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U.S. House of Representatives Highlights Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month

IRVINE, Calif., May 6, 2009 – The full U.S. House of Representatives voted unanimously May 5th to pass a resolution (H. Res. 269) supporting the goals of May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month. The measure, introduced by Reps. Giffords, D-Ariz., and Burgess, R-Texas, also encourages all road users to be more aware of motorcycles, all riders to get trained and ride responsibly and recognizes the contribution that motorcycles make to our nation's transportation mix.

Burgess said, "Thousands of riders take to the highways each day, and it is important that we recognize and help promote their safety and needs. The Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month resolution encourages riders to always wear helmets and other protective gear; never drink and ride; be properly licensed; and get training - important messages for motorcyclists. As co-chair of the Motorcycle Safety Caucus, as well as a doctor, I believe it is important that Congress help promote safe riding practices, and today's passage of this resolution does just that."

"I have been riding and racing motorcycles for over 20 years so the issue of motorcycle safety is of great importance to me," said U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords. "The resolution passed by the House today comes as motorcyclists across the country gear up for the upcoming riding season. It is a timely reminder to all riders and motorists to always share the road respectfully."

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House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Subcommittee on Highways and Transit Ranking Member John Duncan R-Tenn., said, “As the popularity of this mode of transportation increases, Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month will continue to help drivers of cars, trucks, and motorcycles consider the safety of all users of the road. Additionally, this resolution recognizes the transportation benefits associated with motorcycling.”

Motorcycle Industry Council’s (MIC) Senior Vice President for Government Relations, Kathy Van Kleeck stated, “We applaud Congress for highlighting Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month once again this year. This resolution brings much needed attention to motorcyclists’ safety as many riders throughout the country are gearing up for the riding season.”

Duane Taylor, MIC’s Director of Federal Affairs, said “We would like to thank Representatives Burgess and Giffords for their continued leadership and commitment to motorcycle safety, and would also like to thank Ranking Member Duncan for his efforts.”

The Motorcycle Industry Council exists to preserve, protect and promote motorcycling through government relations, communications and media relations, statistics and research, aftermarket programs, development of data communications standards, and activities surrounding technical and regulatory issues.

It is a not-for-profit, national trade association representing manufacturers and distributors of motorcycles, scooters, motorcycle/ATV/ROV parts and accessories, and members of allied trades such as publishing companies, advertising agencies, insurance firms and consultants.

The MIC is headquartered in Irvine, Calif., with a government relations office adjacent to Washington, D.C. First called the MIC in 1970, the organization has been in operation since 1914.

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