

FOR RELEASE, February 2005

Specialty plates make perfect finishing touch for motorcycles

AUSTIN – Motorcyclists have always enjoyed the freedom of the road. Now there's a great way for cycle enthusiasts to exercise their freedom of expression by displaying a specialty license plate on the bumpers of their bikes. Motorcycle plates are TxDOT's featured specialty plate for the month of February.

"A specialty plate makes a great finishing touch for motorcycles," said (NAME), tax-assessor collector for (COUNTY NAME) County. "Riders now have several options to choose from, so we hope the popularity of motorcycle plates will grow among the biker community."

The Texas Department of Transportation and (COUNTY NAME) County offer organizational motorcycle plates including Big Bend, Fight Terrorism, God Bless America, God Bless Texas, and Native Texan. Motorcyclists can also choose plates that recognize military service, including Airborne Parachutist, Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Vietnam Veteran, the most popular of the motorcycle specialty plates.

The military plates require qualifying certification before being issued and are available at no extra fee, excluding the Airborne Parachutist plate which has a \$10 fee. The other specialty plates carry an annual fee of \$30 or \$40 in addition to regular registration fees. A portion of the annual fee for organizational specialty plates is earmarked for nonprofit organizations and often supports specific projects. Both military and organizational plates can be personalized for an additional \$40 annually.

Applications for specialty plates are available at county tax offices, on TxDOT's Web site (www.dot.state.tx.us), by calling the TxDOT Help Desk at (512) 465-7611, or through TxDOT's Fax-On-Demand forms line at (888) 232-7033.

TxDOT started its specialty license plate program in 1965. Today, there are more than 100 different plate designs, many of them benefiting a particular group, organization, college or university. Since 1994, more than \$10 million have been raised for sponsoring organizations and scholarship funds.

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For more information, call (COUNTY CONTACT PERSON'S NAME), (CONTACT PERSON'S TITLE), at (CONTACT PERSON'S PHONE NUMBER).

For a view of the plate or and ordering information, go to www.dot.state.tx.us/vtr/spplates/allplates.htm.