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From Coast to Coast: Film Producer Riding Bicycle for First Responders

CEDARVILLE, OHIO -- Emmy Award-winning film director Conrad Weaver and his friend, John Patterson, are riding their bicycles from coast to coast in an effort to raise awareness and support for all first responders. The pair, from Emmitsburg, Maryland, started their trek from Astoria, Oregon on May 13 and will conclude their journey on July 18 with an arrival party in Ocean City, Maryland.

Today, Weaver and Patterson are riding from [Cedarville University](#) in southwest Ohio to Columbus, Ohio where they will celebrate Independence Day on Tuesday, July 4 by participating in the Doo Dah parade in the State Capital. Weaver and Patterson are using the bike trip across the country as a means to promote Weaver's most current documentary, PTSD 91, which shares how emergency first responders suffer from post-traumatic stress. The documentary communicates how first responders are afraid to seek mental health from what they see in their jobs because of fear of losing their jobs.

According to the PTSD911 website, the documentary is about **real people**: normal, average human beings who have chosen to work in professions that require **above average heroism**, fortitude, and resolve. These men and women have jobs that require a willingness to face things that most of us can't even imagine, yet maintain a high level of dignity and professionalism. First responders in fact **repeatedly see and experience** things that most of us will never see, causing compound issues related to post-traumatic stress injuries and disorders.

Weaver, a 1988 graduate of Cedarville University, earned a degree in psychology but found himself drawn to telling the many stories of Americans through documentaries. As president of Conjo Studios, Weaver has produced several documentaries that share the life struggles of people across the nation, including opioid addicts and wheat farmers in the heartland of America. His documentary, The Great American Wheat Harvest, was the recipient of a regional Emmy Award.

Today, Conrad enjoys telling the stories of people that he meets. His upcoming documentary, *PTSD911* tells the story of the first responders at ground zero on that devastating day in 2001. He is currently sharing his story with people across the United States as he rides his bicycle from Astoria, Oregon to Ocean City, Maryland. You can follow his journey by clicking on [The Journey](#).

Listen to hear Conrad share his story on the Cedarville Stories Podcast.

Weaver and Patterson will be in Columbus through the Fourth of July before they start their final two weeks on the journey. They will depart Columbus on July 5 and ride through Mount Vernon, Ohio into Holmes County toward the childhood home of Weaver before descending to Wheeling, West Virginia on July 7 for a screening of PTSD911 and one day later, to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania for another screening.

Weaver and Patterson are available for media interviews upon request.

Photo Cutlines:

1. Conrad Weaver, I, and John Patterson take a selfy in front of the entrance to Cedarville University in Ohio--the alma mater of Weaver.
2. Breakfast in Cedarville -- Several Cedarville University colleagues take time to visit with Conrad Weaver and John Patterson at Beans-in-Creme in Cedarville, Ohio. Pictured, from left, are Dick Walker, Jeff Beste, Conrad Weaver, John Patterson, and Mark Weinstein.
3. Riding through a Storm -- John Patterson and Conrad Weaver approach a major storm on their way to West Yellowstone in Montana.
4. The Beginning-- The two bikes of John Patterson and Conrad Weaver prepare for their cross-country ride beginning in Astoria, Oregon.
5. Picturesque View -- Conrad Weaver and John Patterson enjoyed many spectacular views, including this one of a snow-capped mountain range.

Photos provided by Conrad Weaver.