

Hope and Courage Across America

Gig Harbor family embarks on heroic cross-country cycle ride

GIG HARBOR, Wash. – April 10, 2008 – On May 17, 2008, Bob Mortimer, a Gig Harbor resident, inspirational speaker, husband, father of three, and triple amputee, will embark on an estimated 3,900 mile cross country bicycle ride with his family. The journey will begin in Gig Harbor with the goal of reaching the Statue of Liberty on September 11. The purpose of the ride is to inspire “Hope and Courage Across America (HCAA)” – the name of this heartfelt campaign.

“Hope must be inspired; courage must be stirred,” shares Mortimer, a vibrant and handsome 53-year old. “We’re doing this ride now because America is in the midst of many challenges.

“People who are at risk of losing their homes, recovering from natural disasters, returning from war need to be reminded that with hope and courage they can face whatever mountain is in front of them.”

Mortimer has a desire to take his message beyond the many groups he already speaks to. This ride will provide a platform to share his story with rural and urban communities across the northern part of the United States, and with others through the HCAA website, www.hcjourney.org. Planned stops include Moses Lake, Wash., Sandpoint, Idaho, Jamestown, North Dakota, Minneapolis, Cedar Falls, Iowa, Cleveland, Philadelphia, and New York City, among others. Talks and community events are being organized around the ride at each stop. Notes and news from the ride will be posted on the HCAA website.

Accompanying him on the ride will be his wife, Darla, daughters Nicole (age 19) and Chanel (age 10), and his son, Grant (age 15).

Mortimer, who lost both legs and his left arm in an accident in 1976, began riding a handcycle (a specialized bike that he propels with one arm) in 2003. The next year he and Darla completed the 330-mile Ride Across Washington. He also did the STP, a 206-mile ride from Seattle to Portland in 2005 and 2006. Mortimer is president of Bob Mortimer Motivational Ministries and began his speaking career as a motivational speaker for MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving), among others.

Mortimer moved to Gig Harbor, a scenic and engaging maritime village in South Puget Sound, in 1992 and continues to be an active member of the community. He is a dedicated speaker on the South Sound DUI Victims Panel and presents his program at local schools as well as churches.