixty locations through the United States. This year, *Ride of Silence* will be at nearly 100 locations through the United States and eight other countries. Several hundred riders are expected in Houston.

All riders are welcome and asked to wear a black arm band to remember fallen cyclists, a red arm band if involved in a bicycle/motor vehicle accident. The ride will be in silence, no faster than 12 mph, 2 riders abreast, hand signals only. The Houston *Ride of Silence* leaves the Herman Park/Zoo parking lot and winds through downtown Houston. Participants are asked to arrive early and be ready to roll out at 7:00 pm.

There are no registration or entrance fees, however donations supporting this event are accepted through the *Ride of Silence* website, [www.rideofsilence.org](http://www.rideofsilence.org), by emailing Chris Phalen at [coachphalen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:coachphalen@sbcglobal.net), or Houston organizer Chris Holmes at [csholmes1@yahoo.com](mailto:csholmes1@yahoo.com).

*Ride of Silence* is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to honoring cyclists who are killed or injured in accidents with motorists, to raise awareness of cyclists and their legal right to use the road, and to increasing the safety of roads for cyclists and others. Additional information may be found at their website, [www.rideofsilence.org](http://www.rideofsilence.org).

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