

Terry Ronzio II is Proud to be called a Patriot.

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Terry Ronzio II is proud to be called a patriot.



Terry Ronzio

Terry demonstrates his love for his country and his support for the men and women now fighting on its behalf by walking.

Last year, the 44-year-old Holbrook man walked 500 miles to show his support for the troops in Iraq. He took a few weeks off in December, before picking up his American flag and again taking to the highway.

Today, September 15, 2007, about 1 p.m., **Terry** will complete a 1,000-mile walk, which he began, as before, to call attention to the sacrifices of the men and women serving in the military.

Ronzio will end his walk at the Waynesburg Veterans of Foreign Wars post, where he will present two flags, each carried for 500 miles, to the Connellsville National Guard and to a U.S. Marine from Ohio who learned of his efforts on the Internet and contacted him.

The flag **Terry Ronzio** had carried last year was given to the National Guard Unit in Waynesburg. **Ronzio** said he started walking after he became convinced troops in Iraq were seldom hearing anything positive about their efforts.

"I just wanted to do something for them," **Ronzio** said. "I wanted them to know there are guys like me who are doing what they can to unite the people behind them," he said.

Too old to enlist himself, he decided his way to do what he could was to get out and walk. To complete his last 1,000 miles, **Ronzio** has walked four to five days a week, usually early in the morning before heading for his job at a herb store in Mt. Lebanon.

He started off walking on Route 21 in Greene County and on Route 119 between Connellsville and Uniontown. He also walked the Youghiogheny Trail in Fayette County.

Ronzio said for a time he limited his walking to the trail after twice being spit on by motorists. But then, he said, he realized those two people represented only a very small percentage of the people who passed him each day.

In addition, he said, he saw how important his efforts were in inspiring patriotism in others. What happened, **Ronzio** said, was that he received letters from a class of students at Bobtown Elementary School telling him how much they loved what he was doing. For the last month or so, **Ronzio** has been walking Route 19, between Washington and Canonsburg. Fewer people have stopped to talk than before, but he believes that might have something to do with the area being more suburban.

Through his "Myspace.com" Web site he continues to receive messages from people supporting his efforts. He has even inspired others to walk for the troops. Right now, 17 others are doing similar walks, he said.

Though he will complete his goal today, **Ronzio** said, he is not done. His new goal is 1,500 miles. "I want to walk a mile to honor every soldier lost in this war," he said. "I'm driven. For me, there has to be a cause and this is a cause," **Ronzio** said. "We have to do something for our country or who knows, 100 years from now there might not be a United States of America."