



June 14, 2016

The Honorable Nikki Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Gov. Haley:

The American Motorcyclist Association is pleased to inform you that one of your constituents, AMA member, Mr. Jason Griffin, is featured in the cover story of the July issue of *American Motorcyclist* magazine (enclosed). The magazine is the official journal of the AMA and is distributed monthly to our 215,000 members nationwide.

Founded in 1924, the AMA is the premier advocate of the motorcycling community. We represent the interests of millions of on- and off-highway motorcyclists. Our mission is to promote the motorcycle lifestyle and protect the future of motorcycling.

If your office is so inclined to send a congratulatory letter to Jason, his mailing address is as follows:

Mr. Jason Griffin
104 Patrick Ave
Easley, SC 29642-1418

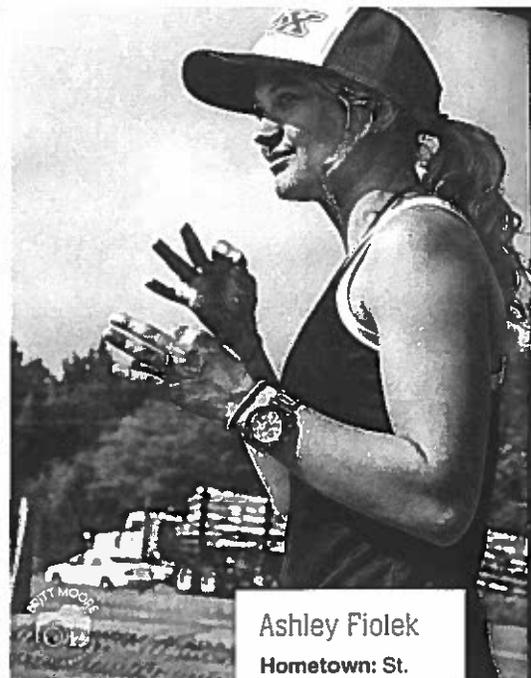
If you have questions about this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone, (202) 220-1390 or by email, wallard@ama-cycle.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Wayne Allard'.

Wayne Allard
Vice President, Government Relations

Enclosure



OVERCOMING OBSTACLES

Racers Persevere Despite Physical, Mental Setbacks By Heather Wilson

Competitive motorcycle racing is tough enough without encountering mental or physical issues that affect riding style, cognitive ability or physical performance.

But AMA racers who have struggled with physical or mental setbacks demonstrate that it is often attitude and willpower that determine the outcome.

These racers faced obstacles that would have halted others in their tracks. Their stories are ones of perseverance and fortitude.

"Hear" To Learn

One well-known racer who overcame adverse circumstances is Ashley Fiolek. The 25-year-old motocrosser, who was born profoundly deaf, says she got into riding because of her dad.

"I had been racing amateur events since I was 10 years old, but in 2003 and 2004, I was seeing the WMA [Women's Motocross Association] Pro Nationals, and we [my family and I] decided to work to become a women's pro motocross racer," Fiolek says. "I raced my first WMA Pro National in 2007 at Steel City as a privateer. I raced again as a privateer in 2008 on a Honda of Houston bike and won the championship. Then, I became the first female with a factory ride and rode for Red Bull Honda from 2009 to 2012."

When so much of riding a dirt bike relies on hearing the engine to know when to switch gears, Fiolek says she learned early to feel the vibration of the bike to know when to shift.

"I learned to hold my line and look for shadows, because I couldn't hear if there was a bike coming up on me," Fiolek says.

The young racing phenom immediately attracted attention and positive publicity. In 2009, she was the featured speaker at the opening ceremony of the fifth AMA International Women & Motorcycling Conference in Keystone, Colo.

In 2012, she retired from racing because she thought women's pro racing was declining, going from eight to three national events a year, then to only amateur events.

But that wasn't the end of her career. She went on to perform in the Marvel Universe Live tour during 2014.

"It is a show of basically Marvel hero characters and bikes [electric and trials]," Fiolek says. "It was fun to do stunt work and travel, but I am happy to be back to riding more."

In 2015, she started a motocross school in California.

