

Solo to Ground Zero

Phil Szpicki is a 70 year old retired Chicago Police Detective and has been a proud member of the FOP for almost 45 years. He is walking 1000 miles to Ground Zero, raising money for the Wounded Warriors Project.

Two years ago, Phil was watching the local news in Rockford, Illinois when a story of a soldier that had lost both arms and legs was returning home to the Rockford area. This story moved Phil. However, a year later, the story still was on his mind when he decided to start training in secret to walk from Rockford to all of the 9/11 crash sites. This is a tall order for a 70 year old retired cop. This didn't stop him, however, and he reached out to the Wounded Warriors Project, an organization that raises money for wounded vets that are in dire need of funding for medical and living expenses.

Phil left Rockford on August 31, 2011 and recently crossed the border into Indiana. One obstacle is that he is walking alone! No chase car to follow him and an increased number of unexpected challenges. He didn't anticipate that the backpack that he is carrying would be so heavy and that the additional 40 pounds are slowing him down and creating additional physical strain. However, Phil continues to push forward, resolved to complete his quest to help the wounded veterans of our country. Today, the Crestwood, Illinois Police met Phil and made arrangements to drive his backpack to the next town so he could move faster with less pressure on his legs. Phil was at first resistant, but he wisely accepted the assist. He hopes to walk a few more miles a day thanks to the local FOP in Crestwood, IL.

Support Phil's efforts by visiting his website, www.911vetswalk.com, or his Facebook page, "Solo to Groud Zero." Phil will be passing through many cities and towns--he would love to hear from local FOP members in these areas. You can reach him at (815) 501-6742 or follow his progress on Facebook.