"I love teaching all types of riders and racers," Fiolek says. "I learned from some pretty great coaches, and I like working with students helping them to become better, safer, faster riders."

She says they work proper form and technique, cornering, braking and more.

"I try to have a lot of fun with them in schools, as well," Fiolek says. "It's great to see riders progress from how they rode in the morning versus the afternoon."

The motocross school isn't her only activity.

"I am riding, filming/shooting photos, doing some appearances and promotions," Fiolek says. "I do things for some of my sponsors like Husqvarna, Fox, Monster Moto, and Moon Shine Camo. I did a cool video with Transworld MX,

called 'Premix' that was just on two-strokes last fall. In May, I went to a women's event called Essence of Dirt, which was really fun. I also snowboard and am getting into mountain biking."

One Grip Is Enough

Jason Griffin hasn't let being an amputee stop him from doing the things he loves: racing dirt track and competing in cycling competitions. He's an AMA Pro Flat Track and a Paralympic cycling competitor.

At age 2, he lost his right arm in a lawn mower incident. That same year, he started riding a Suzuki JR50.

He said his dad didn't think about throttle cables and making it normal. He just put the throttle on the left handlebar, and it was backward.

"You roll the throttle forward to go," Griffin says. "I didn't know any different."

Griffin's dad raced enduros for the AMA-chartered Greenville (S.C.) Enduro Riders (known for their "Little Brown Jug" event) and that's how Griffin got started

Ashley Fiolek

Hometown: St. Augustine, Fla.

Currently living: California

Age: 25

Awards/Championships Received:

- Four-time WMA Pro National Motocross Champion
- Two-time X Games Gold Medalist for Super X
- Multiple Amateur Championships
- Stunt Women's Award for Red Bull commercial
- Emmy for Red Bull Transient Chapters show

Mainstream media coverage, including the Conan O'Brien Show

Website: www.AFMXschool.com



racing. Then he took a break for about 10 years.

"I didn't start racing dirt track until I was about 30 years old," Griffin says. "I don't wear a prosthetic, because I don't really have enough of an arm left to have any benefit of it. You turn the motorcycle with your legs. It's all about the slide and the balance."

He says he cuts the right side of the handlebar off to keep people from running into it and becoming entangled on it in the corners.

Jason Griffin

Hometown: Easley, S.C.

Age: 42

Awards/Championships Received:

- AMA Amateur National Championship and AMA Sportsman Of The Year
- AHRMA National Flattrack Champion, Southeastern Division
- AMA Most Determined Rider of The Year Award
- Two-time AMA All Star Nationals Pro Twins Champion

Website: www.jasongriffinracing.com

In 2004, a personal tragedy struck. Griffin's brother passed away.

"My folks were very instrumental [in my racing], and I guess I really found God right after my brother passed away," Griffin says. "That's what pulled me through it. I don't really think much about it. I love to race, and I love the competition. I don't think 'one arm' or 'two arms.' You just want to get out there and race and win."

He says that most people aren't programmed to believe in themselves.

"You have to think big," he says. "We've had a lot of great people to be able to work with over the years...a lot of great memories."

Finding Purpose

Jesse Williamson grew up racing dirt bikes and played several other sports.

"Riding was something that I was really passionate about," he says. "It's a family sport. We traveled on weekends and went riding after school. My step-brother and I raced together, but he passed away from a racing accident right when I joined the Marine Corps back in 2008."

In 2009, he lost both legs to an improvised explosive device while serving in Afghanistan.

"Basically I got out of the service,

Benjamin Feiler

Ian Curcio

SUZUKI



The AMA Dirt Track Grand Championship is the premier amateur dirt track championship in the world, drawing the best riders in America as well as top overseas talent to win a coveted AMA National No. 1 plate.

Friday July 1st	Amateur Mile
Saturday July 2nd	Youth TT
Sunday July 3rd	Amateur and Youth ½ Mile
Monday July 4th	Youth ½ Mile
Tuesday July 5th	Amateur TT
Wednesday July 6th	Amateur and Youth Indoor Short Track

For tickets or to pre-register to race, call (614) 856-1900.

July 1-6, 2016 • Du Quoin, Ill.

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